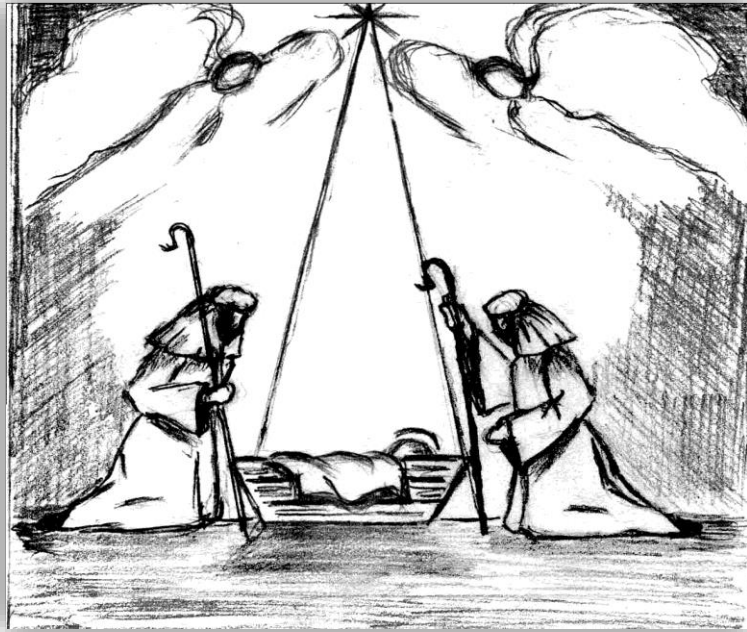


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



CHRISTMAS EVE

SERVICE OF CAROLS, “CANDLELIGHT” & COMMUNION

December 24th, 2021

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

RADIO: AM 1700

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TONIGHT’S INTRODUCTION: *In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.*

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WELCOME

This evening we would like to welcome you to our celebration of the birth of the Christ. This festival is one of the most beautiful and moving of the church year reminding us that God has freely chosen to submit himself to the limits, pains and suffering of this world. He has done this that He might dwell with us in the flesh and share our experience that we might have real hope through Him.

It is through this incarnation, being made flesh, which Christ's sacrifice for our sins on Good Friday is made possible and the reality of Christ's resurrection on Easter is proven to be for you.

This evening the forgiveness of sins given for you is once again made incarnate as Christ offers himself in His Holy Supper. It is in this meal where Jesus says to us, "This is my body given for you," that once again you receive the undeniable, physical assurance that God's grace applies to you specifically this day.

The life of every Christian is dependent on this very grace from God. We hope and pray that you will join with the Messiah Family to regularly partake of the assurance of God's grace offered in this meal. You are invited to come and join with us as we gather weekly to give thanks to God for His many blessings and to ask His Spirit be upon us as we serve Him and our neighbors.

Thank you again for blessing us with your presence this evening. We hope that you are also blessed by your participation with us and we pray that the peace of Christ may be upon you and yours in this Holy Season.



Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Samuel J. Leister	Vicar
Bob St. Clair	Organist
Slone Smith	Pianist
Shibhan Cameron	Harpist
Andrea Cameron	Choir Director
Linda Clark	Junior Choir Director
Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith	Altar Guild
Marina Holderman, Harrison Mummah, Slone Smith, Kyle Martin, Haley Mummah	Readers
Hope Miller & Julia Martin	Acolytes
Grace Miller & Evan Miller	Offering Presenters
Haley Mummah, Harrison, Mummah, Slone Smith	Candle Lighters

CHRISTMAS EVE PRELUDE CONCERT

December 24, 2021 – 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF CAROLS, COMMUNION, & CANDLELIGHT -- 7:00 PM

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" G. M. Martin
[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

ANTHEM "Children Go Where I Send Thee" Jr. and Sr. Combined Choirs

TIME OF SILENCE

* INVOCATION

OPENING GOSPEL: John 1:1-14 **Marina Holderman**
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

* GATHERING CAROL "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #45 Green Hymnal

PLACING OF THE CHRIST CHILD IN THE CRECHE

CHILDREN'S HOMILY

Vicar Leister

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...

C Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Harrison Mummah

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

OLD TESTAMENT CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

#41 Green Hymnal (Verse 1)

PSALM 96 (responsively by verse)

Slone Smith

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

PSALM CAROL

"Joy to the World"

#39 Green Hymnal (Verse 1)

THE EPISTLE LESSON:

Titus 2:11-14

Kyle Martin

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

EPISTLE CAROL

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

#54 Green Hymnal (Verse 1)

* THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Haley Mummah

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

HOMILY

Vicar Leister

* CAROL OF THE DAY

“What Child Is This”

#40 Green Hymnal (vss. 1 & 2)

* NICENE CREED (all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became

truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

* OFFERING PRESENTATION

* 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.

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM “Hallelujah!” L. Cohen

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Gracious God,
your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,
prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your
salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken)

P Glory to God in the highest.	C And peace to his people on earth.
P The Lord be with you.	C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.	C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

* COMMUNION CANTICLE “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” #42 Green Hymnal (vss. 1 & 5)

* HOLY COMMUNION

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 ['trespasses'] (all)

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.

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

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

* COMMUNION CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #60 Green Hymnal

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

C Amen

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen

READING – LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Haley Mummah, Harrison Mummah, Slone Smith

LIGHTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN OUR SANCTUARY

SOLO: Andrea Cameron

"Ave Maria"

Schubert

* POST-COMMUNION CAROL “Silent Night, Holy Night!” #65 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C Thanks be to God!

* CLOSING CAROL “Go Tell It on the Mountain” #70 Green Hymnal

* POSTLUDE

[The candles remain lit, symbolizing that the light of the Christ Child is shining in our world].

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PLEASE NOTE that we do not sing all the verses of every hymn, but only those verses which reiterate the message of the Scripture Word.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION - 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.

IN THE NAME OF THE CHRIST CHILD, we cordially welcome all parents and children and all who worship with us at the Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. May love and peace, God’s gift to us in the Christ Child, fill all our hearts this night and always.

A SPECIAL “THANK YOU” to all those who are taking part in the service: the organist, the pianist, the choirs and choir directors, those who are providing special music during the recital, and especially to our youth, young adults and members of Messiah, and to all those who worship here tonight.

ATTENTION ALL KIDS! At the time of the sermon, all children are invited to come forward to gather around the chancel area.

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPE in your packet, plus the loose plate offering at the Christmas Eve Service, goes to the Matthew 25 Fund to help needy people and situations throughout the year. Please be as generous as you can.

*WE WISH ALL OF YOU a Christmas filled
with blessings from God and His peace which
passes all understanding.*



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GAVE POINSETTIAS to decorate the church in honor of Christ's birth. You may pick up your poinsettia(s) after the morning worship service on December 26th.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD:

In memory of Tammy Pines Walton by the Walton, Pines and Stoner families.

In memory of Carolyn J. Wieseman and Paul F. Wieseman and Mr. and Mrs. Cloyd A. Pines, Sr. by the Pines and Stoner families.

In honor of our grandson, Braedon Walton, by Butch and Sandy Pines.

In memory of my grandparents by Kenton Stuck.

In memory of our beloved wife and mother, Kay Stuck, by Ken and Kenton Stuck.

In memory of Ansel and Jean McNaight, who are greatly missed, by daughters Jane Shearer and Anne McNaight.

In honor of Pamela A. Campbell by Ken and Tawny Mummah and family.

In honor of Kenneth B. and Ruth H. Mummah by Ken and Tawny Mummah and family.

In honor of my mom, Florence Williams, by Debbie Meinsler.

In memory of my dad, James Harvey, by Debbie Meinsler.

In memory of John & Helen Sieber by George and Kay Varner and family.

In memory of our parents by Herman and Judy Armstrong.

In memory of Warren 'Dutch' and Kitty Walters by Deb, Cyndi, and Bob.

In memory of our parents, Paul and Dorothy Patterson and Richard and Daisy VanGavree by Rich and Cindy VanGavree.

In loving memory of Abram and Ruth Shoener and Daniel and Thelma Dreibelbis by the Stephen Dreibelbis family.

In honor of Todd, Debbie, Zachary James, and James Wyatt Wise, by Larry and Diana Wise.

In honor of our children, Susan, Carol and Kenneth, by Ken and Ruth Mummah.

In honor of our grandchildren, Harrison, Haley and Olivia, by Ken and Ruth Mummah.

In memory of our parents, Dale H. and Charlotte Henry and Harry and Martha Mummah, by Ken and Ruth Mummah.

In memory of our loved ones, Paul, Arlyne and Karen Goss, by Larry and family.

In memory of Donald Sr., Margaret 'Peg', Ronald 'Tink', Donald Jr., and Johnny Beward by Nick, Bethanie, Thea and Brea Beward.

In memory of Dorothy and Karen Swab and Rich Fultz by Nick, Bethanie, Thea and Brea Beward.

In honor of our Mam-Maw and Pappy Leister by Thea and Brea Beward.

In honor of our Nammy Beward by Thea and Brea Beward.

In memory of my grandparents, John and Hulda St. Clair and Lester and Grace Parsons, by Bob St. Clair.

In memory of my loving father, Robert St. Clair, Sr., by Bob St. Clair.

In honor of my loving mother, Jeanette St. Clair, by Bob St. Clair.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knisely by Warren and Claire Mummah.

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mummah by Warren and Claire Mummah.

In honor of our 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren by Warren and Claire Mummah.

In memory of loved ones by Don and Barb Geedey.

In memory of Shirley Yorks and Paul and Kathleen Smith by Ron and Christie Yorks.

In memory of my parents by Cynthia Smith.

In honor of my grandchildren by Cynthia Smith.

In memory of Jean, George and Bill Flint and George, Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard by the George Hazard, Jr. family.

In honor of family and friends by George and Marylou Hazard.

In memory of loved ones by Mike and Debbie Maugans.

In memory of George and Evelyn Shirk and Gerald and Evelyn (Nootie) Davis by Marsha Wagner.

In memory of loved ones by Matthew, Erin, and Ella Harris.

In loving memory of Barry T. Stratford by Betty and family.

The large Poinsettia was placed in memory of Joyce Yetter by Vernon Gunnion and family.

The large, variegated Poinsettia was placed in honor of God's people at Messiah by Vicar Sam and Linda Leister.

DONATIONS TO LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE:

In memory of Ansel and Jean McNaight, who are greatly missed, by daughters Jane Shearer and Anne McNaight.

In honor of Pamela A. Campbell by Ken and Tawny Mummah and family.

In honor of Kenneth B. and Ruth H. Mummah by Ken and Tawny Mummah and family.

In honor of my mom, Florence Williams, by Debbie Meinsler.

In memory of my dad, James Harvey, by Debbie Meinsler.

In memory of Kenneth Geedey and Ronald Chambers by Barbara P. Geedey and Deb, Josh, and Braxton Chambers.

In memory of Shirley Yorks and Paul and Kathleen Smith by Ron and Christie Yorks.

In Love and in Honor of our parents and grandparents, Claire and Warren Mummah, by Mary and Glenn Grimm and Family.

In memory of Clarence and Beulah Leister by Sam and Linda Leister.

In memory of Robert Earl (Hap) and Dorothy Smith by Sam and Linda Leister.

In memory of Lloyd and Florence Showers by Sam and Linda Leister.



**Merry Christmas and
Happy 2022!!**