

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *The First Sunday of Christmas Service of the Word for Healing*

December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

***EMAIL:***

[mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

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***TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:***

*As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Sam Leister  
June Bricker  
Andrea Cameron  
Barb Geedey  
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed  
Haley Mummah & Julia Martin  
Hannah Ehrisman  
Olivia Mummah, Brea Beward, Nick Reed & Hannah Ehrisman

Vicar  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Altar Guild  
Acolytes  
Crucifer  
Offering Ushers

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF HEALING December 29, 2019 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE: "Now is Born the Divine Christ Child"

Lani Smith

[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, Love from the beginning, Word made flesh, Breath of heaven.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Merciful God,

**C we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.**

P Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of + Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

#65 Green Hymnal

\* GREETING

P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

\* KYRIE (spoken responsively)

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### “AWAY IN A MANGER” (VERSE 1)

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

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

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



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: .....Psalm 148 (Read Responsively)

**R – Sung by All – "Oh, Come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!"**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

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

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

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

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

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup>**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

<sup>12</sup>**young men and maidens, old and young together. R**

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

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

*Through Jesus' suffering and death, the trail to eternal salvation has been blazed for us. We do not fear death, because he has conquered the power of death. Thus Christ, our merciful and faithful high priest, has the final say over the destiny of our lives.*

SECOND READING.....Hebrews 2:10-18

<sup>10</sup>It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. <sup>11</sup>For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, <sup>12</sup>saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." <sup>13</sup>And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." <sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\* THE VERSE

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King; let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

*In a dream, Joseph is warned to flee to Egypt to protect the infant Jesus from the jealousy of Herod.*

\* GOSPEL.....Matthew 2:13-23

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>13</sup>Now after [the wise men] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." <sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." <sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his

home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Vicar Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

#551 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 INTERCESSION (Prayers read by Worship Leader)

P Hear us O God,

**C Your mercy is great.**

## THE RITE OF HEALING

### THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Those who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gifts of prayer and of the laying on of hands, which may be accompanied by anointing with oil. These signs, first given in baptism, tell us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

P Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing--with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

P Let us pray, Loving God, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Restoring God, your Son Jesus brought the gift of healing and wholeness. Bring your healing presence now to all who are in any distress. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Sustaining God, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of all who are suffering. In your great mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

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

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

**C Amen.**

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

**C Amen.**

**\* PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (for all)**

P Living God, through the laying on of hands and with the anointing of oil, grant comfort to all those in suffering. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

**\* BLESSING OF HEALING**

P Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

**\* 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:**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Robert Lau

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

\* SUNG OFFERTORY      **“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM” (VERSE 1)**

“O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

## \* OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God, you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the meal of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**MEAL**

## \* COMMUNION DIALOG (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.**

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

**C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.**

P Let us come to his table with joy,

**C for we come as God’s invited guests.**

## \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

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

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you



through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

\* **THE LORD'S PRAYER (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 Love has come: God's love for all people. Come and eat, for Christ invites you.

**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 Emmanuel, God with us,  
you grace us with life and breath and give us bread for the journey. Send us out in service to this world that you love, telling the amazing news of your coming to be Savior and Lord of all.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

\* **BLESSING**

P Grace from God's own heart, peace from the + Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

**C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

\* **SENDING HYMN**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

#70 Green Hymnal

\* **DISMISSAL**

P Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:**

"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

Paul Manz

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Harrison Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner & Kim White (12/30/19—2/23/20)

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Brennan Guido & Nick Reed

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING USHERS – Zeb Berry, Hope Miller, Sienna Guido & Slone Smith

### **PRAYER LIST**

Carole Baker  
Fran Baker  
Jane Ann Baney  
Donna Barton  
Lindsey Barton  
Bob Bell  
Joyce Bradley  
Johnny Beward  
Andrea & Bob Cameron  
Pam Campbell  
Don Clark  
Terry Coder  
Leann Crimmel  
Will DeLancy  
Fred Dowling  
Jerald Foltz  
Ed Fraker  
Joan Fulkroad  
Eddi Kay Gill

Bill Holderman  
Pastor Charlie Hershberger  
Josh Hohol  
Matt Hutchinson  
Curt & Judy Houtz  
Denny King  
Kevin Kint  
Carol Lyter  
Carlen McClure  
Pastor Nancy McClure  
Charlie, Amanda &  
Isabelle Meinsler  
Messiah's Teem  
Tami Metz  
John Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Jim Minick  
Madison Norman

Dave Phelan  
Austin Parker  
Noel Peachey  
Butch & Sandy Pines  
Betty Ranck  
Mary Sanders  
Mackenzie Shearer  
Tim Smith  
Mike Sparks  
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair  
Dorothy Towsey  
Rich Walters  
Tim Weston  
Dottie Wilson  
Jim Woltman  
Mackenzie Wray  
Linda Zimmerman

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

Ray Bramm  
Ruth Cisney  
Margaret Gus  
Gail Henderson  
Minnie Minick  
Sieber & Ona Stoner

Mona Lawson  
Jane Marhefka  
Carol Simonton  
Margaret Reynolds  
Edith Nipple  
Ken & Kay Stuck

Kitty Walters  
Jim Yetter  
Paul Goss  
Max & Mary Ernest  
Dorothy Zeiders  
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 – Dave Veerman, Christian Thinker: Biblical application means allowing the truth of the scripture to penetrate our lives, to make a difference in how we live.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

VICAR SAM LEISTER will be attending class at the United Lutheran Seminary January 8<sup>th</sup> through January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Chris Mathiason at 717-463-2490.

THE JANUARY 2020 “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 [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) and Bob St. Clair ([stclairb@embarqmail.com](mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com)) prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at [www.mlcmiffintown.org](http://www.mlcmiffintown.org). Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

ATTENTION KIDS! Those who have expressed interest in being involved in a “church band” are invited to a VERY brief meeting after worship on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will last 30 minutes at most and we will be discussing our “plan of attack” of when to start rehearsals, performances, and adding music to our services.

THE MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING scheduled for Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled for immediately after worship on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

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.

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 office will be open on Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed on Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 19<sup>th</sup> (after worship) – Voter’s Assembly.
- Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 p.m., PPC meeting.
- Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup> (after worship) – Voter’s Assembly for PPC Election approval.

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 DECEMBER 22 & 24 2019

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Worship Service – 67		Benevolence	\$ 100.00
Sunday School – 31		Building Fund	\$ 200.00
Total Offering	\$3,244.80	Sunday School	\$ 32.00
Other Funds	<u>\$ 475.40</u>	Lutheran Disaster	\$ 72.80
General Fund	\$2,769.40	Flowers	<u>\$ 70.60</u>
		Total	\$ 475.40

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

THANK YOU to my family at Messiah, including but not limited to the senior choir, junior church and choir and all the kids, the Sunday Soldiers, Linda Clark and Judy Armstrong for the many edible (and non-edible) gifts this Christmas. You are the best of the best and my wish for all of you is the happiest of holidays this season and a wonderful 2020! God bless each of you!

Bob St. Clair

THANK YOU: "I would like to thank my church family here at Messiah and the choir members for the Christmas gifts given to me. They are very much appreciated. May God bless you all.

Andrea Cameron

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Young Adult Sunday School Room. All women are invited to attend.

**COMMUNITY**

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY**

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

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -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.**  
-6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room.  
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -**Church Office closed.**  
-9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -NEW YEAR’S DAY!
- Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Children’s Sermon/Junior Church.