

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THANK OFFERING SUNDAY

November 11th, 2018

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

EMAIL:

mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

www.mlc-mifflintown.org

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Church Office: 717-436-6213 Email: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

The Rev. Chris Mathiason

Rev. Rosalie Smith

Bob St. Clair

Andrea Cameron

Kate Swailes

Tawny Mummah

Hope Miller & Hannah Ehrisman

Kim White, Melissa Ehrisman, Carolyn Bryner & Michelle Stoner

Interim Pastor

Worship Leader

Organist

Choir Director

Lector

Altar Guild

Acolytes

Ushers

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

November 11, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to “Prayers of Intercession.”

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: “Now Thank We All Our God”

S. Saxton

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN “Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading” #687 With One Voice

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of The Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gracious gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the

everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah, his family, and the animals survive the flood. Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all your beloved creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin that is within us, and drown the evil that surrounds us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)**

P Let us pray...

C **Renewing God, pour out your power and come. In the waters of baptism you claim us and call us to be your beloved children. May water be our ever-present sign that you ever make all things new. Refresh us with the good news of Christ's love and anoint us with your Holy Spirit that we might know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in the kingdom. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSV)

The First Reading is from the 17th chapter of Exodus.

17From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strick the rock, and

water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

Cong: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 104:1-4, 31-35 (Responsively) (NIV)

¹Praise the Lord, my soul. Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

²**The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent**

³and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

⁴**He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.**

³¹May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works--

³²**he who looks at the earth, and it trembles, who touches the mountains, and they smoke.**

³³I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

³⁴**May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.**

³⁵But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the Lord, my soul.

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7 (NRSV)

The Second Reading is from the 3rd chapter of Titus.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

Cong: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

* GOSPEL: John 4:5-26 (NRSV)

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food). ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you,

a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans). ¹⁰Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” ¹³Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” ¹⁵The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband;’ ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Rev. Rosalie Smith

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“How Great Thou Art”

#532 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES’ CREED

P: Let us confess our faith with the Apostles’ Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Called together into the Spirit's loving embrace, let us pray for the renewal of the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

P We pray, holy God, for the unity of the church universal: Draw your church together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you send us.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C Come Holy Spirit, come.

P We pray, omnipotent God, for the well-being of creation: We give you thanks for transforming the chaotic waters of creation into saving waters that nourish and sustain our earth. Renew us every day by your water and word.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C Come Holy Spirit, come.

P We pray, righteous God, for peace and justice in the world: Lead the nations of the world away from the wilderness of sin and evil, and toward the light of love and peace. Give us a thirst for justice for all.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C Come Holy Spirit, come.

P We pray, compassionate God, for all in need: To those who are thirsty for love, for justice, for peace, for belonging, give the water of life. For those who are suffering or in pain. Today we pray especially for our shut-ins, the sick, and those who may be grieving who are in our hearts and minds listed here: Kitty Walters, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Mona Lawson, and Jim Yetter. And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Austin Parker, Terry Coder, Barbara Wengerd, Rich Walters, Mary Sanders, Jane Ann Baney, Lysha Maldonado, Donna Barton, Carolina Rubio and family, Josh Hohol, Noel Peachey, Shirley Miller, Jean Zimmerman, Elienai Ramirez, Larry Miller, Mike Maugans, Jamie Miller, Ed Fraker, Ben & Dorothy Towsey, Tami Metz, Dottie Wilson, Sieber Stoner, Megan Shoop, Steve Bahorik, victims of Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael, and victims of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. Bring healing balm and peace.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C Come Holy Spirit, come.

P We pray, faithful God, for the renewal of all life: Refresh us with your living

water and anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Embolden us with your promise and your presence.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C Come Holy Spirit, come.

P Receive our thanksgiving, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith: for the fervent witness and testimony of the woman at the well. May we know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom.

Gracious Spirit, fashion us all anew.

C Come Holy Spirit, Come.

P All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

* SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **“Peace be with you.”**

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

“Take My Life, that I May Be”

#406 Green Hymnal

OFFERTORY:

“Thanksgiving”

E. Grieg

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

ANTHEM:

“We Give Thanks”

Arr. Bruce Greer

* OFFERING PRAYER

P God of grace,

You have showered us with abundance and entrusted to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (From Isaiah 55)

P The Lord be with you.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] (all)

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel).

DISTRIBUTION:

“To Celebrate The Day”

F. Ritter

[“INTINCTION” – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We thank you, gracious God, for loving all your family with a mother’s tender care, and feeding us in a way our hearts and souls can understand, with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ. Renew and enliven us by your presence in this meal, that we may be your presence in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P: In our wilderness, God gives us water from the rock. May you find hope and healing in God’s grace.

C: Amen.

P: Christ Jesus is the Messiah, the redeemer of the world. May you be refreshed by his life-giving water and Word.

C: Amen.

P: The Holy Spirit renews the face of the earth. May you be renewed by God’s endless love.

C: Amen.

P: Holy Trinity + one God bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

“We All Are One in Mission”

#755 With One Voice

* DISMISSAL

P Ever and anew in God’s grace, let us go forth in peace to share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Next Week's Lector – Linda Bahorik
Next Week's Altar Guild – Tawny Mummah
Next Week's Lay Worship Leader – Stephen Rodgers
Next Week's Acolytes – Haley Mummah & Slone Smith

WELCOME

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads but also in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR COMMUNION. Wine and wheat wafers are used and if you so desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel.

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the Narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Rev. Rosalie Smith. We welcome her and pray God's blessing on she as she ministers to us this morning.

JUST A THOUGHT – William S. Plummer - Bible Scholar: The bond of the Covenant is able to bear the weight of the believer's heaviest burden.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

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 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. 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.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Sam Leister at sleister@gmail.com.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

TODAY IS OUR ANNUAL THANKOFFERING CELEBRATION – A special thanks to the Messiah Women of the ELCA for organizing our worship service and to all who participated. All loose offering received plus all the Thankoffering envelopes that are included with your bulletin today will go to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA for their many projects. None of the money is kept locally. Extra envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please make checks payable to “Messiah Women of the ELCA.” Thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU to the following people who are helping with our Thankoffering Service today: Kim White, Melissa Ehrisman, Carolyn Bryner and Michelle Stoner. Thanks also to everyone who is attending our meal and brought delicious covered dishes.

AS WE MAKE OUR THANKOFFERINGS TODAY, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would act together as “cent” or “mite” societies, each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with the hope for all that is to come, let us now give our thankoffering.

SAVE THE DATE – On the afternoon of November 18th, Messiah Youth will hold a craft event with RustiCountry DeSign at Messiah. Participants will sign up in advance and make a beautiful wooden sign, choosing one of three Christmas designs to be given as a gift or cherished in your own home. The cost to participate is \$40. A flyer with detailed information, including pictures of the signs, is forthcoming.

MESSIAH’S YOUTH met for our first monthly meeting on Sunday, November 4th. We made individual pizzas together, and the youth cast their votes for a name for our youth group. And the winner is.....Sunday’s Soldiers! On Sunday, December 2nd, Sunday’s Soldiers will meet again after helping to decorate the church. We will gather to assemble and deliver small, holiday fruit baskets for our shut-ins. Please help us by donating some fruit on the morning of Sunday, December 2nd. Your support and donations are most appreciated!

TODAY we take time to remember those who have served our country and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. We also celebrate Veteran’s Day, or Armistice Day – a day which also commemorates the signing that took place at the 11th hour of the 11th month in 1918....the end of the “War to End All Wars”....the hopes and dreams of the signers. At 11:00 a.m., we will ring our church bell, joining other churches across our nation, and pause to remember and reflect upon the day. We will also take time to pause and to pray, thanking God for the blessing of this beautiful country and for those who have gone before us in many ways to keep our country safe on all levels and from sea to shining sea.

NITTANY OIL COMPANY CHURCH REBATE PROGRAM – Help our church while heating your home. Nittany Energy will donate 4 cents to our church for every gallon purchased from Nittany Oil from September 1, 2018 through April 30, 2019. This is a free program at no cost to our church or to you. It’s easy to enroll by contacting Terry Wian at 570-651-5028 or terryw@nittanyoil.com.

A VOTERS' ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, November 25, 2018 following the worship service. Business: approval of the 2019 proposed budget and minutes of the boards.

CAN TREE – Donations of gallon-size canned food is again being collected this year through the end of December to benefit Bethesda Mission. Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2019 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly the 1st Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact Sam Leister or the church office.

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.”

COPIES OF JULY 22, 2018 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH'S DOORS will be unlocked at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Worship.

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.

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael “Doc” Johnston at 436-9209.

WEEKLY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

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.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2018

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Worship Service – 47		Benevolence -	\$ 435.00
Sunday School - 21		Building Fund -	\$ 515.00
Total Offering	\$3,607.00	Sunday School -	\$ 28.00
Other Funds	<u>\$1,238.00</u>	Memorial Fund -	\$ 250.00
General Fund	\$2,369.00	Youth -	<u>\$ 10.00</u>
		Total	\$ 1,238.00

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS AT MESSIAH

Sunday, December 2nd – First Sunday of Advent; Decorating the church for Christmas after the worship service, followed by a luncheon served by the Fellowship Committee.

Sunday, December 9th – Hanging of the Greens Service during the morning worship service. The focus for the service this year will be the Manger Scene.

Sunday, December 23rd – Children’s Christmas Program during worship service

Monday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Prelude Service at 7:00 p.m. by pianist Justin Aurand of Selinsgrove, followed by the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service at 7:30 p.m. with Lay Worship Leader Sam Leister at the pulpit and featuring both our junior and senior choirs. (The service will also be broadcast live on JuniataCountyRadio.com and rebroadcast at their convenience).

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – We are sponsoring 6 children this year. The sign-up chart for the gifts that are needed is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are due at the church by December 9th, wrapped or bagged with a name tag that includes the child's name and number on the tag.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS STILL NEEDED:

TURKEYS (AROUND 12 LBS.) OR TURKEY BREASTS, HAMS (3-5 LBS.), STUFFING, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, CANNED SWEET POTATOES, AND ICING; OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL! WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS & GIFT CARDS.

NOTE: Don't miss the 11th annual "Save Thanksgiving Benefit Concert" on November 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Port Royal Community Building. Many local bands will be performing, and admission is a donation of cash or food to benefit the Food Pantry.

A TRIP TO PUERTO RICO is being planned by the Synod, leaving the first weekend of January (5th or 6th) and returning the second weekend (12th or 13th). Participants will be staying at a Lutheran Camp in Dorado, Puerto Rico which will provide breakfast and dinner each day. The work will most likely be concrete block construction (digging, carrying blocks, mixing concrete, etc.). The cost will be \$350 plus airfare. **There will be a meeting at the Synod Office in Lewisburg on Thursday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m. for anyone interested in going on this trip.** Contact Don Bratton (436-8856) or Kathy Whitesel (436-2401) if you have any questions.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Thankoffering Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Worship Leader: Rev. Rosalie Smith).
-11:30 a.m., Fall Fest in Fellowship Hall.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting class in Jr. Church Room.
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -6:30 p.m., 4-H Beef & Breeders Club in Youth Area.
-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal in Rearick Room.
- Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-5:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40440 meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -9:00 a.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church/Children's Sermon. (Lay Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers).
-2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Youth Woodworking event in Fellowship Hall.