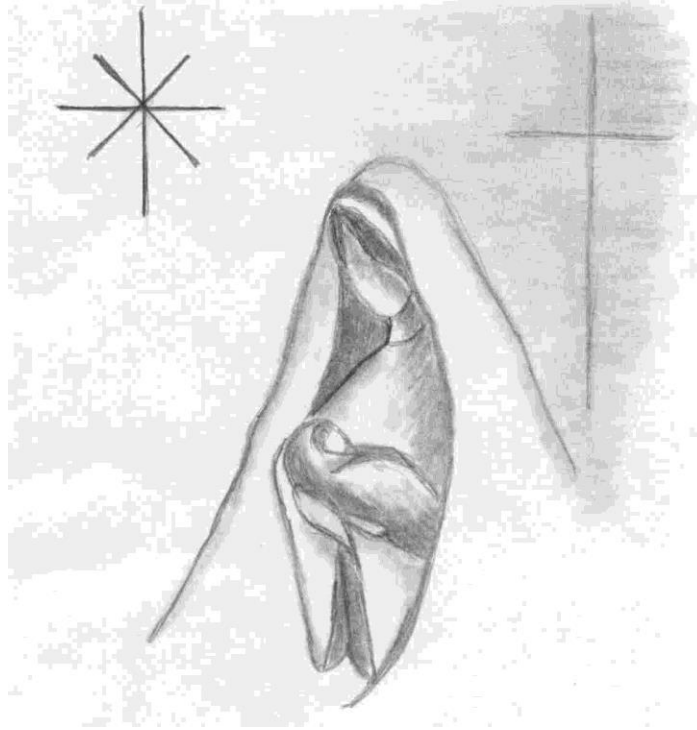


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22nd, 2019

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

VICAR EMAIL: mlchurchvicar@gmail.com

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel.

The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Sam Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Linda Bahorik
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed
Braedon Walton & Hope Miller
Zeb Berry
Thea Beward, Harrison Mummah, Slone Smith & Gabby Reed
Ehrisman Family

Vicar
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes
Crucifer
Offering Ushers
Creche Family

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 22, 2019 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

“Advent Pastorate”

J. Southbridge

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

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* BRIEF ORDER FOR 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.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” #34 Green Hymnal (vss. 1-3)

* 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.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

(sing only first verse of each carol.

There will be narration prior to each carol.)

Carol	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	#41 Green Hymnal
Carol	“What Child Is This”	#40 Green Hymnal
Carol	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	#60 Green Hymnal
Carol	“Away in a Manger”	#67 Green Hymnal
Carol	“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”	#45 Green Hymnal
Carol	“We Three Kings of Orient Are”	#646 (WOV) Blue Hymnal
Carol	“Joy to the World”	#39 Green Hymnal

“Happy Birthday to You, Jesus” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES (Angel)

Ehrisman Family

* THE VERSE “OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL” (vs. 4)

Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

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

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means “God saves.”

* GOSPEL..... Matthew 1:18-25

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Vicar Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#481 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Prayers read by Worship Leader)

P Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

"How Silently, How Silently"

S. E. Saxton

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

ANTHEM:

"A Tiny Child Will Come"

Don Besig

* 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:

“Break The Bread”

D. Paxton

[“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.

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)

* SENDING HYMN

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#44 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barb Geedey

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

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Haley Mummah & Julia Martin

NEXT WEEK'S CRUCIFER – Hannah Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING USHERS – Olivia Mummah, Brea Beward, Nick Reed & Hannah Ehrisman

PRAYER LIST

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

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm	Mona Lawson	Kitty Walters
Ruth Cisney	Jane Marhefka	Jim Yetter
Margaret Gus	Carol Simonton	Paul Goss
Gail Henderson	Margaret Reynolds	Max & Mary Ernest
Minnie Minick	Edith Nipple	Dorothy Zeiders
Sieber & Ona Stoner	Ken & Kay Stuck	Velma Suloff

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.

JUST A THOUGHT – Richard Halverson, Former Chaplain of U.S. Senate: If a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, his witness will not be optional or mandatory – it will be inevitable.

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 Vicar 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.

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 sleister@gmail.com.

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 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 NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2020 is now available in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place flowers on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart.

THE 2020 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2019 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

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

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.

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.

DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS, the church office will be open on Monday, December 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed on Tuesday, December 24th. The office will also be open on Monday, December 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed on Tuesday, December 31st.

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.

ADVENT SEASON AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS:

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 "What Child Is This," Slone Smith and Bob St. Clair doing a saxophone-piano duet on "O Holy Night" and Andrea Cameron performing "Ave Maria."

UPCOMING PPC AND VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING DATES:

Sunday, January 19th – 7:00 p.m., PPC meeting.
Sunday, February 16th (after worship) – Voter's Assembly to approve 2019 audit.
Sunday, March 15th – 7:00 p.m., PPC meeting.
Sunday, April 19th (after worship) – Voter's Assembly.
Sunday, May 17th – 7:00 p.m., PPC meeting.
Sunday, June 21st (after worship) – Voter's Assembly for PPC Election approval.

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 DECEMBER 15, 2019

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Worship Service – 73		Benevolence	\$ 100.00
Sunday School – 27		Building Fund	\$ 485.00
		Sunday School	\$ 50.00
Total Offering	\$3,928.20	World Hunger	\$ 25.00
Other Funds	<u>\$ 865.80</u>	Flowers	\$ 105.80
General Fund	\$3,062.40	Building Use	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
		Total	\$ 865.50

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.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER

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

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -4th Sunday of Advent.
 -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
 -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Children's Christmas Program.
- Monday:** -Church Office open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room.
 -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -Church Office closed.
 -7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Prelude Concert.
 -7:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Communion, and Candlelight.
- Wednesday:** -MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- Friday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
 -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church/Service of Healing.
- Monday:** -Church Office open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.