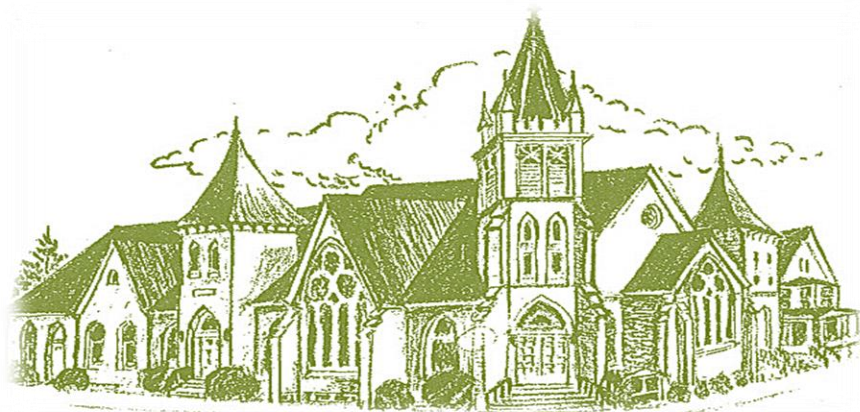


THE MESSIAH HERALD



December 2019

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

VICAR – SAMUEL LEISTER: mlchurchvicar@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.mlcmifflintown.org

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

TREASURER EMAIL: mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:15 AM

WORSHIP / COMMUNION / JUNIOR CHURCH – 10:30 AM

CHILDREN'S SERMONS OFFERED EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS!

[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)

[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

"Growing God's Love"

The Messiah Herald



VICAR'S DECEMBER MESSAGE

Dear Messiah Family,

As you have read and heard, I am following a path of spiritual discernment which leads me closer to a life of service to Jesus here at His house that we call Messiah. I am not on this path alone for Jesus is with me. This journey is not for two, or three, but for many. All of you are on this path with us. Just as I am finding my way in service, so too are each of you seeking a path of service of your own. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will discover Christ's desires for each of us.

You are not reading this to learn about me, you are reading the Messiah Herald to learn about Jesus. More specifically you are reading this to learn about what you can do for Jesus. The Body of Christ is the church on earth. All of us make up the church. All of us make up the Body of Christ. All of us ARE the Body of Christ.

As members of the Body of Christ we base our relationships with one another on the teachings of Jesus. Love others as we would be loved. Care for others as we would have others care for us. Further, to paraphrase an idea put forth by John F. Kennedy, we must not focus on what the church can do for us. We must instead ask what we can do for the church. What can we do for the Body of Christ? What can we do for Jesus?

Through this season of Advent and on to Christmas, seek ways to "do" for the church, for the Body of Jesus. Many projects are in the works, on the front burners of Messiah, the community and beyond. Many are mentioned throughout this newsletter. Please check through it and mark the things with which you can assist with your talents, finances, expertise, anything, large or small. This is a season in which we celebrate what God has done for us through the gift of his son, Jesus. Let us celebrate what we can do for God and His church on earth through the blessings given to us so that we may pass them on to others through the Body of Christ.

Finally, in the months to come, let us together find common service with the Holy Spirit. Let us continue the many activities of Messiah's family. Let us enhance all loving and caring ministries in which we so selflessly participate. Let us find new missions, things not yet dreamed, and services not yet begun. Let the Holy Spirit into our hearts and minds so we can and will carry on the love of Christ.

May the love of Christ and the closeness of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

Vicar Samuel Leister

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Carole Baker	Carlen McClure
Fran Baker	Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler
Jane Ann Baney	Messiah's TEEM
Donna Barton	Tami Metz
Lindsey Barton	John Miller
Bob Bell	Larry Miller
Joyce Bradley	Shirley Miller
Andrea & Bob Cameron	Jim Minick
Pam Campbell	Austin Parker
Don Clark	Noel Peachey
Terry Coder	Dave Phelan
Leann Crimmel	Butch & Sandy Pines
Will DeLancy	Betty Ranck
Fred Dowling	Mary Sanders
The Family of Deanna Fawver	Mackenzie Shearer
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Tim Smith
Ed Fraker	Mike Sparks
Joan Fulkroad	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Edie Kay Gill	Dorothy Towsey
Pastor Charlie Hershberger	Rich Walters
Josh Hohol	Sandy Wert
Matt Hutchinson	Tim Weston
Curt & Judy Houtz	Dottie Wilson
Denny King	Jim Woltman
Kevin Kint	Mackenzie Wray
Carol Lyter	Linda Zimmerman

LOCUST GROVE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(69 Cottage Drive, Mifflin, PA 17058)

Margaret Reynolds Esther Rhine

AT HOME

Max & Mary Ernest	Paul Goss
1099 William Penn Hwy.	8 North 5 th Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Margaret Guss	Mona Lawson
20 South Third Street	2792 William Penn Hwy.
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Minnie Minick	Edith Nipple
187 JAM House Road	1482 William Penn Hwy.
Mifflin, PA 17058	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Sieber & Ona Stoner	Velma Suloff
23591 Route 35 North	4460 Route 333
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

Ken & Kay Stuck	Kitty Walters
66 Eighth Street	P.O. Box 61
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Port Royal, PA 17082

Jim Yetter	Dorothy Zeiders
128 Manbeck Drive	80 Wagon Wheel Lane
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

BROOKLINE MANOR

(2 MANOR BLVD., RM. 226, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Gail Henderson

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(3 ALEX CIRCLE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Carol Simonton

HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108, THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094) Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

DECEMBER 4 – Jean Berry

DECEMBER 5 – Silas Smith

DECEMBER 11 – Gene Crissman

DECEMBER 15 -- Jane McNaught Shearer

DECEMBER 25 – **OUR SAVIOR, JESUS,**
Barbara S. Geedey

DECEMBER 26 – Emma Arentz

If you want to add your name to the birthday/anniversary list, or know someone you would like to acknowledge, please let the church office know at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com.

DECEMBER SERVANTS

LECTORS

- 1 Slone Smith
- 8 Cynthia Smith
- 15 Randy Clark
- 22 Linda Bahorik
- 29 Barb Geedey

ALTAR GUILD

- Nov. 25 to Dec. 29..... Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed
- Dec. 30 to Feb. 23..... Kay Varner & Kim White

ACOLYTES

- 1 Hannah Ehrisman & Thea Beward
- 8 Sienna Guido & Brea Beward
- 15 Zeb Berry & Harrison Mummah
- 22 Braedon Walton & Hope Miller
- 29 Haley Mummah & Julia Martin

OFFERING USHERS

- 1 Nick Reed, Gabby Reed, Brea Beward, & Sienna Guido
- 8 Hannah Ehrisman, Hope Miller, Julia Martin, & Olivia Mummah
- 15 Julia Martin, Braedon Walton, Paige Martin, & Grace Miller
- 22 Thea Beward, Slone Smith, Harrison Mummah, & Gabby Reed
- 29 Olivia Mummah, Brea Beward, Nick Reed, & Hannah Ehrisman

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 1 In honor of our Lay Ministers
- 8 OPEN
- 15 Judy Armstrong
- 22 Poinsettias
- 29 Poinsettias



WELCA met on Thursday, November 14th at 7 PM in the Young Adult Sunday School Room. Barb Geedey presented the program on Thanksgiving.

Due to the absence of our Treasurer there was no report this month.

Barb reported that the Thankoffering Service was well attended and went without any problems. She also reported that the Christmas Angel project is coming along nicely as well.

Our December program will be our usual Christmas program with everyone bringing a reading, snack, cookie, etc. and a decoration if they desire. Barb will provide the beverage and paper products.

Barb asked everyone to think about a project for the beginning of the year.

Barb will come in another day to put together our Seafarers' bags as they need to go to the Synod office by the beginning of December.

We closed with the WELCA purpose statement.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Geedey.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to drive Max Ernest to his doctor's appointments. If you can help, please call him at his home phone number.

GOD CREATES THREE NEW SAINTS

God created three new saints on Sunday, December 1st through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We welcomed into the fellowship of our congregation Berkley Doris Bender, daughter of Brianna McGinnis and Blaine Bender; Sienna Lea Guido, daughter of Eric Guido and Lindsay Park; and Brennan Eric Guido, son of Eric Guido and Lindsay Park. We are pleased to have them become a part of the Messiah family.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS & PRAYER FOCUS

- DECEMBER 1----- MATTHEW 24:36-44
HOSPITALITY AND SERVICE WORKERS
- DECEMBER 2 ----- ROMANS 6:1-11
THOSE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND
- DECEMBER 3 ----- MATTHEW 24:23-25
REPORTERS AND NEWSCASTERS
- DECEMBER 4 ----- ACTS 13:16-25
MISSIONARIES AND EVANGELISTS
- DECEMBER 5 ----- ISAIAH 11:1-10
CHILDREN IN OUR CHURCH
- DECEMBER 6 -----PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19
THOSE ORGANIZING GIVING PROJECTS
- DECEMBER 7 ----- ROMANS 15:4-13
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- DECEMBER 8 -----MATTHEW 3:1-12
CAMP COUNSELORS AND PARK PERSONNEL
- DECEMBER 9 -----RUTH 1:6-18
THOSE WEIGHED DOWN BY GRIEF
- DECEMBER 10 -----RUTH 4:13-17
NURSING HOME STAFF AND RESIDENTS
- DECEMBER 11 -----1 SAMUEL 2:1-8
COUPLES COPING WITH INFERTILITY
- DECEMBER 12 -----ISAIAH 35:1-10
CHURCH MUSICIANS AND HYMN WRITERS
- DECEMBER 13 ----- PSALM 146:5-10
HOSPITAL WORKERS AND PATIENTS
- DECEMBER 14 ----- JAMES 5:7-10
THOSE WAITING FOR GOOD NEWS
- DECEMBER 15 ----- MATTHEW 11:2-11
PRISON WORKERS AND INMATES
- DECEMBER 16 ----- JUDE 17-25
THOSE OF WAVERING FAITH
- DECEMBER 17 ----- ACTS 5:12-16
DOCTORS, NURSES, THERAPISTS
- DECEMBER 18 -----JOHN 3:31-36
THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW GOD'S LOVE

- DECEMBER 19----- ISAIAH 7:10-16
THOSE AFRAID TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS
- DECEMBER 20 ----- PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19
THOSE CARING FOR A SICK LOVED ONE
- DECEMBER 21-----ROMANS 1:1-7
THOSE WHO SERVE WITHOUT RECOGNITION
- DECEMBER 22 -----MATTHEW 1:18-25
FOR FAITHFUL PARENTS WHO OBEY GOD
- DECEMBER 23 -----ISAIAH 33:17-22
THOSE WHO WORK FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
- DECEMBER 24 ----- LUKE 2:1-14 (15-20)
THOSE LEADING CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
- DECEMBER 25 ----- JOHN 1:1-14
SIBLINGS
- DECEMBER 26 ----- ACTS 6:8-7:2A, 51-60
LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES
- DECEMBER 27 -----JOHN 21:20-25
STORYTELLERS AND POETS
- DECEMBER 28 -----MATTHEW 2:13-23
FIRST RESPONDERS
- DECEMBER 29 -----HEBREWS 2:10-18
THOSE WHO FEAR DEATH
- DECEMBER 30 ----- 2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18
THOSE LIVING WITH CHRONIC PAIN
- DECEMBER 31----- JOHN 8:12-19
THOSE YEARNING FOR LIGHT AND HOPE

WELCA CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

The Women of the ELCA of Messiah Lutheran Church are sponsoring six children for this year's Christmas Angel Project. 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 8th, wrapped or bagged with a name tag that includes the child's name and number on the tag.

CONTACT FOR NEEDS OR CONCERNS

If anyone has any needs or concerns, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know as well. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlchurchvicar@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to our friends at Messiah Lutheran Church for your generous donation to the Juniata County Food Pantry. Your gift will not only provide your neighbors with essential food and supplies but will also give them hope that someone still cares. Bless you for supporting our mission to fight hunger as we reach out to the more than 3,000 adults, children, and elderly living in poverty in Juniata County. *SINCERELY, YOUR FRIENDS AT THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY*

MESSIAH PRAYER LIST

If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at mlchurchvicar@gmail.com.

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!

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.

MESSIAH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS – NOVEMBER 2019

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
November 3	71 – Worship 30 – S. S.	\$3,179.50	\$2,899.50	Benevolence -- \$95.00 Building Fund -- \$125.00 Sunday School -- \$60.00
November 10	68 – Worship 28 – S. S.	\$4,269.25	\$3,345.00	Benevolence -- \$45.00 Building Fund -- \$240.00 Sunday School -- \$27.25 Flowers -- \$22.00 World Hunger -- \$100.00 Communion -- \$40.00 Other - Continuing Ed -- \$450.00
November 17	71 – Worship 29 – S. S.	\$2,893.76	\$2,446.00	Benevolence -- \$115.00 Building Fund -- \$240.00 Sunday School -- \$31.76 Flowers -- \$46.80 Disaster Relief -- \$14.20
November 24	64 – Worship 26 – S. S.	\$2,269.20	\$1,906.00	Benevolence -- \$107.00 Building Fund -- \$100.00 Sunday School -- \$40.00 Flowers -- \$39.00 Disaster Relief -- \$27.20 Sunday Soldiers -- \$50.00

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER UPDATE

Merry Christmas to you and your families! With your help, by the time you read this notice we will have distributed over 274 Thanksgiving meals to our Juniata County neighbors in need! In December we'll attempt to do it all again—for Christmas!

The Food Pantry served 349 families in October – 870 individuals. Many thanks to Bunkertown Brethren in Christ Church for providing volunteers in October.

FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER

All Non-Perishable Foods (Especially Cream Corn), Dish Detergent, Laundry Detergent, And Other Cleaning Supplies

HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS-ITEMS STILL NEEDED ARE:

Turkey Breasts; Hams (3-5 lbs.) Or A \$20 Donation Will Purchase One Complete Meal!

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

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY.

(CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ). Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com



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!

Nittany Oil Company Church Rebate Program 2019/2020

Help our church while
heating your home

Nittany Energy will donate 4¢ to our church for every gallon
purchased from Nittany Oil 9/1/19–4/30/20

It's easy to enroll

This is a free program at no cost
to our church or to you

Contact Terry Wian today at:

570-651-5028

terryw@nittanyoil.com

Last year Nittany paid \$282.68 back to the church in their rebate program.

THANK YOU!

Dear Friends at Messiah.....I would like to thank you for the flowers the church sent to my mother, Peg Reynolds. They certainly brighten up her room. I would also like to thank everyone for the cards, thoughts, prayers and visits since she has been at Locust Grove, they are appreciated more than you know. Fondly, *BRENDA VARNER*

CAN TREE

Donations of gallon-sized food is again being collected this year through the end of December to benefit Bethesda Mission in Harrisburg. Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able!

DECEMBER 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1:** **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
-9:15 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL
-10:30 A.M., WORSHIP & COMMUNION, CHILDREN'S SERMON, JUNIOR CHURCH
-AFTER WORSHIP, SUNDAY SOLDIERS AND DECORATING OF THE CHURCH/LUNCHEON
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 2:**
-6:30 P.M., LIONS CLUB MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
-6:30 P.M., KNITTING CLASS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
-8:00 P.M., AA MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3:**
-9:00 A.M., "THE NEEDLERS" IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4:**
-7:00 P.M., CHOIR REHEARSAL IN REARICK ROOM
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5:**
-1:00 P.M., DULCIMER REHEARSAL
-4:00 P.M., GIRL SCOUT TROOP #40400 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8:** **HANGING OF THE GREENS SERVICE**
-9:15 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL
-10:30 A.M., WORSHIP & COMMUNION, JUNIOR CHURCH
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 9:**
-6:30 P.M., KNITTING CLASS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
-8:00 P.M., AA MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10:**
-9:00 A.M., "THE NEEDLERS" IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11:**
-6:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M., BREAKFAST FOR RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
-6:30 P.M., 4-H BEEF & BREEDERS CLUB IN YOUTH AREA
-7:00 P.M., CHOIR REHEARSAL IN REARICK ROOM
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12:**
-7:00 P.M., WELCA MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14:**
-6:00 P.M., CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT MIFFLINTOWN TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15:**
-9:15 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL
-10:30 A.M., WORSHIP & COMMUNION, JUNIOR CHURCH, CHILDREN'S SERMON
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 16:**
-6:30 P.M., LIONS CLUB MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
-6:30 P.M., KNITTING CLASS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
-8:00 P.M., AA MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17:**
-9:00 A.M., "THE NEEDLERS" IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
-6:00 TO 9:00 P.M., QUILTERS GUILD IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18:**
-7:00 P.M., CHOIR REHEARSAL IN REARICK ROOM
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19:**
-1:00 P.M., DULCIMER REHEARSAL
-4:00 P.M., GIRL SCOUT TROOP #40400 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22:**
-9:15 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL
-10:30 A.M., WORSHIP & COMMUNION, **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 23:**
-6:30 P.M., KNITTING CLASS IN JUNIOR CHURCH ROOM
-8:00 P.M., AA MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24:**
-7:00 P.M., CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE CONCERT
-7:30 P.M., CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS, COMMUNION, AND CANDLELIGHT
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25:** **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27:** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29:**
-9:15 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL
-10:30 A.M., WORSHIP & COMMUNION, JUNIOR CHURCH/SERVICE OF HEALING

MESSIAH'S DECEMBER ADVENT SEASON AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

PLEASE INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN US AS WE PREPARE OURSELVES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE COMING OF THE CHRIST CHILD!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST: First Sunday of Advent, followed by a light luncheon (prepared by the Fellowship Committee). Decoration of the church will be held after the service and luncheon. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH: Second Sunday of Advent. “**Hanging of the Greens**” program will be held during the morning worship service. The topic of this year’s program will be the **Christmas Greens and Advent Wreath**.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH: Third Sunday of Advent.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND: Fourth Sunday of Advent. The morning worship service will include the annual **Children’s Christmas Program**.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH: -7:00 PM – Christmas Eve Music Prelude Service with music by Justin Aurand
-7:30 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service

CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will begin with a **Prelude Service at 7:00 PM**, featuring Mr. Justin Aurand, pianist, from Selinsgrove. **The Candlelight/Communion service will begin at 7:30 PM** and will include the singing of Carols and special anthems by both the junior and senior choirs. Christina Martin will also be performing a Christmas solo, Slone Smith and Bob St. Clair will perform a saxophone/piano duet, and Andrea Cameron will be performing “Ave Maria” during the lighting of the candles. We are additionally blessed again this year that Messiah has been selected as one of only a few local churches to have our service broadcast live by our local station, Juniata County Radio. So if you cannot attend our service, go to www.juniatacountyradio.com to listen and celebrate with us! Please plan to attend this beautiful service for the whole family in anticipation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

UPCOMING PPC AND VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING DATES

- + **Sunday, January 19th** – 7:00 PM – PPC Meeting
- + **Sunday, February 16th** – After Worship – Voter’s Assembly
- + **Sunday, March 15th** – 7:00 PM – PPC Meeting
- + **Sunday, April 19th** – After Worship – Voter’s Assembly
- + **Sunday, May 17th** – 7:00 PM – PPC Meeting
- + **Sunday, June 21st** – After Worship – Voter’s Assembly – PPC Election Approval

Messiah Lutheran Church Poinsettia and/or Lutheran Disaster Response Order Form



In keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, poinsettias may now be purchased for our services this holiday season in honor or memory of loved ones. They will be used to beautify our altar area to help us celebrate the holiday season. We are again including this year another way to honor or to remember loved ones by making a donation in their name to the Lutheran Disaster Response effort. In the wake of this year's many weather disasters and because of those still suffering, we are again adding this worthwhile opportunity for those who may not usually consider purchasing a poinsettia.

Please complete the order form below and attach **a check for either type (payment or donation)**, made payable to **"Messiah Lutheran Church"** and print **Poinsettias or Lutheran Disaster Response** in the memo line. Attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by **December 10, 2019. PAYMENT OR DONATION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!**

Thank you for helping to beautify our space, and/or supporting Lutheran Disaster Response!

Please note, that if you are making a donation for the disaster response effort, our Treasurer will keep track of all money received for that cause and write one check at the end of the Christmas season from our church to the Lutheran Disaster Response and also enclose a listing of those who were honored or remembered. As in the past, a full listing of either a Poinsettia or a Donation (will not include the amount of the donation) with those persons honored or remembered will be listed in the bulletin for Sunday, December 22nd and on Christmas Eve

Flowers may be picked up anytime following our Christmas Eve Service.

Poinsettia/Lutheran Disaster Response Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS:

Please check one: In Honor Of () or In Memory Of ()

I would like to order and/or donate as follows:

6" Poinsettia (4 to 5 blooms) \$7.80 each: # of plants _____ x \$7.80 = \$ _____

Donation to Lutheran Disaster Response in the amount of _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly Minutes
Sunday, October 20, 2019**

Asst. Exec. Director, Larry Wise opened the meeting at 11:37 AM. There were 57 members in attendance.

The “TEEM” Covenant was distributed, and Asst. Exec. Dir., Larry called the meeting to order. He then stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss accepting Sam Leister as our Vicar (Pastor in training) starting November 1, 2019 for one year. The TEEM Covenant lists the responsibilities Sam would have and on the reverse side, the responsibilities of the Congregation.

Sam was asked to offer prayer.

Asst. Exec. Dir. Clint then presented a summary of Sam’s responsibilities. Next, Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry presented a summary of the Congregation’s responsibilities, then opened for discussion. See attached TEEM Covenant document from Synod. Ron Shearer asked if we would still have Pastor Chris as our Interim Pastor with pay. Larry stated that we would not. We will be meeting with Pastor Chris at our next PPC meeting to discuss these details with him.

At this time Sam was asked to leave the room.

Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry asked that we now consider entertaining a motion for Sam Leister to be our Vicar starting November 1, 2019 and for a period of one (1) year. He then opened for any questions or comments. Larry said it was the best opportunity for the congregation in order to help move us forward. There were no questions or discussion.

Guy Dillman moved to accept Sam Leister as Messiah’s Vicar starting November 1, 2019 for a period of one (1) year. Barbara S. Geedey seconded the motion. Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry said we could vote by paper ballot, or by voice. Ron Shearer said we could waive the paper ballot. A voice vote was a unanimous “yes” to waive the paper ballot. Larry then called for a voice vote to accept Sam as our Vicar, and the answer was a unanimous “yes”—everyone applauded. Clint brought Sam back to the sanctuary, and Linda was also asked to come back.

Sam thanked everyone and stated that “God through the Holy Spirit will move us forward”. Sam said he would now give his formal written resignation as PPC Director and accept the position of Vicar as of October 20, 2019. Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry said we gladly accept his resignation as Dir. Of PPC, and also will make Linda’s new role as comfortable as possible. Larry also thanked Sam for the tremendous commitment he was making.

Sam wanted to add that he had signed on 3 new ushers recently, bringing the count of Acolytes and Ushers to sixteen (16)!

Sam closed the meeting with prayer at 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Wise, PPC Secretary

TEEM COVENANT

Ministry Site – Messiah Lutheran Church, Mifflintown, PA TEEM Candidate – Samuel Leister

October 20, 2019

The following statements reflect the TEEM Process relationship, during the first year, between the congregation of Messiah Lutheran, Mifflintown and the TEEM Candidate Samuel Leister.

Premise

The TEEM Process is one where a candidate is raised up by the Bishop to prepare for ordained ministry in order to serve a congregation with a specific diversity or ministry situation. The TEEM candidate intentionally serves a congregation while simultaneously completing the educational requirements and candidacy process for ordination to the roster of Word and Sacrament Ministry. The TEEM candidate, upon completion of the educational requirements, receives a TEEM Certificate and through successful examination by the Seminary Faculty and the Synod's Candidacy Committee is approved for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

First Steps of this Relationship

Focus: Listening – Observing – Transitioning – Creating a Healthy Learning Environment Whereas the TEEM candidate is not yet a Pastor, the appropriate title throughout this process is to be Vicar. Vicar Samuel Leister's responsibilities to the congregation in this first year will be as follows:

- Vicar Leister will lead weekly worship services, as well as any other special or mid-week worship services of the congregation. He will be allowed to preside at the Eucharist, due to the fact that he is being placed into the congregation for the purpose of providing continuous worship leadership.
- Vicar Leister will be present for all council meetings, involved with worship planning and Christian Education for the congregation. He will be involved in these areas of ministry, but not responsible for taking on the leadership in any of these areas. Because of this, he will need to step down as the current council president.
- Vicar Leister, with mentor supervision, will be allowed to officiate at baptisms and funerals for the members of this congregation. Any requests for baptisms or funerals outside of the membership of this congregation will not be permitted.

Due to Pennsylvania State Law, he will not be permitted to officiate weddings until he has been ordained.

- Vicar Leister will provide pastoral care for members of this congregation when there are emergencies, hospital stays, or illnesses. He will also help in the visitation of members who are homebound or in long-term nursing facilities.
- Vicar Leister will stay in communication with the Bishop to offer updates, joys, concerns, or needs that may surface during the TEEM Process.

The responsibilities of the congregation to Vicar Leister and the TEEM Process will be as follows:

- The council of Messiah, Mifflintown will establish a three-person team who will serve as the "Mutual Ministry" team for the TEEM candidate and TEEM Process.

One of these three shall be a current member of the council. These three shall have the characteristics of being good listeners/observers, those whom other members of the congregation will trust and be willing to talk to, and fair truth tellers – meaning, they won't hesitate at speaking the truth to the candidate or to the congregation in order to promote a healthy learning environment.

- Members of the congregation will respect the TEEM Process and not expect Vicar Leister to take

charge or do anything beyond his listed responsibilities. This means an adjustment to relationships in order to view Vicar Leister as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry who now serves the congregation in a different role. If other needs do arise, then the Vicar or council president will contact the Bishop to discuss additions to his responsibilities.

- Members of the congregation will be open to share joys and concerns with the Mutual Ministry team, established for this process, to help promote a healthy learning environment.
- The council president will stay in communication with the Bishop to offer updates, joys, concerns, or needs that may surface during the TEEM Process
- The following compensation guidelines will be followed for this first year: \$125.00 per worship service, \$150 for two worship services on the same day \$20.00 per hour of time spent in meetings and visitation IRS mileage compensation for travel related to visitation or off-site meetings, such as conference meetings or required synod events *Continuing Education allowance in the amount of \$500 / \$700 to help cover Seminary books, housing and travel expenses*

4 vacation Sundays and 2 weeks of vacation time, without compensation

Paychecks will be given on the 15th and 30th of each month Or...

Paychecks will be given every two weeks

**Messiah Lutheran Church
Voters Assembly Minutes
Sunday, October 27, 2019**

Asst. Exec. Director, Larry Wise called the meeting to order at 11:50 AM. There were 44 members in attendance along with our guest Mike Messimer, the contractor for the proposed HVAC system for Messiah. Vicar Sam opened the meeting with prayer.

Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider entering into contract with Mike Messimer for purchase and installation of a new HVAC system for Messiah in the amount of \$139,000.

Vicar Sam was asked to give a brief history of our heating system which started out in the 1950's as a coal system later converted to oil. Steam heated the sanctuary at one time. With the excavation for the current Fellowship Hall in 1983, the boiler was relocated from the center of the excavation area to the current boiler room that was added. Later in 2002, the old boiler had sprung a leak and was replaced with a new one.

Now our system has been discontinued and is wearing out. It's getting harder to replace parts. Parts can only be replaced with specially machined parts or from other old boiler parts set on reserve (which also carries a high price tag) with some parts becoming totally unavailable.

The new system (by Mitsubishi) being proposed would totally replace the old boiler system with a new system that will not only heat, but also cool, all in one system. It will also carry a long, 10-year warranty compared to other manufacturers with only one-year warranties.

Asst. Dir. Larry stated that with the rise of expensive replacement parts and their scarcity, and the continued inefficiency of the old boiler, we also are spending \$10,000 to \$11,000 for fuel oil per year. We could be lucky to get one more winter out of it.

With the new system, the old boiler would be capped off and disconnected so it has no chance to accidentally be started up, and would then be safe to leave in place for now with total removal sometime in the future. (Total removal would mean more money spent now, and is not part of the contract. It would have to be chopped up to even get it out of the boiler room.)

Exec. Asst. Dir. Larry then invited Mike Messimer to explain in more detail about the system. Larry also held up mock units in cardboard to demonstrate what the sizes of the two types of units would look like. Seven (7) smaller air handler units would be hidden in the ceiling of the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Four (4) mini split units would be installed in the Classrooms upstairs and can be controlled separately. The outside units (about 7) would be put outside on cement pads on the side of the Parsonage towards the parking lot where stones are now next to the porch. About 2 units would be mounted to the outside wall behind where the big oil tank is now.

Mike went on to explain that this system is efficient down to -17 and are 100% efficient from 5¹ F or above without backup heat. Mike also recognized that we would not want to drill any holes in our walls etc. due to the fragility of our stained-glass windows and plaster walls, or disturb the beautiful architecture of our Sanctuary. He proposes the ductless, in floor, and easy to operate units. Mike and his team have recently installed this type of new system at Trinity Methodist in Mifflin, but their units are installed in the ceiling. Trinity is very pleased with the system. For example, over the summer their electric bill only went up by \$25.00 per month for air conditioning. (Though they have 5 units compared to our proposed 9 units.)

Mike also stated that:

- 1) If we lose one (1) unit, the others still keep working—we would not lose reliability.
- 2) Construction work would take place after final drawings are sent to the engineers and permits are complete—possibly January or February 2020 and would take 2½ months to complete.
- 3) Work would be done in phases starting with the Sanctuary that would take about 2 to 3 weeks and could be up and running before the next phases.
- 4) No interruption of service for heat between the old and new while the install is taking place.
- 5) We would not need any additional electrical work. This system utilizes little electricity.
- 6) When work is completed, his goal is that it will not be noticeable that any work was done to the building inside or out.

Larry asked for questions or discussion:

- 1) Red Mummah asked if the old pipework and ductwork would be removed? Answer: Mike Messimer said they will utilize some of the old ductwork. They will drain the pipework, cap the old boiler, and unhook everything with the old boiler to make it unable to operate. Removal of the old boiler is outside of the contract, and it is ok to leave it in place until we are able to get it removed at a later time.
- 2) Sandy Pines asked why we have to cool the Sunday School rooms in the summer when we do not utilize them for Sunday School? Answer: the air conditioning aspect comes with the system. It is possible that we may utilize these rooms if they are cooled. Also, the complete system was recommended unanimously by the Board of Church Property to PPC, and PPC unanimously approved of the recommendation to take to the Congregation.
- 3) Ray Miller asked how the system will be operated. Answer: It is operated wirelessly with a digital thermostat, controlled on an iPad with codes capable of monitoring the building from anywhere. All thermostats are individually programmable and can be set any way we want.
- 4) Steve Bahorik asked if while each phase of the project is completed, will it be seamless with the use of our current boiler? Answer: Mike said yes, that they would not shut the boiler off until the new system is set.

- 5) Dan Stoner asked how efficient will the system be when we have such high ceilings? Answer: It will be efficient. Since heat rises, that is why he is keeping the units and returns low (to the floor under pews/seats) with air circulating up and around the seated congregation. It should be very comfortable.
- 6) Ray Miller asked if we needed to increase insurance for this project? Answer: Mike Messimer carries insurance up to \$10 million, he is bonded with bonding being job specific (\$1500 extra), he has workers compensation insurance and anything else that is required and is included with this project. We will also have our building insurance reevaluated after the project is done, and with disconnecting the old system and the installation of the new safer, efficient system and lower liability, should lower this cost.

With no other questions or comments, Asst. Dir. Larry added that PPC will be looking at what funds will be utilized to make the series of payments along the way during the project until completion. We will look at starting a HVAC Capital Campaign to replace some portions that are spent.

There was no more discussion, comments, or questions. Asst. Dir. Larry said we were ready to entertain the motion.

Cynthia Smith moved to accept the recommendation by Board of Church Property and PPC and enter into contract with Mike Messimer for the installation and purchase of a new Mitsubishi HVAC system at \$139,000 for Messiah. Cindy VanGavree seconded the motion. Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry stated we can vote either by voice or paper ballot. Tawny Mummah stated some paper ballots had already been distributed and suggested to continue by paper ballot by just writing "yes" for acceptance of the new system or "no" for rejection of new system with no names on the ballots. Paper ballots were distributed, and ballots collected and counted.

Asst. Dir. Larry thanked Mike Messimer for taking his time to come in person to explain the system and answer our questions. Larry also thanked everyone in the congregation who attended this important Voters Assembly meeting.

Sam closed the meeting with prayer at 12:30 PM.

Final count was completed immediately after the meeting with the result of: 36 YES votes, and 8 NO votes.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Wise,
PPC Secretary

Messiah Lutheran Church
MINUTES: Parish Planning Council Meeting held October 27, 2019

In Attendance : Vicar Sam Leister, Pastor Chris Mathiason, Clint Miller, Larry Wise, Diana Wise, Bob St. Clair, Cynthia Smith, Carolyn Bryner, Guy Dillman, Linda Clark, Tawny Mummah, and Cindy VanGavree

Absent: Kay Varner

Asst. Exec. Director, Larry Wise, called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM. Larry asked Pastor Chris to lead us in prayer.

Larry stated that this would be Pastor Chris's last meeting with us since Messiah now has no need for an Interim Pastor.

A motion was made by Bob St. Clair to approve the July 28, 2019 and October 13, 2019 PPC Minutes with no corrections or additions; Cynthia Smith seconded the motion; motion carried.

Pastor Chris's report: He stated that he is happy for Messiah that we no longer have a need for an Interim Pastor! He passed along a book entitled Handbook for Pastors to Vicar Sam, and shared that he will continue to be available for Sam for any help he may need. Larry thanked Pastor Chris for his insight during our many meetings, and for keeping us on track. Larry mentioned that he and Diana will go to one of St. Stephens services soon, and in the announcement period, thank St. Stephens congregation for graciously sharing Pastor Chris with us during the past 3 years.

Vicar Sam shared a DRAFT of the duties required of Vicars. Pastor Chris stated that Sam is now authorized as Vicar to do everything but weddings (due to state laws) so Pastor Chris would have to be present for a wedding, and would be paid by the bride and groom. Vicar Sam also stated that there are 2 other Vicars in the Synod that are further along than he is in the process, and will also be able to utilize them as a resource.

Treasurer's report:

Carolyn distributed the summary of our accounts as of October 2019, and a copy of the "Certificate of Liability Insurance" from Mike Messimer for Messiah's HVAC project. Carolyn stated that the Budget is her next item to be completed with congregational approval set for November 24th Voters Assembly meeting. To date she has not received any of the Boards budgets. They are needed this week for her to be able to complete Messiah's 2020 budget in a timely manner. A brief special meeting for PPC is scheduled after church on November 17th in order to approve the budget to be presented to the congregation on November 24th Voters Assembly.

In another matter, it is to be noted that our check sent to the River Church and made payable to "JCGYM" for Messiah's \$1,000 donation to this ministry had been returned to us by the River Church stating that the check should have been made payable to "River Church" who is handling all of the administration of JCGYM.

Public comment: None at large were present.

Call Committee: Clint stated that the Call Committee will stay together over the next three (3) years while Vicar Sam completes his requirements. Also, they have named three (3) individuals who will form the Mutual Ministry team as stated in the congregation responsibilities in the Covenant with Vicar Sam. (One of the 3 must be a current member of the Council.) They are Clint Miller, Kyle Martin, and Jean Berry. The Covenant states that: "These three shall have the characteristics of being

good listeners/observers, those whom other members of the congregation will trust and be willing to talk to, and fair truth tellers – meaning, they won't hesitate at speaking the truth to the candidate or to the congregation in order to promote a healthy learning environment.” Bob St. Clair moved to accept Clint Miller, Kyle Martin, and Jean Berry as our Mutual Ministry team; Guy Dillman seconded the motion; motion carried. This team can now hold meetings and can share brief reports.

Old Business:

Constitution and By-laws updating project: Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry has taken on this project and set a goal of February 2020 for completion. Pastor Glasoe is the Secretary of our Synod, and a contact for the latest updates for the model from Synod to be used when we begin to make our changes.

It was stated that in this morning's Voters Assembly, the final vote count was 36 YES, and 8 NO votes for the purchase and install of the Mitsubishi HVAC system from Mike Messimer in the amount of \$139,000 for the project. Larry stated that he had contacted Kay Varner this morning after the meeting to inform her of the result. She was very pleased.

Update regarding Pastor Kraybill's proposal of missionary to retirement homes of Juniata County: Pastor Chris said the outreach is continuing and he thanked us for our participation.

Cub Scout Pack Sponsorship request from the Scout Office: We have approved the sponsorship, but have not heard back from the Cub Scout Office. Vicar Sam will email our contact. Larry will also try to contact.

New Business:

The Vicar's Covenant: is signed and now needs sent to Synod for the Bishop's signature.

Financial agreement & time sheet for Vicar Sam: From Synod's guidelines, we pay the Supply Pastor rate of \$125 each Sunday plus mileage. Also, Vicar Sam will work 15 flexible hours per week of which some weeks he will have no hours when doing course work. The 15 hours are to be utilized for visitations of shut-ins and the sick, for meetings consisting of PPC meetings, Worship and Music meetings, and Christian Education. These hours are not for office work. Meetings can also include Synod meetings. Vicar Sam said preparation and delivery time for a worship service could be 8 to 10 hours.

Replace Sam as Executive Director of PPC: Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry stated that since Vicar Sam has officially resigned as Director of PPC, Clint Miller has agreed to assume the Executive Director position with Larry Wise remaining as Assistant Exec. Director. This arrangement will continue until June 30, 2020 when new elections can take place. Cindy VanGavree moved to have Clint Miller fill the Executive Director position; seconded by Bob St. Clair; motion carried. Clint Miller's name will now be submitted to fulfill the Executive Director's position for approval by the congregation at the next Voters Assembly on November 24, 2019. We will then need to be thinking of a nominee to fill the position of Assistant Executive Director of PPC vacated by Clint Miller.

PPC/Voters Assembly meeting dates for 2020:

PPC dates (3rd Sundays of the month): January 19th; March 15th; May 17th

Voters Assembly dates (3rd Sunday of the month): February 16th; April 19th; June 21st

Board Reports:

- **Resource Management:** Guy Dillman will be checking with Fire Companies, and with John Shirk regarding EMS needs and whether to consider outreach giving to these 2 entities.
- **Parish Fellowship:** Cindy reported that their Board is planning the covered dish Fall Fest on November 10th after church services. They are also providing a light lunch after church on Dec. 1st for those staying to decorate the church for Christmas.
- **Youth & Children:** Tawny reported: They had a great turnout for the CROP walk with 24 participants of which 14 were youth. They raised \$1,560! The youth loved it. Sam reminded us that it was two (2) Messiah members who brought the Crop Walk to Mifflintown. The Sunday Soldiers continue to meet every month. They are discussing preparing and distributing fruit baskets for the shut-ins, and will be participating in decorating the church for Christmas on Dec. 1st. It was suggested that we could relabel the “Shut-ins” to the “Home Communion” listing.
- **Christian Education:** Linda is happy to report that on the Sunday School roster she has 45 children ages 3 to Sr. High School age, 25 of which attend regularly and 16 of the 25 are Acolytes and/or Ushers.
- **Worship & Music:** Bob stated that the changes to our bulletin have been working well.

Pastor Chris had a suggestion for ideas of holding a Capital Campaign for the new HVAC system. We could put up a thermometer to keep a visual track of the monies received towards our goal. Another suggestion was to create a puzzle and keep adding a puzzle piece to the puzzle as the giving is collected.

Pastor Chris will now work on dissolving the Twin Boroughs Ministerium account in the amount of \$1,567.47 Messiah has been holding for them for the past 3 years. Since Lent was the only time the Ministerium collected money, and they have stopped holding joint Lenten services, Pastor Chris will disperse this money out into the community such as the Food Pantry or Meals on Wheels.

Vicar Sam stated that he is no longer signing checks, and helping to count money since becoming Vicar. At this time, it was decided that since we still have 3 people that are needed to sign checks, we would wait for new bank signature cards to be signed when the open Assistant Executive Director position vacated by Clint, who is now Executive Director, is filled.

Vicar Sam wanted to thank Bob St. Clair, Linda Clark, and Tawny Mumma for arranging (at his request) to have the children available for a non-scheduled children’s sermon this morning. He very much appreciated it.

Asst. Dir. Larry stated that we are all very thankful that we have a “Team” at Messiah now with Sam and Linda!

Closing:

With no further business to discuss, Asst. Exec. Dir. Larry asked Pastor Chris to lead us one last time in the Lord’s Prayer as we held hands around the table.

Respectfully submitted, Diana
Wise, PPC Secretary