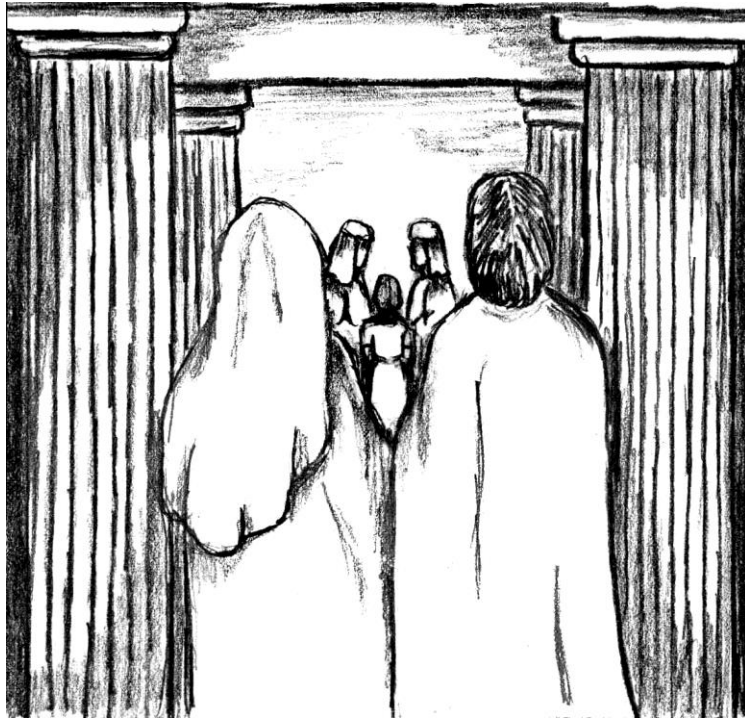


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 26th, 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

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Hannah Ehrisman
Gabby Reed & Thea Beward
Harrison Mummah & Braedon Walton
Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith

Vicar
Choir Director
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Lector
Acolytes
Offering Presenters
Altar Guild

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021 – 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 sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C Amen.

P In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. + In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

#50 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” (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”)



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 Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

FIRST READING1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

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!"

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

²Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

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

⁴Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

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

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²young men and maidens, old and young together. R

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

¹⁴The 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

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

SECOND READING..... Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

* GOSPEL..... Luke 2:41-52

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them.

⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Vicar Leister

#44 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 Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

* 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.

ANTHEM

"Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Regneg & Shayne

* 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."

* OFFERTORY 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.

* 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.

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

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

*** 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 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.

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**

“What Child is This?”

#40 green hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Haley Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Haley Mummah and Paige Martin

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING PRESENTERS – Evan Miller and Brea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner (12/27 – 01/30)

WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – Thomas Watson, English Theologian (1515 – 1584): He called them that they might be holy, and holiness is the beauty produced by his workmanship in them.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at sleister@gmail.com.

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.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 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 2022 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2021 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 17, 2021 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2022 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.

DECEMBER'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will continue to be for the Juniata County Food Pantry and Meals-On-Wheels. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to these local organizations. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

JANUARY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will for Lutheran Disaster Relief, particularly those tornado victims in Kentucky and surrounding states. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Lutheran Disaster Relief to help those who have been displaced or are in need of any type of help. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

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.

JAM HOUSE NEED: We need a volunteer to perform the treasurer duties at JAM HOUSE. The position requires about one hour per week to pay bills and make other financial reports. The treasurer would also need to attend our quarterly board meeting. Please contact Larry Wise at 717-436-6629 if you have an interest or know someone who does. Thank you.

ATTENTION SINGERS!!! MESSIAH CHOIR NEEDS YOU!!! No matter when we rehearse, people of all ages are invited to sing, even if it means just walking up to join the choir during the anthem or sitting up front for the full worship service. Robes will not be required to be worn to sing – just your voice!

REMINDER: The ELCA Youth Gathering, "Boundless: God Beyond Measure," is coming up on July 24-28, 2022. It will take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering starts on September 22. There are registration worksheets on the gathering website on the resources page. The forms are helpful to have when sitting down at the computer to input all information for church groups, the youth, and the leaders. New this cycle is that the ELCA is taking payment online for the gathering. The getting ready material is also on the gathering website. It is helpful to use these materials with youth groups to enhance their whole gathering experience. The material is very flexible on how it can be used with groups. For more information, go to the website at www.elca.org/youthgathering

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:

December 12, 2021 Worship Attendance – (in person 76) (online 35)

Total Offering	\$4,013.00
Other Funds	<u>985.00</u>
General Fund	\$3,028.00

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Building Fund	610.00
Lutheran Disaster	130.00
Matthew 25	75.00
Food Pantry	100.00
DeLauter Youth Ctr.	<u>130.00</u>
Total	\$ 985.00

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

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

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER

CANNED BEETS, CANNED MIXED VEGETABLES, CANNED PINEAPPLES, SAUNDRY DETERGENT, AND OTHER CLEANING SUPPLIES.

HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:

TURKEYS, TURKEY BREASTS, HAMS (3-5 LBS.), OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!

Please make checks payable to the Juniata County Food Pantry. Address: P.O. Box 44, Mifflintown, PA 17059.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -First Sunday of Christmas.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Children’s Christmas Program.

Monday: -7:00 p.m., AA in Youth Area.

Sunday: -Second Sunday of Christmas
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

PRAYER LIST

Tornado victims in Kentucky and surrounding states Tim Arentz	Amy Hart Joyce Hart Beth Harris	Darve Nace Paul Ogden Austin Parker
Herm & Judy Armstrong Steve & Linda Bahorik Donna Barton Donna Bell Andy Berrier Ken Berrier Roxanne Boyer	Harry & Jennifer Heikes Sue Henderson Nox Hepburn Jay Hockenbroch Allison Holderman Brenda Imes Annie Ingler	Rick & Audrey Peters Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Dave Phelan Butch & Sandy Pines Mia Raish Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Mike Rhoades Claudette Satzler Mackenzie Shearer
Michele Boniewicz Don Bratton Dan Brown Andrea Cameron Karen Centini Randy Clark	Doc Johnston Pam Kennedy Guy Kerstetter Denny King Pam Lawson Michael Lozano Carol Lyter	Ron & Arlene Shearer Angie Sieber Mike Sparks Andy Spigelmyer Vicki Suoja Alice Swartz Dorothy Towsey George Trego
Terry & April Coder Vincent Cramer Leann Crimmel Will DeLancy	Guy Kerstetter Denny King Pam Lawson Michael Lozano Carol Lyter Zaden Mabey Mike Maclay Ryan Marker	Mackenzie Shearer Ron & Arlene Shearer Angie Sieber Mike Sparks Andy Spigelmyer Vicki Suoja Alice Swartz Dorothy Towsey George Trego
Fred & Dot Dowling Renee Dzikowski Tom Ernest Neil & Pat Fisher Jane Fogleman Derek Fry Bentley Fulkroad Joan Fulkroad Terri Gayer Eddi Kay Gill	Anthony Martin Mike Maugans Carlen McClure Alice McClure Messiah Mutual Ministry Cecilia Miller Ellwood Miller Larry Miller Shirley Miller Jim Minick	George & Kay Varner Austin Willi Erma Williamson Zach Wise Jim Woltman Mackenzie Wray George Zimmerman Linda Zimmerman
Sam & Diane Goshorn Piper Hall	Claire Mummah Ken Mummah	

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Jane Marhefka – Brookline Retirement Village, 92 Village Drive, Mifflintown, PA 17059
Gail Henderson & Carol Simonton – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Mifflintown, PA 17059
Ruth Cisney & Ray Bramm – Honneman House, 58 Honneman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
Minnie Minick – 187 JAM House Rd., Mifflin, PA 17058
Edith Nipple – 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059
Sieber & Ona Stoner – 23591 Rt. 35 North, Mifflintown, PA 17059
Ken Stuck – 66 Eighth St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

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 today's worship service.

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.



CHRISTMAS 2021

This is our second pandemic Christmas. We thought this would be over so long ago. And still, we wear masks; we're physically distant; we can't be with friends and family as we used to do. And also, there's so much that's broken in this world, so much that tells us, "Why have hope? Just give up."

But we have a hope that's stronger than any of this, stronger even than death. The hope of God comes in the form of a tiny baby, a helpless child; nevertheless, who grew to a man and in his fragile strength was willing to die on the cross and was raised again.

I don't know what next Christmas will bring. I don't know what New Year's will bring. But I do know we have hope.

St. Paul put it this way: "May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may **ABOUND IN hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.