# "Growing God's Kingdom"



## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

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### **Messiah Lutheran Church**

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213 Email: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

The Rev. Chris Mathiason Jim Bahorik Bob St. Clair Andrea Cameron Ron Yorks Linda Clark Braedon Walton & Nick Reed Julia Martin & Gabby Reed Interim Pastor Lay Worship Leader Organist Choir Director Lector Altar Guild Acolytes Offering Ushers

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 16, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as YOU Are Able

Those we want to remember in prayer today-please refer to "Prayers of Intercession."

#### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

T. Bliss

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

#### C Amen.

P Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P To you, O God,

- C we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.
- P Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of +Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.
- C Amen.

#### GATHERING

\* ENTRANCE HYMN "Rejoice, R

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

#25 Green Hymnal

- \* GREETING
  - P Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
  - C And also with you.
- \* KYRIE (spoken)
  - P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.
  - P Christ, have mercy upon us. C Christ, have mercy upon us.
  - P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (vs. 1)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king." The world in solemn still-ness lay to hear the angels sing.

- P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.
- P Christ, have mercy upon us. C Christ, have mercy upon us.
- P Lord, have mercy upon us. C Lord, have mercy upon us.

#### \* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (sung)

- P The Lord be with you **C** And also with you.
- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)
  - P Let us pray...
  - C Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### WORD

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

The First Lesson is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of Zephaniah.

#### THE LESSON READS:

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Lector: Here ends the reading. Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Isaiah 12:2-6

L – In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isa. 12:6)

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

#### <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

- <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, who has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

#### All – In your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns, with the hope they will experience God's joy and peace.

#### SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7

The Second Lesson is from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Philippians.

#### THE LESSON READS:

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lector: Here ends the reading. Cong: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

\* THE VERSE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 3)

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one "who is coming." John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

- **\*** GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18
  - P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.
  - C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

#### THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

#### C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jim Bahorik Jim Bahorik 59 Green Hymnal

- SERMON
- \* HYMN OF THE DAY "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #559 Green Hymnal
- \* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A brief silence.
- P For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, and off-key singing, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P For the hurting places in creation; for seas and lands ravaged by natural disasters; for communities and creatures displaced by floods and droughts. Grant peace through your presence and joy in your healing. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn. 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, 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, Pastor Nancy McClure, Ken & Ruth Mummah and family, Carol Lyter, Kay Stuck, Jasmine Vazquez, Jim Minick, family of Lysha Maldonado, and California Wildfire victims. Fill them with your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C hear our prayer.

P For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Gracious gifting God, we are reminded of your gifts in and for all the children of the church. In this season of gifting and giving, call on our gifts now, use us, in service of your whole church. As our Call Committee works to call a new pastor to our congregation, may your Holy Spirit lead us to discern the gifts we seek and see those gifts clearly in the candidates you may send to us. In our communications, interviews and meetings with these candidates, may we all find ourselves once again who we surely are in Christ Jesus, stewards of your many gifts. Lord, in your mercy,

#### C hear our prayer.

- P In thanksgiving for preachers and teachers who have guided us on the way. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- P Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### C Amen.

#### \* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

#### C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: "Peace be with you."

OFFERING OFFERTORY:

"Offertory in A Flat"

A. Guilmant

[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:	"Come, My Light, My Life"	by Rostov/Butler
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# \* SUNG OFFERTORY "Let All Together Praise Our God" (revised wording) Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne; For he will open heav'n above To give us his own Son, To give us his own Son.

- \* OFFERING PRAYER
  - P God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
  - C Amen.

#### MEAL

- \* ADVENT DIALOG
  - P We have come with great expectation to meet the coming Messiah.
  - C All creation waits with longing for the Son of God.
  - P As John the Baptist cried in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord."
  - C We prepare a place in our hearts and in the world for his coming.
  - P O come to us, Emmanuel!
  - C God, be with us and save us from our sins.

#### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

#### C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

#### C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

- \* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)
  - C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
    - Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

#### For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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

DISTRIBUTION: "Christmas Lullaby" S. Douglas ["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 Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.
  - C Amen.

#### SENDING

- \* BLESSING
  - P May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
  - C A-men, A-men, A-men. (sung)
- \* SENDING HYMN
- "Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"

#171 Green Hymnal

- \* DISMISSAL
  - P Go in peace. Christ is with you. C Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

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Next Week's Lector – Jean Compton Next Week's Altar Guild – Diana Wise Next Week's Acolytes – Hannah Ehrisman & Haley Mummah Next Week's Offering Ushers – Zeb Berry & Harrison Mummah Next Week's Lay Worship Leader – Stephen Rodgers

#### **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 worshiping 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 blue 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) worshiping 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Diane Hower by family.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Jim Bahorik an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church's pilgrimage, the church's inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop's responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Collins is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.

JUST A THOUGHT – G. K. Chesterton, English Christian Writer (1874 – 1936): A man was meant to be doubtful of himself but undoubting about the truth. This has been exactly reversed.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY</u> <u>NOON.</u>

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>sleister@gmail.com</u>.

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 <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u> for any changes or requests.

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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact Sam Leister or the church office.

THE FIRST EVER SUMMER BROCHURE RELEASE PARTY will be held at Camp Mount Luther on Sunday, December 30, 2018 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Evergreen Center. All campers and friends, parents, Alumni staff and pastors are invited to attend. There will be crafts, games, food and singing plus details about the 2019 Summer Camp schedule and theme. The annual Camperson (a liaison between camp and your congregation) Meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. Mark the date on your calendars and plan to attend! For more information, a poster about the event is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2019 will be available soon in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place flowers on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart.

THE 2019 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2018 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

ALL LOOSE OFFERING AT THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will go to the Matthew 25 Fund to help those in need throughout the year. You can also donate to the fund by writing Matthew 25 Fund on your regular offering envelope and the amount you wish to contribute.

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 OCTOBER 28, 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 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER 9, 2018

<u>Attendance</u>	ndance Other Funds			
Worship Service – 70		Benevolence -	\$	75.00
Sunday School - 30		Building Fund -	\$	435.00
Total Offering	\$4,391.20	Sunday School -	\$	33.00
Other Funds	<u>\$1,219.60</u>	Flowers/Poinsettias -	\$	234.40
General Fund	\$3,171.60	Lutheran Disaster -	\$	272.20
		Building Use -	\$	100.00
		World Hunger -	\$	70.00
		Total	\$	1,219.60

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.

#### UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS AT MESSIAH

#### Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Children's Christmas Program during worship service

**Monday, December 24**<sup>th</sup> – 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.

#### **COMMUNITY**

#### FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:

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

#### FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:

ALL-NON PERISHABLE FOODS, DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, AND OTHER CLEANING SUPPLIES.

#### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today:	-Third Sunday of Advent. -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church/Children's Sermon. (Lay Worship Leader: Jim Bahorik).	
Monday:	-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.	
Tuesday:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall. -CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TODAY.	
Wednesday:	-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.	
Sunday:	-Forth Sunday of Advent/Children's Christmas Program during Worship Service. -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Lay Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers).	

