

THE MESSIAH HERALD



JANUARY 2018

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

INTERIM PASTOR -- REV. CHRIS MATHIASON -- cmathiason001@luthersem.edu

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.mlcmifflintown.org

OFFICE EMAIL: messiahlutheran@pa.net

CHURCH TREASURER: mlctreasurer@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES! – 9:15 AM

WORSHIP, JR. CHURCH, & COMMUNION – 10:30 AM

[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)

[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

"Growing God's Love"

The Messiah Herald



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS (FOR CHILDREN)

Have you ever played on a team that had matching uniforms? It's fun to be part of a group of people who are all dressed the same because they all have the same goal. Being dressed like your teammate means you identify with them. People can easily tell you are a part of that group. Today I'm going to tell you about how Jesus identified with us, and a way we can show we identify with Him—how we show everyone that we are on Jesus' team.

JESUS' BAPTISM BY JOHN

Long ago, God sent a man named John the Baptist to Judea to get everyone ready for Jesus. John preached about how God wanted His people to live. He told people who had two coats to give one to the poor. He told people who had lots of money to give to the needy. He told soldiers not to bully others and take things from them. He explained that God wanted His people to love Him from the heart, and that was just as important as following God's rules.

The people were amazed at what John taught and many, many people asked him to baptize them in the Jordan River to show how sorry they were for their sins. When these people were baptized, they were dipped in water as a symbol of starting over to live in a way that would please God. John baptized all the people who had changed hearts, who loved God and wanted to obey Him.

One day, Jesus came to John and asked to be baptized. John was amazed! He knew that Jesus had never sinned—why would Jesus need to be baptized? John said, "I should be baptized by you, and you are coming to me?" But Jesus said, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed.

The Bible says that Jesus was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness." Jesus did none of the wrong things people usually do, but He also did all of the right things God required. Doing all the right things God asked is what it means to "fulfill all righteousness". One of those "right things" God asked Jesus to do was to be baptized. Many people think that in His baptism, Jesus identified with the people He came to save. (You remember that identified means that Jesus showed everyone he was on the

"team" of the people who love God and want to please Him.)

John did baptize Jesus, and as soon as Jesus came up out of the water He began praying. The Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove and landed on Him. From Heaven, God the Father said, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

Jesus was about 30 years old when He was baptized. Soon after this He chose His disciples and began His public ministry. Jesus' disciples began baptizing people too, and soon more people came to Jesus than to John the Baptist. Do you think John was jealous? No, John knew that the job God gave him was to get people ready to hear from Jesus. John was glad that people were going to Jesus and that hearts were being changed. He said, "Jesus must become more important while I become less important." John knew that even though he could tell people about God, he couldn't do what Jesus could do—He couldn't take away sins.

What Jesus did was wonderful, wasn't it? He came from heaven and was born into a human body. He grew up, just like you are growing up, and even though He is God, He was baptized to show us He is on our team. Because Jesus was one of us, He was able to die on the cross and take away the punishment for our sins. In the same way that anyone on a team that scores earns a run for the whole team, Jesus' punishment on the cross counts as ours because he identified with us.

Did you know that Jesus wants His people to be baptized, too? Baptism is a way for people whose hearts have been changed to love God to tell everyone that they are on God's team. It is a picture of dying to sin (going down into the water) and being resurrected—made alive again to live for God (as they come up out of the water). The people who love God identify with Jesus in baptism, and say to everyone, "Jesus died and took my sins away. Jesus was resurrected and so am I—I have a new life because of Him."

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CHRIST IN OUR HOME

A reminder to anyone who would like a daily devotional to jump start their day. There are plenty of devotionals in "Christ in our Home," which can be picked up and are FREE.....and are located at the back of the adult Sunday school room. Get yours today!

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to contribute to the Meals-On-Wheels program, your continued support would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent to **Juniata Meals-On-Wheels, P.O. Box 251, Mifflintown, PA 17059.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...

Bob & Jeanette St. Clair	Jim Woltman
Avonel & Rick Waller, Sr.	Randy Clark
Andrea & Bob Cameron	Joan Fulkroad
Pat Fisher	Minnie Minick
John Miller	Megan Hart
Mary Ernest	Austin Parker
Don Clark	Jean McNaight
Butch & Sandy Pines	Terry Coder
Tom Lyter	John Towsey
Steve Bahorik	Dr. Laurie Cox
Paul Goss	Bob Bell
Pat Forney	The Family of Jean McNaight
Barbara Wengerd	Audrey Peters
Rich Walters	Jane Cleck
Mary Sanders	Jim Gilson
Glenn Compton	Sieber Stoner
Leon Kramer	Jane Ann Baney
Messiah's Call Committee	

...AND FOR OUR SHUT-INS

BROOKLINE MANOR & REHAB SERVICES

(2 MANOR BLVD., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Sara Ann Aurand, Reba Sigler

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(62 LEXI STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Carol Simonton

NORTHRIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

(99 NORTHRIDGE DR., MCALISTERVILLE, PA 17049)

Dottie Smith

RICHFIELD HEALTHCARE AND REHAB CENTER

(ROOM 6, 631 MAIN ST, RICHFIELD, PA 17086)

Dorothy Cleck

HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108, THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

LEHIGH CENTER

(1718 SPRING CREEK ROAD, ROOM 205B, MACUNGIE, PA 18062)

Lura Aughey

VALLEY VIEW RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

(4702 EAST MAIN STREET, BELLEVILLE, PA 17004)

Don Lewis

AT HOME

Jim Yetter	Betty Karstetter
128 Manbeck Drive	918 William Penn Hwy.
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Kitty Walters	Mona Lawson
P.O. Box 61	2792 William Penn Hwy.
Port Royal, PA 17082	Mifflintown, PA 17059

PRAYER REQUEST REMINDER!!

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 717-436-6213 or at messiahlutheran@pa.net! If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

A REQUEST FOR ALL OF US!

A request has been brought forth from the Board of Worship & Music: In light of our congregation's recent acceptance of Messiah's Mission Statement (including "...making disciples of Christ through Fellowship..."), we invite more of the congregation to sit in the main sanctuary during the worship service. Unifying everyone into one space will help make us more welcoming to all members and visitors as well as creating a sense of community, sharing and togetherness. Worship Leaders will be able to better "connect" and "communicate" to all worshipers (and you to them) during the service. Other benefits include better sound while singing hymns, listening to the sermons/anthems/special music and an easier time of "Sharing the Peace." Also, give us your feedback regarding the removal of several rows of pews in the sanctuary and replacing them with soft chairs. Thanks for making this positive transition to your worship experience!

JANUARY SERVANTS

LECTORS

7 Cynthia Smith
14 Kate Swailes
21 Jean Compton
28 Barb Geedey

ALTAR GUILD

January 1 to 28..... Kay Varner
(Cup Communion on January 8 - Clint & Jamie Miller)
January 29 to February 18.....Diana Wise

ACOLYTES

7 Hannah Ehrisman & Julia Martin
14 Jade Britcher & Zeb Berry
21 Hope Miller & Slone Smith
28 Harrison Mummah & Hannah Ehrisman

ALTAR FLOWERS

7 to 28 OPEN

UPCOMING WORSHIP LEADERS

January 7 Stephen Rodgers
January 14 Sam Leister
January 21 Andrea Cameron
January 28 Rev. Paul Kampa

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

JANUARY 1 – Marylou Hazard

JANUARY 29 – Erin Harris

If you want to add your name to the birthday/anniversary list, or know someone you would like to acknowledge, please let Bob St. Clair know at stclairb@embarqmail.com.

STORE GIFT CARDS

Weis and Giant gift cards are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

HOME COMMUNION NEEDS HELP

The Compassionate Services Committee is again looking for at least two people who would like to give communion to our shut-ins. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins will be used on a quarterly basis. Training is available. Complete Home Communion kits are also available, including all liturgy needed. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey at 717-436-6433 or geedey@centurylink.net.

GLEVER CHURCH SIGNS FOR THE NEW YEAR!

- May all your troubles be as short as your New Year's resolutions.
- New Year Promises? God Never Breaks His.
- Changing Calendar... Unchanging God!
- Many people look forward to the new year for a new start on old habits.
- Let your resolution be His solution.



The Women of the ELCA met on Thursday, December 14th at 7 P.M. for their Christmas program. Each of us brought a reading for the evening. Ann read the story of the "Pennsylvania Dutch Night Before Christmas" with a very good Dutch accent. We all enjoyed it very much and it got a few laughs as well. Linda read from "Stories Behind the Best Loved Songs of Christmas" and told us of one of the origins and meaning of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Claire read an article from a Reader's Digest entitled "My Favorite Christmas", Jean read "The Christmas Heart" from Norman Rockwell's Christmas Book, and Ona read two writings from Ideals entitled "Winter Weather" and "Right Where You Are." Barb ended the program by reading The Birth of Jesus from the second chapter of the book of Luke and The Visit of the Magi from the second chapter of Matthew. We closed by stating the WELCA Purpose Statement.

Our program followed with delicious refreshments provided by all of the ladies. We enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Our next meeting will be held in the new year on Thursday, January 11th at 7:00 P.M. in the Young Adults' Sunday School Class. Ann Beaver will present the program. All women of the church are invited to attend.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS & PRAYER FOCUS

JANUARY 1 ----- LUKE 2:15-21
ALL WHO QUESTION THEIR IDENTITY

JANUARY 2 ----- PROVERBS 1:20-33
FOR WISDOM IN ALL LEADERS

JANUARY 3 ----- GENESIS 1:1-5
THOSE WHO FEAR THE DARK

JANUARY 4 ----- PSALM 29
THOSE WORKING TO PROTECT WATERWAYS

JANUARY 5 ----- ACTS 19:1-7
THOSE WHO FEEL FAR AWAY FROM GOD

JANUARY 6 ----- MATTHEW 2:1-12
REFUGEES AND EXILES

JANUARY 7 ----- MARK 1:4-11
THOSE STRUGGLING TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES

JANUARY 8 ----- ROMANS 4:1-12
THOSE WHOSE HUMAN FAMILIES ARE UNKNOWN OR LOST

JANUARY 9 ----- ACTS 22:2-16
THOSE WHO FEAR CHANGE

JANUARY 10 ----- PSALM 69:1-5, 30-36
DISASTER RELIEF WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

JANUARY 11 ----- 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10 (11-20)
THOSE FACING A DIFFICULT DECISION

JANUARY 12 ----- PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18
TEXTILE WORKERS

JANUARY 13 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20
THOSE SUFFERING FROM EATING DISORDERS

JANUARY 14 ----- JOHN 1:43-51
THOSE WHO ARE SICK

JANUARY 15 ----- 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1
NEIGHBORS OF OTHER FAITHS

JANUARY 16 ----- LUKE 18:15-17
CHILDREN IN OUR CHURCH

JANUARY 17 ----- JONAH 3:1-5, 10
THOSE WEIGHED DOWN BY GUILT

JANUARY 18 ----- ACTS 4:8-13
THOSE WHO TRUST ONLY THEMSELVES

JANUARY 19 ----- PSALM 62:5-12
THOSE WHO HAVE LOST HOPE IN PRAYER

JANUARY 20 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 7:29-31
THOSE MARRIED FIFTY YEARS OR MORE

JANUARY 21 ----- MARK 1:14-20
THOSE CONSIDERING A CALL TO MINISTRY

JANUARY 22 ----- PROVERBS 8:1-21
THOSE WHO ARE IMPATIENT

JANUARY 23 ----- DEUTERONOMY 3:23-29
THOSE LONGING TO SEE RESULTS OF THEIR LABOR

JANUARY 24 ----- DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20
PEOPLE SEARCHING FOR PURPOSE IN LIFE

JANUARY 25 ----- GALATIANS 1:11-24
THOSE FLOUNDERING IN DOUBT

JANUARY 26 ----- PSALM 111
THOSE WHO ACT IN SELF-CENTERED WAYS

JANUARY 27 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13
COLLEGE STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

JANUARY 28 ----- MARK 1:21-28
THOSE WHO WILL NOT LISTEN

JANUARY 29 ----- PSALM 35:1-10
THOSE WHO FEEL WORTHLESS

JANUARY 30 ----- JOB 36:1-23
THOSE CARING FOR SICK FRIENDS OR RELATIVES

JANUARY 31 ----- ISAIAH 40:21-31
PILOTS AND ASTRONAUTS

THANK YOU!

“Dear Members of Messiah Funeral Lunch Committee.....thank you for providing and serving the funeral lunch after the service for our Mother, Jean McNaight. It is a caring ministry and we very much appreciate all of your kindness.” --*JANE SHEARER & ANNE MCNAIGHT*

Thank you to all Messiah Church members who sent cards, contributed food, labored in the kitchen or office, visited or called Mother, participated in the Memorial Service, expressed a caring concern, sent flowers to Mother as a shut-in, or contributed to her charities. We feel our Mother was loved by many, and are pleased at how magnificently she was honored. -- *JANE SHEARER & ANNE MCNAIGHT*

THANK YOU SO MUCH to Messiah Lutheran Church for your support of the 2017 “Christmas Angels” program. Through your generosity, we helped over 180 children from 67 families. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God Bless! --*TED & NICOLE WILSON*

A holiday “thank you” to the junior and senior choirs, Andrea Cameron, Judy Armstrong, and the entire congregation for the various gifts given to me this holiday season. It’s a true pleasure and honor to continue to serve my church family at Messiah on many platforms and I cherish each and every one of you. May you all have a blessed and Happy New Year and all of 2018!! The best is yet to come!! --*BOB ST. CLAIR*

Thank you to everyone involved in creating such a memorable service once again on Christmas Eve. This includes the following people and groups: Diana Wise and the Board of Worship & Music, lay worship leader Sam Leister, Samuel Gutierrez who provided a spectacular piano concert, the kids who

participated in every way possible, our organist Bob St. Clair and pianist June Bricker, Linda Clark and Andrea Cameron and their junior and senior choirs, respectively, who brought the word of our Lord’s birth to life, and Judy Armstrong, our church secretary who finalized and put together not one, but two bulletins for Christmas weekend. The service was a wonderful selection of song and scripture and the candle lighting service was beautiful. And of course, everyone who attended this special evening celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ – thank you for joining us and we welcome you every Sunday! Thank you again for everything!!

Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift. It was greatly appreciated! --*DAVE PHELAN*

Thank you to the members of Messiah for all of the Christmas cards and notes I received. All was greatly appreciated. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year! --*RANDY CLARK*

Dear Friends of Messiah.....thank you so much for the very generous monetary Christmas gift you gave to me. God has blessed me with the opportunity to work with “Messiah’s Kids” throughout the church year, which I truly enjoy. Thank you again. Your kindness is very much appreciated. God’s blessings to all of you! --*LINDA CLARK*

Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received. They were greatly appreciated. --*KAY VARNER*

Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift I received. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Blessings to all for the New Year! --*JUDY ARMSTRONG*



A BELATED 70TH ANNIVERSARY...

.....to Sieber and Ona Stoner who recently celebrated 70 YEARS OF MARRIAGE.

Sieber and Ona were married on Nov. 7, 1947, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mifflintown by the late Rev. Paul Delauter. They are the parents of three children, Gerald Stoner, Daniel Stoner and Susan Sheaffer, and have seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

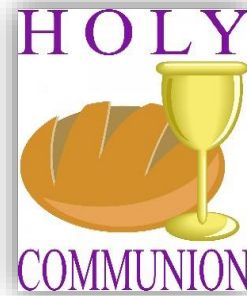


Sieber enjoys gardening and Ona enjoys crocheting and working on quilts with the ladies here at Messiah. Together they enjoy playing pinochle and spending time with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. **CONGRATULATIONS TO SIEBER AND ONA ON 70 WONDERFUL YEARS TOGETHER!!!**

Did You Know???

- ✚ The name January came from a Roman god Janus. According to the Roman legend, in 700 B.C., the ruler Numa Pompilius added January to the end of the 10-month Roman calendar. When it was added, Pompilius gave 30 days to January. However, Romans later made January the first month of the year. Moreover, in 46 B.C. Julius Caesar added a one more day to January and that's why there are 31 in January today.
- ✚ January's gem is garnet which represents constancy.
- ✚ January is National Blood Donor Month, National Braille Literacy Month, National Hobby Month, National Soup Month, and National Staying Healthy Month.
- ✚ January, 2018's first full moon, the Full Wolf Moon, rises on January 1. A second full Moon (a Blue Moon) rises on January 31st. Both of January's full Moons are Super moons!

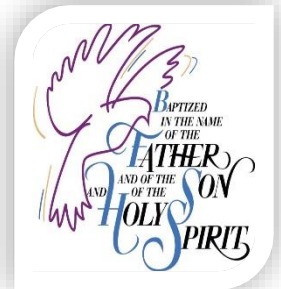
FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES



A First Communion Class will be held for any youth who are interested. Parents may contact the church office at 436-6213 or Sam Leister at 436-8589. A date and time will be set based on those who wish to attend.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASS

A Baptismal/New Member Class will be held for those who are interested. If you wish to have your child baptized, or be baptized yourself, or you wish to attend the New Member Class, please contact the church office at 436-6213.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, Sunday, February 4, 2018. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "help our neighbors" by dropping a dollar in the soup pot and also by donating a can of soup on February 4th. Proceeds will go to our very own Juniata County Food Pantry.



Winter Is A Reminder From God That Spring Is Right Around The Corner!

BISHOP EATON'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2017

Just this. Just now.

I was driving to work one day thinking about my schedule – the meetings I needed to attend, reports I needed to finish, preparations for upcoming travel, email, phone calls, and making a grocery list in my head so that I could pick up what I needed for supper on the way home from work. All of a sudden, I found myself pulling into the parking garage at the Lutheran Center. I had driven the 9 miles to work and had no idea how I got there. I didn't remember the traffic lights, the turns, the scenery – nothing. I had been so absorbed in what was coming up that I was completely oblivious to the present.

I think this experience is not unique to me. We set part of our lives on autopilot and set the planning, list-making, what-if scheduling part on overdrive. Now, planning is a good and necessary thing. One ought to be aware of what is coming up and what needs to be done, but I found that I was so driven by the contingencies and possibilities that I was everywhere all of the time, and, therefore, not anywhere at all.

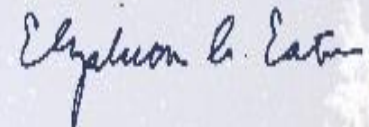
I asked my spiritual director about this, and she recommended that I meditate on these four words: "Just this. Just now." It's a simple discipline but not an easy one. It can alleviate all that anticipatory stress but only if we are willing to be still.

Here we are in Advent. This season doesn't exist in secular culture where everything is barreling toward Christmas. No time to wait, no time to notice, no time to be present. Not this. Not now. All of a sudden, we will find ourselves on the day after Christmas not knowing how we got there.

Advent is a holy season, a season that bids us to be present, to be still. So much is evoked in this season – hope, longing, and the bittersweet awareness that the world is beautiful and broken. Consider all of these things. Sit with them. Pray with them. Be aware of this time of great promise that comes, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, when night is longest. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wait for the Lord. Disengage the autopilot. Notice. Just this. Just now.

Blessed Advent and merry Christmas, dear church!



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MESSIAH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS – DECEMBER 3 TO 24, 2017

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
December 3	80 – Worship 26 – S.S.	\$3,434.32	\$2,848.32	Benevolence -- \$85.00 Sunday School -- \$63.00 Building Fund -- \$240.00 Building Use -- \$100.00 Flowers -- \$93.60 Disaster Relief -- \$4.40
December 10	83 – Worship 22 – S.S.	\$4,333.40	\$2,943.00	Benevolence -- \$565.00 Sunday School -- \$37.00 Building Fund -- \$645.00 Memorial Fund -- \$50.00 Flowers -- \$23.40 Disaster Relief -- \$50.00 World Hunger -- \$20.00
December 17	102 – Worship 18 – S.S.	\$5,901.35	\$1,416.85	Benevolence -- \$210.00 Sunday School -- \$91.05 Building Fund -- \$440.00 Memorial Fund -- \$450.00 Matthew 25 Fund -- \$50.00 Disaster Relief -- \$75.00 Flowers -- \$100.80
December 24 (AM Service)	58 – Worship 12 – S.S.	\$4,396.00	\$2,808.00	Benevolence -- \$675.00 Sunday School -- \$10.00 Building Fund -- \$205.00 Flowers -- \$8.00 Memorial Fund -- \$140.00 World Hunger -- \$50.00 Matthew 25 -- \$500.00
December 24 (Christmas Eve Service)	119 – Worship	\$1,123.00	\$560.00	Benevolence -- \$5.00 Building Fund -- \$5.00 Matthew 25 - \$553.00

THE 2018 FLOWER CHART is in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition, the 2018 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick-up. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2017 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR!

WE WISH YOU A BLESSED NEW YEAR IN THE FAITH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

MAY THE YEAR 2018 BE FILLED WITH GOOD HEALTH, HAPPINESS, PEACE AND JOY!

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY JANUARY UPDATE

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

We are so thankful for all who shared their abundance with the Food Pantry during November and December. With your help we were able to provide over 700 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for neighbors who would have gone without. As we wind down our joyous celebrations of the holiday season, it's important to remember that for some folks this season has a different name: "The Season of Heat or Eat!" Many families this winter will have to choose whether to heat their homes or buy food and other necessities. Please continue to keep them in mind and in prayer as you pack away Christmas decorations and finish off leftovers.

In November 2017, the Food Pantry served 361 families - 1039 individuals! We thank St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for sending volunteers for the month of November. Because it's flu season, and many of our families will be trying to battle illness as well as a lack of heat, if you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

All Non-Perishable Foods; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER; OTC Pain; Cold and Flu Medicines, Cough Drops, Vicks. We ALSO Gladly Accept Donations of Cash and Gift Cards to Purchase These Supplies

DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

PO Box 44, 114 N. Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tue 9-12 and 1-5, and Sat 9-12



REMINDER! Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. *Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is here to receive them. Thank you!

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY.
(CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ). Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday - 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NITTANY OIL CHURCH PROGRAM

For every gallon of heating oil purchased by participating church members from September 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018, Nittany Energy will donate FOUR CENTS per gallon back to the church's heating oil account at the end of each month. One parishioner purchasing 800 gallons of oil during the heating season will save the church \$32.00 per year on their heating oil. **From November to May of last heating season, Messiah's Nittany Energy church program saved the church \$207.53.** If you participated last year, then you are already enrolled. If you have any questions, please ask any Property Committee member.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to press quilt tops for "The Needlers." Tops can be taken home and pressed and brought back to the church. Anyone who is interested, please contact one of "The Needlers."

JANUARY 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Monday, January 1: -**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 2: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 3: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, January 4: -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
-5:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40440 Meeting in Jr. Church Room
- Sunday, January 7: -**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers)
- Monday, January 8: -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 9: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 10: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
-7:00 p.m., Juniata County 4-H Beef & Breeders Club in Youth Area
- Thursday, January 11: -7:00 p.m., WELCA Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, January 14: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Worship Leader: Sam Leister)
- Monday, January 15: -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 16: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
-6:30 p.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 17: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, January 18: -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
-5:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40440 Meeting in Jr. Church Room
- Saturday, January 20: -9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, January 21: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron)
- Monday, January 22: -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 23: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Friday, January 26: -**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Sunday, January 28: -**FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY**
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Worship Leader: Rev. Paul Kampa)
- Monday, January 29: -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, January 30: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, January 31: -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE CONFESS JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR AND THE GOSPEL AS THE POWER OF GOD FOR THE SALVATION OF ALL WHO BELIEVE.

STATEMENT OF VISION

TO GROW GOD'S KINGDOM BY ENRICHING OUR FAITH AND EXPANDING OUR WITNESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION, OUR COMMUNITY, AND THE WORLD.

STATEMENT OF MISSION

TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST OF ALL PEOPLE BY TEACHING GOD'S GRACE THROUGH FELLOWSHIP, THROUGH THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD, THROUGH SERVICE TO OTHERS AND WITNESS TO ALL.

OUR MLC SHORT TERM GOALS

- 1) CALL A PASTOR
 - i. COMPLETE OUR MISSION SITE PROFILE
 1. DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS
 2. BUDGET ANALYSIS
 - ii. SELECT A CALL COMMITTEE
- 2) INCREASE ATTENDANCE TO 75p/SUNDAY
 - i. INCREASE CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITIES
 - ii. INCREASE YOUTH ACTIVITIES
 - iii. INCREASE CONTACT WITH CURRENT MEMBERS
 - iv. INCREASE SERVICE PROJECTS
 - v. EXTEND BUILDING USE TO COMMUNITY
 - vi. IMPROVE SOCIAL MEDIA USE
- 3) RECRUIT MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR GOAL IMPLEMENTATION
- 4) INCREASE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

OUR MLC LONG TERM GOALS

- 1) HAVE A FULL-TIME PASTOR
- 2) INCREASE MEMBERSHIP
- 3) FOSTER A “GROWTH MENTALITY” WITHIN MLC
- 4) FOCUS ON YOUNG FAMILIES
- 5) EXPAND WORLD MISSION EFFORTS
- 6) FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- 7) IMPROVE STEWARDSHIP HABITS
- 8) IMPLEMENT YEARLY GOALS REVIEW

UPDATED MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS LISTING

Women of ELCA (WELCA) – contact Barb S. Geedey, 717-436-6433

Knitters Group – contact Barb S. Geedey, 717-436-6433

Needlers Group – contact Linda Leister, 717-436-8589

Senior Choir – Andrea Cameron

Junior Choir and Sunday School – Linda Clark

Summer Bible School – Linda Clark

Summer Church Camp Mount Luther – Kate Swailes

Funeral Meals – contact Cynthia Smith, 717-436-8512

Community Home Repair/Yard Work – “Doc” Johnston, 717-436-9209

Prayer concerns, Sunday Bulletin –

Church office email: messiahlutheran@pa.net, or

Church office phone: 717-436-6213

Monthly newsletter – Bob St. Clair 717-348-6036 or stclairb@embarqmail.com

Community groups with MLC volunteers:

Fundraiser Groups such as Crop Walk and Relay for Life

Meals on Wheels Volunteers – contact Sharon Ritzman 717-463-2096

Juniata County Food Pantry Volunteers – 717-436-9718