

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *The First Sunday of Christmas*

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

**RADIO:** AM 1700

**OFFICE EMAIL:** [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

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***TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon’s song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God’s salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister  
Bob St. Clair  
Andrea Cameron  
Cynthia Smith  
Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith

Vicar  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 27, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

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

### PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

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

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God of goodness and lovingkindness,

**C we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through + Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

**C Amen.**

### GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

(vss. 1 & 2) bulletin, pg. 10

\* 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” (vs. 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”) (vs. 1)**



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 Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that God's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 61:10—62:3

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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**

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as beloved children.*

SECOND READING.....Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And

because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

\* GOSPEL.....Luke 2:22-40

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

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

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Vicar Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Joy to the World”

(vss. 3 & 4) bulletin, pg. 10

\* 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 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.**

**OFFERING PRESENTATION**

\* **SUNG OFFERTORY**      **"O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM" (vs. 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."

**SENDING**

\* **BLESSING**

**P** Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day + through the Word made flesh.

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

\* **SENDING HYMN**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

bulletin, pg. 11

\* **HOLY COMMUNION**

**P** 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.

**P** 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.

**P** The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

**P** The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

**C AMEN.**

\* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!**

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### **WELCOME TO ALL!**

JUST A THOUGHT – Stanley High The Evangel: We’ve got to recognize that we are not working (primarily) for a peaceful world. Peace will be a by-product of something else. We are working for a world of justice and rightness. Peace is a by-product of justice and mercy.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS **THURSDAY NOON.**

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Deb Schlegel and family on the passing of her father, Jim Yetter, on December 20, 2020 at his home. Please keep Deb and family in your prayers.

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).

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.

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).

THIS MONTH'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for our local Meals on Wheels. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to MOW. 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.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 25, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE 2021 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2020 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

**WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:**

<u>December 20, 2020</u> Attendance - 16		Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$3,688.81	Benevolence	\$ 80.00
Other Funds	<u>1,601.40</u>	Meals-On-Wheels	340.00
General Fund	\$2,087.41	Building Fund	700.00
		Flowers/Poinsettias	31.40
		Memorial Fund	<u>450.00</u>
		Total	\$1,601.40

**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.

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 as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or [gramcynthia49@yahoo.com](mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com).

**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.



## **PRAYER LIST**

Tyson Aurand  
Carole Baker  
Donna Barton  
Lindsey Barton  
Gary Bechtold  
Julie Berryman  
Nick Beward  
Roxanne Boyer  
Charlotte Burd  
Andrea Cameron  
Pam Campbell  
Ruth Cisney  
Curtis Clark  
Randy Clark  
Terry Coder  
Leann Crimmel  
Will DeLancy  
Guy Dillman  
Fred & Dot Dowling  
Renee Dzikowski  
Neil Fisher  
Janie Fogleman  
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz  
Bentley Fulkroad  
Joan Fulkroad  
Michal Gayer  
Terri Gayer  
Ken Geedey  
Eddi Kay Gill

Paul Goss  
Amy Hart  
Beth Harris  
Harry & Jennifer Heikes  
Sue Henderson  
Ken Henry  
Nox Hepburn  
Jason Hockenberry & Family  
Curt & Judy Houtz  
Jennifer Hutchinson  
Matt Hutchinson  
Brenda Imes  
Peggy Inch  
Doc Johnston  
Guy Kerstetter  
Denny King  
Darvin Krouse  
Pam Lawson  
Carol Lyter  
Anthony Martin  
Carlen McClure  
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler  
Messiah's TEEM  
Cecilia Miller  
Ellwood Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Jim Minick  
Landon Musser  
Darve Nace

Austin Parker  
Noel Peachey  
Dave Phelan  
Butch & Sandy Pines  
Betty Ranck  
Keith Ranck  
Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed  
Mackenzie Shearer  
Ronald Shearer  
Bobby & Eva Sieber  
Mike Sparks  
Donald Speece  
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair  
Family of Clark Simonton  
Charles Stump  
Family of Velma Suloff  
Alice Swartz  
Dorothy Towsey  
Rich Walters  
Dr. Glen Webb  
Todd Wert  
Erma Williamson  
Jim Woltman  
Mackenzie Wray  
Family of Jim Yetter  
Dorothy Zeiders  
George Zimmerman  
Linda Zimmerman

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

Ray Bramm  
Ruth Cisney  
Max Ernest  
Margaret Guss  
Gail Henderson  
Mona Lawson  
Jane Marhefka

Minnie Minick  
Edith Nipple  
Esther Rhine  
Carol Simonton  
Sieber & Ona Stoner  
Ken & Kay Stuck  
Kitty Walters