# "Growing God's Kingdom"



# The First Sunday of Advent

# December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### **EMAIL:**

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### **WEBSITE:**

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#### **TODAY'S INTRODUCTION:**

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

## Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213

Sam Leister Vicar June Bricker Organist Choir Director Andrea Cameron Linda Clark Junior Choir Director Slone Smith Lector Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed Altar Guild Hannah Ehrisman & Thea Beward Acolytes Braedon Walton Crucifer Nick Reed, Gabby Reed, Brea Beward & Sienna Guido Offering Ushers

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 1, 2019 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as YOU Are Able

#### **PREPARATION**

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: Prepare the Way, O Zion Lani Smith

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Page 121 Green Hymnal

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.
- C Amen.
- P Let us come before the living God in confession.

## Silence is kept for reflection.

- P As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
- C we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
- P Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, + Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

#### \* BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.
- C Amen.

#### **GATHERING**

\* GATHERING HYMN "The King Shall Come" #33 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.
- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)
  - P Let us pray...
  - C Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### **WORD**

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may

walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM......Psalm 122 (responsively)

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

<sup>2</sup>Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

4to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good."

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

<sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

#### THE VERSE "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL" (VS. 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

#### Refrain

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

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

- \* GOSPEL......Matthew 24:36-44
  - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.
  - C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Vicar Leister

JUNIOR CHOIR ANTHEM SERMON

"Isn't He Wonderful!" & "Come To Us, Little King"

- SERMON Vicar Leister

  \* HYMN OF THE DAY "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #499 Green Hymnal
- \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Prayers read by Worship Leader)
  - P Let us pray,
  - C Have mercy, O God.

OFFERING OFFERTORY:

How Far Is It to Bethlehem

Paul Manz

[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

"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 Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.
    - 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:

- C 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 (In Unison)

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 now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.

#### DISTRIBUTION

["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].

[Gluten Free? If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel].

#### \* 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 Abundance,

we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

#### \* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **SENDING**

- \* BLESSING
  - P May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.

The blessing of the holy Trinity, + one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

- C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)
- ·

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#41 Green Hymnal

\* DISMISSAL

SENDING HYMN

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

POSTLUDE:

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Paul Manz

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Cynthia Smith

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed (11/25 to 12/29/19)

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Sienna Guido & Brea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S CRUCIFER - Thea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING USHERS - Hannah Ehrisman, Hope Miller, Julia Martin & Olivia Mummah

#### **PRAYER LIST**

Carole Baker			
Fran Baker	Pastor Charlie Hershberger	ershberger Dave Phelan	
Jane Ann Baney	Matt Hutchinson	Butch & Sandy Pines	
Donna Barton	Curt & Judy Houtz	Betty Ranck	
Lindsey Barton	Denny King	Peggy Reynolds	
Bob Bell	Kevin Kint	Mary Sanders	
Joyce Bradley	Carol Lyter	Mackenzie Shearer	
Andrea & Bob Cameron	Carlen McClure	Tim Smith	
Pam Campbell	Pastor Nancy McClure	Mike Sparks	
Don Clark	Charlie, Amanda &	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair	
Terry Coder	Isabelle Meinsler	Sieber & Ona Stoner	
Leann Crimmel	Messiah's Teem	Kay Stuck	
Will DeLancy	Tami Metz	Dorothy Towsey	
Fred Dowling	John Mille <del>r</del>	Rich Walters	
Max & Mary Ernest	Larry Miller	Sandy Wert	
Family of Deanna Fawver	Shirley Miller	Tim Weston	
Jerald Foltz	Jim Minick	Dottie Wilson	
Ed Fraker	Minnie Minick	Jim Woltman	
Joan Fulkroad	Edith Nipple	Mackenzie Wray	
Edie Kay Gill	Austin Parker	Dorothy Zeiders	
Josh Hohol	Noel Peachey	Linda Zimmerman	

#### **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS**

Ray Bramm	Mona Lawson	Kitty Walters
Ruth Cisney	Jane Marhefka	Jim Yetter
Gail Henderson	Carol Simonton	-

#### WELCOME TO ALL!

WITH CHRIST'S LOVE AND GOD'S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah today. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record 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. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!

VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE WITH US TODAY. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and who recognize the Sacrament as the promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's Table at Messiah with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so, please fold your hands and bow your head when you approach the pastor.

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

FOR YOUR COMFORT, restrooms are located in the hallway through the double doors of the Adult Sunday School Room and to the left.

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.

GOD CREATES THREE NEW SAINTS TODAY through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We welcome 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of our Lay Ministers.

JUST A THOUGHT – Stephen Charnock, Presbyterian Clergyman (1628 – 1680): We often learn more of God under the rod that strikes us, than under the staff that comforts us.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY 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 Vicar Leister at <a href="mlchurchvicar@gmail.com">mlchurchvicar@gmail.com</a>.

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.

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. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at <a href="mailto:mlchurchvicar@gmail.com">mlchurchvicar@gmail.com</a>.

THE DECEMBER 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 <a href="mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com">mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</a> and Bob St. Clair at <a href="mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com">stclairb@embarqmail.com</a> prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at <a href="mailto:www.mlcmifflintown.org">www.mlcmifflintown.org</a>. 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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING – Mark your calendar now for Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the walking bridge for the Mifflintown Christmas Tree Lighting. The response was very good with 25+ people contacting Linda for this event. But, we need more folks to join us. Anyone who enjoys making "a joyful noise" is welcome. Bring your friends and neighbors along. Words for the Carols and Christmas songs will be provided. More information will be forthcoming as we draw closer to this event.

SUNDAY'S SOLDIERS will meet after church today to assemble fruit baskets for our church members that are unable to get to church.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2020 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly (date to be announced). If you are interested in serving, please contact Vicar Leister or the church office.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who signed-up for November snacks for Sunday mornings. The December sign-up sheet is now available. Monetary contributions would also be appreciated to purchase plates, napkins, etc.

THE ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> during the worship service. Refreshments will follow after the program. If anyone would like to donate cookies, (any kind) would be very much appreciated.

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.

#### ADVENT SEASON AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

Today: First Sunday of Advent. A light luncheon (prepared by the Fellowship Committee) will be held following the Worship Service. Decorating of the church after the luncheon.

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent. "Hanging of the Greens." Topic of this year's program "Christmas Greens & Advent Wreath."

December 15: Third Sunday of Advent.

December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Annual Children's Christmas Program.

December 24: 7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Music Prelude Service

7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service featuring Justin Aurand, pianist, Christina Martin performing "O Holy Night" & Andrea Cameron performing "Ave Maria."

#### UPCOMING PPC AND VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING DATES:

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m., PPC meeting.

Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup> (after worship) – Voter's Assembly to approve 2019 audit.

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m., PPC meeting.

Sunday, April 19th (after worship) – Voter's Assembly.

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m., PPC meeting.

Sunday, June 21st (after worship) – Voter's Assembly for PPC Election approval.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 13, 2019 PPC MINUTES, October 20, 2019 Voter's Assembly, October 27, 2019 Voter's Assembly, and October 27, 2019 PPC Minutes are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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

#### WEEKLY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

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

#### WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 24, 2019

<u>Attendance</u>			<u>Othe</u>	r Funds
Worship Service	<b>–</b> 64	Benevolence	\$	107.00
Sunday School –	26	Building Fund	\$	100.00
•		Sunday School	\$	40.00
Total Offering	\$2,269.20	Disaster Relief	\$	27.20
Other Funds	\$ 363.20	Flowers	\$	39.00
General Fund	\$1,906.00	Sunday's Soldiers	\$	50.00
		Total	\$	363.20

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

#### 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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – We are sponsoring 6 children this year. The signup chart for the gifts that are needed is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are due at the church by December 8<sup>th</sup>, wrapped or bagged with a name tag that includes the child's name and number on the tag.

MESSIAH WELCA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Everyone is asked to bring a reading, snack, cookies, etc., and a decoration if they desire. Barb will provide the beverage and paper products.

#### **COMMUNITY**

#### **HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER**

TURKEY BREASTS, HAMS (3 TO 5 LBS.) OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL! (With your help, 274 Thanksgiving meals were distributed to our Juniata County neighbors in need!)

#### FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS (ESPECIALLY CREAM CORN), DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, AND OTHER CLEANING SUPPLIES.

#### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -First Sunday of Advent.

-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Sacrament of Holy Baptism/Children's Sermon/Jr. Church.

-Luncheon, Sunday Soldiers meeting and church decorating following worship service.

**Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Lions Club meeting in Fellowship Hall.

-6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room. -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

**Wednesday:** -7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal in Rearick Room.

**Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.

-Church office closed on Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

-4:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40400 in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday: -Hanging of the Greens Service.

-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.