# THE MESSIAH HERAED



# December 2020

#### MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

VICAR – SAMUEL LEISTER: sleister@gmail.com
CHURCH WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org
OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com
TREASURER EMAIL: mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Cancelled Until Further Notice

WORSHIP / COMMUNION – 10:30 AM

Children's Sermons offered every Sunday!

Facebook Live and AM Radio 1700 Broadcast Each Week

**USS-ARK NEWSLETTER** 

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

# "Growing God's Love"

# **ĕ** Messiah Herald



#### END OF CHURCH YEAR, BEGINNING OF NEW

Dear Messiah Family,

May the blessings of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit be with you all!

In this month of December we celebrate Advent and prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus through his human birth in Bethlehem. We have already lit the first candle of the Advent Wreath on November 29. On Sunday December 6 we will light two candles on the wreath and celebrate the Hanging of the Greens service. On Thursday December 24 we will hold our Christmas Eve service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25<sup>th</sup>. We conclude December with the first Sunday of Christmas on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Even though we are not holding full in person worship we will have a number of readers and lectors with us at these services. At the Hanging of the Greens this year we share the descriptive passages of a number of our Chrismons which decorate our two trees in the sanctuary. Chrismons are symbols relating to Jesus and were first designed and used by Frances Kipps Spencer at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957. Listen this Sunday or watch on the internet for words and scripture about a heart, a star, an angel, a shepherd's crook, a dove, a fish (ICHTHUS), a cross and finally a crown. Our Chrismons were made by women of the church in about 1980-ish and have graced our sanctuary for forty years.

Your Messiah celebration on Christmas Eve remains in the planning stages but we are aiming for a 7:00 pm service and hope to include readers. Again, we broadcast all services on AM 1700 for parking lot and local residents. Facebook Live and YouTube are ways to connect. We plan on recording audio CD's as well. Also in the works is the Zoom system which can be accessed real time from a computer, iPad and smart phone.

December 25, the day on which we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is truly a day of wonder and joy. In your homes please use this day to rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise of love and peace to all. The peace of Jesus does not always mean the absence of conflict or pain or suffering. Jesus brings a peace of strength to us in order to weather the storms of life in this world. Let us all share the peace of Jesus with our neighbors near and far, those like us and not like us, and people for whom we find hard to care as well as those who we easily support in times of need. Especially in these times of the pandemic, quarantine and isolation, let us all open our eyes to the needs of those who we may find hard to see and that we can find ways to bring the Love of Jesus to them, now and throughout the years to come.

May the Lord be with you all!

Vicar Samuel Leister

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Tyson Aurand Carole Baker Donna Barton Lindsey Barton Nick Beward Roxanne Boyer Andrea Cameron Pam Campbell

The Family of Chip Cashman

**Ruth Cisney Curtis Clark** Randy Clark Terry Coder Leann Crimmel Will DeLancy Guy Dillman

Fred & Dot Dowling Renee Dzikowski Neil & Pat Fisher Janie Fogleman Jerald (Jerry) Foltz Bentley Fulkroad Joan Fulkroad E. Michal Gayer Terri Gayer Edie Kay Gill

Paul Goss

**Beth Harris** Amy Hart

Harry & Jennifer Heikes

Sue Henderson Nox Hepburn

Jason Hockenberry & Family

Curt & Judy Houtz

Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson

Brenda Imes Doc Johnston **Guy Kerstetter Denny King** Darvin Krause Pam Lawson

Gwen Swisher Lewis

Carol Lyter **Anthony Martin** Carlen McClure Alice McClure

Charlie, Amanda & Isabel Meinsler

Messiah Mutual Ministry

Cecilia Miller Elwood Miller Larry Miller Shirley Miller Jim Minick

Claire Mummah

Landon Musser Darve Nace Austin Parker **Noel Peachey** Dave Phelan

**Butch & Sandy Pines** 

**Betty Ranck** Keith Ranck Mary Sanders Mackenzie Shearer Ronald Shearer Bobby & Eva Sieber

Mike Sparks **Donald Speece** 

Bob & Jeanette St. Clair Pastor Charlie Stump

Alice Swartz **Dorothy Towsey** Rich Walters Dr. Glen Webb Erma Williamson Jim Woltman Mackenzie Wray

George Zimmerman Linda Zimmerman

#### 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. -Your friends at the Juniata County Food Pantry





THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!

#### PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

#### **BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE**

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059) Iane 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

HONNEMAN House DR..108. THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094) Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

#### LOCUST GROVE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(69 COTTAGE DRIVE, MIFFLIN, PA 17058) **Esther Rhine** 

#### AT HOME

Max Ernest Margaret Guss 1099 William Penn Hwy. 20 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Mifflintown, PA 17059

Mona Lawson 2792 William Penn Hwy. 187 JAM House Road Mifflintown, PA 17059

Minnie Minick Mifflin, PA 17058

**Edith Nipple** 1482 William Penn Hwy. Mifflintown, PA 17059

Sieber & Ona Stoner 23591 Route 35 North Mifflintown, PA 17059

Velma Suloff 4460 Route 333 Mifflintown, PA 17059 Ken & Kay Stuck 66 Eighth Street Mifflintown, PA 17059

Kitty Walters P.O. Box 61 Port Royal, PA 17082 **Iim Yetter** 128 Manbeck Drive Mifflintown, PA 17059

#### PRAYERS & CONCERNS

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

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

**DECEMBER 4** – Jean Berry **DECEMBER 5** – Silas Smith

**DECEMBER 11** - Gene Crissman **DECEMBER 15** -- Jane McNaight Shearer

DECEMBER 25 - OUR SAVIOR, JESUS

Barbara S. Geedev

**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.

#### UPCOMING SERVANTS

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

Nov. 30 to Dec. 27..... Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith Dec. 28 to Jan. 31.... Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner

#### HAPPY 95th BIRTHDAY...

.....to Kitty Walters, who celebrated this milestone birthday in November! If you get a chance, give Kitty a call or drop her a card with your birthday wishes for her and many more to come!

#### 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 in the church office or in the Adult Sunday School Room and are FREE!

#### STORE GIFT CARDS

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.



Due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus in the area, WELCA did not meet during the month of November and the December meeting will be cancelled as well.

Everyone is reminded that the Christmas Angel gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to everyone for their wonderful response to our annual project!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

# ADVENT SEASON & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Week of November 29:** Decorating of the church.

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent.December 13: Third Sunday of Advent.December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent.

**December 24:** 7:00 PM – Online Christmas Eve

Service.

#### 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.



#### THE CHRISTMAS STORY

A poem for kids By Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph, And Mary was His mom, This babe was very special He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven, And they began to sing.

To the shepherds in the fields below, "Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens, To light the magi's way, To the baby in the manger Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him, Rejoiced and praised His birth. For the babe, the King, named Jesus, Is our Saviour here on earth!



#### CHURCH DECORATING

Due to Covid-19 and the restrictions that have followed over the past several months, things will be looking different for the holidays on all fronts this year. How we decorate the church for the holidays will be no exception. The decorating of the church will take place **the week of Sunday, November 29**<sup>th</sup>......in order to keep decorators social distanced. If any family would like to volunteer to help decorate an area of the church and have not yet been contacted, please contact Tawny Mummah.

In addition, our annual Hanging of the Greens will be a bit different as well. Instead of our "traditional" service celebrating one of the elements which makes Christmas so special in the church, we will be conducting readings and Vicar Sam will be preparing those reading assignments for the bulletin. The hymns may have only two verses that are to be "sung." Our goal is to maintain a 45-minute service on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Neil and Pat Fisher, proud GREAT-Grandparents of baby Gabriel Sweeney, born on Wednesday, October 21st, weighing in at 7.8 pounds and measuring 20.5 inches long. Congrats Neil and Pat!!!

#### "MISSION OF THE MONTH"

This month's "Mission of the Month" at Messiah will be for our local **Meals on Wheels program**. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Meals on Wheels. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This money comes from budgeted funds that have been unused this calendar year due to the shutdown from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

## JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY DECEMBER UPDATE

The holidays are upon us! Again this year the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and <u>YOU</u> to bring Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. Working as a team and pooling our resources, we can reach more families in need and avoid duplicating services. But we can't do it without <u>your</u> help. And if you can help us to start stockpiling the following foods for the holidays, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 400 meals for Christmas.

#### **HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS:**

(These are the foods that are hard for us to get) TURKEYS, TURKEY BREASTS, HAMS (3-5 LBS), canned sweet potatoes, and fruit cocktail **OR**, **A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!** 



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 <u>JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY</u>.
(CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ). Email: <u>icfoodpantry@embarqmail.com</u>

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!

DIGET DIDEE	
AND PRAY	ER FOCUS
DECEMBER 1	MICAH 4:6-13
THOSE INVOLVED IN A STRUGGL	E TO BIRTH SOMETHING NEW
DECEMBER 2	LUKE 21:34-38
THOSE OVERCOM	ME BY WORRY
DECEMBER 3	HOSEA 6:1-6
Those who suffer	CHRONIC ILLNESS
DECEMBER 4	JEREMIAH 1:4-10
THOSE WHO FEEL THEY A	RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH
DECEMBER 5	EZEKIEL 36:24-28
THOSE UNABLE TO	LET GO OF HURT
DECEMBER 6	MARK 1:1-8
<b>C</b> OURIERS AND DE	LIVERY PEOPLE
DECEMBER 7	ISAIAH 26:7-15
Those who	SEEK <b>G</b> OD
DECEMBER 8	ISAIAH <b>4:2</b> -6
MAKERS OF TENTS, AWNING	S, TARPS AND CANOPIES
DECEMBER 9	
THOSE RECEIVING SPE	CIAL NEWS TODAY
DECEMBER 10	HABAKKUK <b>2:</b> 1-5
THOSE WHO DOUBT THE	EMSELVES, AND GOD
DECEMBER 11	PSALM 126
THOSE WHO BATTLE DEPI	RESSION AND ANXIETY
DECEMBER 12	HABAKKUK <b>3:</b> 13-19
MIDYEAR COLLEG	SE GRADUATES
DECEMBER 13	JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28
Juro	RS
DECEMBER 14	PSALM 125
ALL WHO CALL THE LAND OF	ISRAEL/PALESTINE HOME
DECEMBER 15	ACTS 3:17 - 4:4
<b>PEOPLE WHO ARE WRO</b>	ONGLY IMPRISONED
DECEMBER 16	MALACHI 3:16 - 4:6
THOSE WHO NEED A	A LISTENING EAR
DECEMBER 17	HEBREWS 1:1-4
THOSE WHO HAVE LOST A P	PARENT AT A YOUNG AGE
DECEMBER 18	HEBREWS 1:5-14
THOSE DISCERNING THE	IR GIFTS FOR SERVICE

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

DECEMBER 19	JUDGES 13:2-24
PEOPLE LONGING T	O BE PARENTS
DECEMBER 20	LUKE 1:26-38
<b>SEMINARY STUDENTS SE</b>	RVING INTERNSHIPS
DECEMBER 21	Luke 1:46-55
THOSE WITHOUT A V	OICE IN SOCIETY
DECEMBER 22	ROMANS 10:5-13
<b>C</b> OLLEGE PRO	FESSORS
DECEMBER 23	ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20
<b>CAREGIVERS AND FIR</b>	ST RESPONDERS
DECEMBER 24	LUKE <b>2:1-2</b> 0
THOSE WHO CARRY T	HE CHRIST-LIGHT
DECEMBER 25	ISAIAH 52:7-10
MESSENGERS	
DECEMBER 26	ACTS 6:8 - 7:2A, 51-60
<b>DEACONS IN T</b>	
DECEMBER 27	LUKE <b>2:22-4</b> 0
BAPTISMAL SPONSORS	
DECEMBER 28	PSALM 124
THOSE EXPERIE	
DECEMBER 29	JOHN 21:20-25
<b>L</b> EADERS OF FAITI	
DECEMBER 30	2 PETER 3:8-13
THOSE WAITING F	
DECEMBER 31	PSALM 148
PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE HOSE	PITALITY AND WELCOME

## LWR FACEMASK CHALLENGE

Lutheran World Relief has launched the **75,000 Face Mask Challenge**, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many masks as you would like. If you are interested in participating or want more details, please call Cynthia Smith at 717-994-4999 or email her at **gramcynthia49@yahoo.com**.

#### MESSIAH ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS -- NOVEMBER 2020

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL Offering	GENERAL FUND Offering	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
NOVEMBER 1	41	\$2,636.00	\$2,521.00	BENEVOLENCE \$40.00
				BUILDING FUND \$75.00
November 8	44	<b>\$3,047.80</b>	\$2,580.00	BENEVOLENCE \$145.00
				BUILDING FUND \$175.00
				DISASTER RELIEF \$10.00
				JC FOOD PANTRY \$90.00
				FLOWERS \$7.80
				PF MEALS \$40.00
NOVEMBER 15	10 ON-SITE	\$1,495.00	\$1,245.00	BENEVOLENCE \$100.00
				BUILDING FUND \$100.00
				FOOD PANTRY \$50.00
NOVEMBER 22	11 ON-SITE	\$3,485.00	\$2,780.00	BENEVOLENCE \$200.00
	48 FB VIEWS			BUILDING FUND \$135.00
				WORLD HUNGER \$50.00
				FOOD PANTRY \$320.00
NOVEMBER 29	10 ON-SITE	\$695.60	\$580.00	MATTHEW 25 \$100.00
	53 FB VIEWS			FLOWERS/POINSETTIAS \$15.60

#### <u>UPDATED</u> INFORMATION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

The Board of Worship & Music has been thoughtfully looking into how to go about providing a meaningful Christmas Eve Service for our congregation. With Covid still VERY prevalent in the area, we always look to err on the side of caution when having any type of service. However, Christmas Eve brings along with it special challenges, even during a "normal" year. With the pandemic hitting such a high mark in our county and region in the past few weeks, this year, it was decided that we will turn to a complete, single, remote service at 7 PM on Christmas Eve. This service will be broadcast on Facebook Live and AM 1700.....PLUS we will TRY to send out a Zoom link to everyone to join us, as if you were in the church, to join in the singing of carols as well as other parts of the service. This will become a part of our service as we put that sound into our church system, and we will all enjoy the sounds of the season. (Think of this as being similar as to what you see on TV now with athletic events.) We also will be broadcasting the piano music of Justin Aurand of Sunbury, who has been to our church on past Christmas Eves. This music will be available anytime on YouTube (a link will be sent out), and/or prior to our service on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Also performing will be Andrea Cameron, who will be singing "Ave Maria."

No matter what type of service or obstacles we face during this season of quietness and preparation, from all of us at Messiah Lutheran Church behind the scenes, have a blessed and very MERRY CHRISTMAS and the best and HAPPIEST OF NEW YEARS!



#### DECEMBER 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

-10:30 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION (WITH THE "HANGING OF THE GREENS" SERVICE INCORPORATED INTO TODAY'S WORSHIP

SERVICE)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8: -9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM -- VICAR SAM -- PASTORAL CARE

TRAINING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24: -7:00 PM - ONLINE/REMOTE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Friday, December 25: MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27: FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

ALL OTHER NON-CHURCH EVENTS AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE, MLCMIFFLINTOWN.ORG FOR ANY UPDATES!

## A PRAYER FOR PUTTING ON A FACE MASK

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of wearing this cloth. Let it be tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love my-self.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds, be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray. Amen.

REV. RICHARD BOTT, MODERATOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA

### 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 and wild fire 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 <u>December 11, 2020</u>. <u>PAYMENT OR DONATION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!</u>

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

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

<u>Please note</u>, 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 20<sup>th</sup> and on Christmas Eve.

Name:	Phone:
LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLL	OWS.
	r Of ( ) or In Memory Of ( )
i icase check one. In Hono	i Oi ( ) Oi iii welloly Oi ( )
I would like to order and/or do	nate as follows:
I would like to order and/or do: 6" Poinsettia (4 to 5 blooms) \$r	nate as follows: 7.80 each: # of plants x \$7.80 = \$

# In Home Services Of Central PA

A State Licensed HOME CARE AGENCY

HELPING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS in their Homes
BY PROVIDING QUALITY SERVICES WITH COMPASSION

"The Leadership Staff and Caregivers that make-up In Home Services Of Central PA are Outstanding!"

"Excellent Service! Reliable-well trained! Compassionate!"

"Thank you for the help that was given. Our caregiver was very KIND and HELPFUL."

- from very Satisfied Clients

## Most Recent CLIENT SATISFACTION SCORE: 99.6%

We continue to grow and are NOW HIRING Caring, Dependable CAREGIVERS & CNA's.

"In 12 years of being a Caregiver, I have worked for a few agencies, but have never felt as appreciated at any other agency as I do at In Home Services of Central PA." (Team Member Testimonial)

Kenton Stuck, NHA - Founder & CEO 717.363.4913 • www.inhomeservicesofcentralpa.com