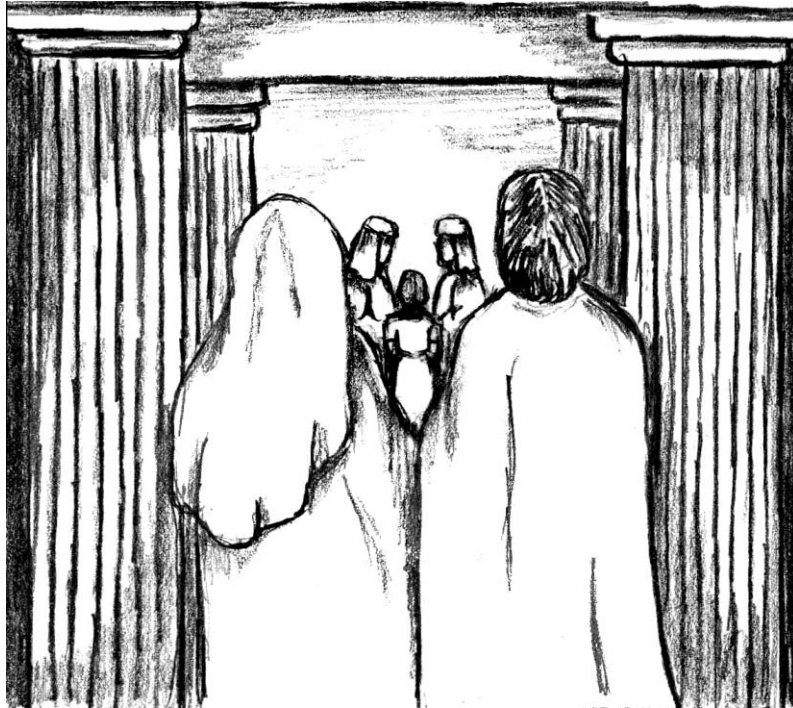


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SERVICE OF HEALING

December 30th, 2018

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

EMAIL:

mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

www.mlcmifflintown.org

The artwork is by Sharon Geiser. Permission to use this copyrighted graphic is limited to congregational use.
This bulletin cover provided by www.scholix.net and is made available without cost.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise
Kay Varner
Slone Smith and Olivia Mummah
Hope Miller and Nick Reed

Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes
Offering Ushers

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING December 30, 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: “Christmas Brings Joy to Every Heart” D. Paxton
[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, wonderful counselor,

C we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We

have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

P God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #50 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! 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.

* KYRIE

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.**

“Away in a Manger” (verse 1)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE (to the tune of “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”)

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav’n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God’s right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

*** SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)**

P The Lord be with you C **And also with you.**

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

P Let us pray...

C Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

WORD

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord's house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

The First Lesson is from 2nd chapter of 1st Samuel.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148

Ps. – Read Responsively **Response – Sung by Congregation**

**R Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away. R

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²young men and maidens, old and young together. R

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah! R

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Colossians.

THE LESSON READS:

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* THE VERSE "Joy to the World" (vs. 1)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;

let ev'ry heart prepare him room

and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,

and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

* GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety."

⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them.

⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)**

SERMON

Andrea Cameron

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

#44 Green Hymnal

* NICENE CREED (all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

A brief silence.

P God of wisdom, open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of children. Inspire the youngest and oldest in our midst to learn from one another with humility and patience. Hear us, O God,

C Your mercy is great.

P God of creation, praise to you for hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests, animals wild and tame, sea monsters, birds, and reptiles. Spark delight in our hearts for all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of hope, call us to peace and bind us together in perfect unity. Make wars to cease. Guide the leaders of the nations in your way of wisdom, compassion, and tolerance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of healing, mend the broken hearts of those who suffer this day. Treasure everyone who struggles with addiction, loneliness, hunger, unemployment, mental illness, or sickness. 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, Josh Hohol, Noel Peachey, Shirley Miller, Elienai Ramirez, Larry Miller, Ed Fraker, Ben & Dorothy Towsey, Tami Metz, Dottie Wilson, Sieber Stoner, Megan Shoop, Carol Lyter, Kay Stuck, Jasmine Vazquez, Jim Minick, Bob Bell, Curt Houtz, and California Wildfire victims. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of life, draw us into the body of Christ and make us grow in faith and hope. Fill us with hearts of thanksgiving made visible in our words and actions for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of delight, fill us with songs of praise and hope even in the midst of despair and death. Comfort the grieving. Strengthen our faith until the day we will be gathered around your throne singing in eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

THE RITE OF HEALING

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

P Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands as a commitment to God's power to heal may come down the center aisle in two lines to the right and left of the altar. This may include those in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. It may include those in need of reconciliation in their relationship to God or neighbor. It may include those who wish to commit their ministry of healing into the hands of God: as a doctor, nurse or health care worker.

P Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. We give you thanks for this oil, for the fruit of the trees, nurtured in the warmth of the sun, watered from the rain of the heavens, the olives harvested, and oil pressed from the fruit of the trees. With oil, you anointed your chosen people Israel, and fed them with choice flour, oil, and honey. You anointed Aaron and made oil a sign of blessing for your chosen ones. You promised to anoint with oil those who walk through the valley of the shadow of death. You have anointed your own Son with the oil of gladness. The Good Samaritan tended a stranger, bound up his wounds, and poured oil on them. You gave the disciples power to heal, to cure, and to anoint with oil many who were sick. Your own body was anointed for burial by the woman who poured expensive ointment on his feet and wiped them with her hair. The virgins met the bridegroom and trimmed their oil lamps to burn brightly for the celebration, the feast to come.

(Then for each individual the following is said with the laying on of hands):

P I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.

C Amen.

P (Name), I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

* PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (for all)

P The almighty Lord a stronger tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our 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:

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

M. L. Williams

ANTHEM:

“Christmas Is Christmas”

Dennis & Nan Allen

[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].

* SUNG OFFERTORY “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verse 1)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

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 We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both 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 Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!

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

DISTRIBUTION:

"Manger Prayer"

M. Shea

["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 God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

C A-men, A-men, A-men. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN

"What Child Is This"

#40 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ. **C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

"Joy to the World"

G. M. Martin

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2018 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 – Harrison Mummah

Next Week's Altar Guild – Linda Clark

Next Week's Worship Leader – Rev. Erin Bovendam

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 yellow 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.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Andrea Cameron 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 – Johannes von Muller, Swiss Historian (1752 – 1809): Good has one enemy, the evil; but the evil has two enemies, the good and itself.

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.

PASTOR CHRIS WILL BE ON VACATION from December 26th to January 2nd. Pastor Jim Bricker will be available if you have a pastoral emergency. He can be reached at (cell 717-512-1026 or home 717-535-5415 or email: gymbri@embarqmail.com).

THE JANUARY 2019 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com and Bob St. Clair at stclairb@embarqmail.com prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at www.mlcimiffintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

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.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2019 is available 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.

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 23, 2018

Attendance

Worship Service – 93
Sunday School - 5
Total Offering \$3,862.20
Other Funds \$ 685.20
General Fund \$3,177.00

Other Funds

Benevolence - \$ 80.00
Building Fund - \$ 350.00
Sunday School - \$ 7.00
Flowers/Poinsettias - \$ 53.20
Lutheran Disaster - \$ 95.00
Matthew 25 - \$ 50.00
World Hunger - \$ 50.00
Total \$ 685.20

DECEMBER 24, 2018

Attendance

Worship Service – 121
Total Offering \$1,034.00
Other Funds \$ 629.00
General Fund \$ 405.00

Other Funds

Matthew 25 - \$ 629.00

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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., 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.

THE NEXT WOMEN OF ELCA MEETING will be on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Ann Beaver will have the program. All women are invited to attend.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, TISSUES, TOILET PAPER, ANY HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS, OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, COUGH DROPS, VICKS VAPO RUB. WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS TO PURCHASE THESE SUPPLIES.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -First Sunday of Christmas.
-Food Pantry Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion/Jr. Church (Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron).
- Monday:** -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED – HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- 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:** -Epiphany of our Lord
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Children’s Sermon. (Worship Leader: Rev. Erin Bovendam).