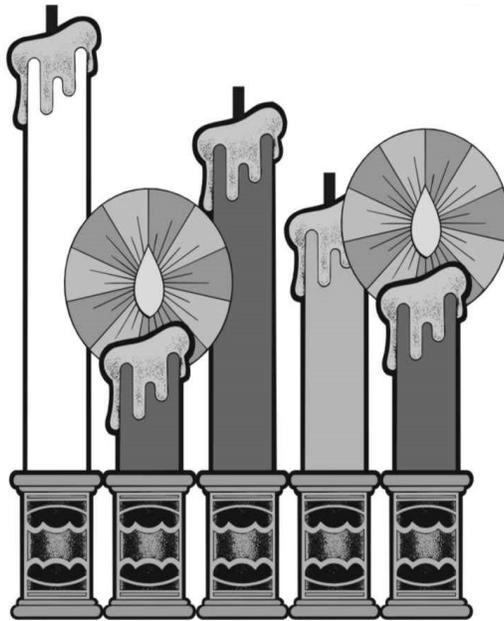


# “Growing God’s Kingdom”



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

*December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR**

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

**PASTOR EMAIL:** [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com)

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

**WEBSITE:** [mlcmifflintown.org](http://mlcmifflintown.org)

**TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** *John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Rev. Samuel Leister  
Bob St. Clair  
Slone Smith  
Andrea Cameron  
Diana Wise  
Olivia & Haley Mummah  
Evan, Grace & Hope Miller  
Diana Wise & Cynthia Smith

Pastor  
Organist/Pianist  
Organist/Pianist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Acolytes  
Communion/Offering Presenters  
Altar Guild

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Hanging of the Greens Service

### Christmas Greens

December 10, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

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

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

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

\* LIGHTING AND BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**C Amen.**

\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation

**C Amen.**

P God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection,

P Everlasting God,

**C you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you.**

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.**

**Amen.**

P Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN                      *"Prepare the Royal Highway"*                      #26 Green Hymnal

\* GREETING

P Beloved of God, who are called to be saints: grace and peace be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

\* KYRIE (spoken)

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.**

*"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"* (vs. 1)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king."  
The world in solemn still-ness lay to hear the angels sing.

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.**

\* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you

**C And also with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray.....

**C Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# Hangings of the Greens

## LITANY OF THE GREENS *(read responsively)*

Pastor Leister

P How can we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the King?

**C With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.**

P How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the eternal Christ?

**C With garlands of wreaths of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.**

P How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, our savior?

**C With arrangements of holly and ivy, symbolizing His passion, death, and resurrection.**

P How shall we prepare this house for the coming of Jesus, the Son of God?

**C By hearing again the words of the prophets who foretold the saving work of God.**

P For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**C All Glory to God in the highest!**

## THE ADVENT WREATH

Paige Martin

### Jeremiah 23: 5-6

<sup>5</sup>“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

### Isaiah 60:2-3

<sup>2</sup>See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup>Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

## MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Christie Holderman

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

## PLACING THE CRECHE FIGURES

HYMN

*“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”*

#34 Green Hymnal (vss. 1 & 5)

## THE WREATHS AND GARLAND

Hannah Ehrisman

### Isaiah 9:2

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

### Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

## MEANING OF THE WREATHS AND GARLAND

Melissa Ehrisman

HYMN

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

#60 Green Hymnal

### THE HOLLY AND IVY

Grace Miller

#### Isaiah 53:3a, 4a, 5-6

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; Surely He has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; Upon Him was the punishment that made us whole. And by His bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

### MEANING OF THE HOLLY AND IVY

Hope Miller

HYMN

*“The Holly and the Ivy”*

(Page 6)

### THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Reed Family

#### John 1:1-5, 9-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

### MEANING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Reed Family

HYMN

*“The First Noel”*

#56 Green Hymnal (vss. 1 & 2)

### THE POINSETTIA

Haley Mummah

#### Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup>“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go

and worship him.”<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## MEANING OF THE POINSETTIA

Olivia Mummah

HYMN

*“The First Noel”*

#56 Green Hymnal (vss. 3 & 4)

## BLESSING OF THE MANGER

Pastor Leister

**P** God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made known your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent Your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**C Amen.**

### \* APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

**P** Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

### \* PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

### \* 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.**

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

## MEAL

\* ADVENT DIALOG

P We have come with great expectation to meet the coming Messiah.

**C All creation waits with longing for the Son of God.**

P As John the Baptist cried in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord.”

**C We prepare a place in our hearts and in the world for his coming.**

P O come to us, Emmanuel!

**C God, be with us and save us from our sins.**

\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

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.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate. Power of the Most High, one God, 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 In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

**DISTRIBUTION**

**["At the Chancel Rail"]** – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in your seat for communion)

\* **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 Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

\* **BLESSING**

P The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

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

\* **SENDING HYMN**

*"Go Tell It on the Mountain"*

#70 Green Hymnal

\* **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C Thanks be to God.**

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Kate Swailes

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Sofia & Stella Reed

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Hannah Ehrisman, Nick & Gabby Reed

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawny Mummah & Tammy Smith (12/11/23 – 12/17/23)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Diana Wise

## **WELCOME TO ALL!**

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Diane Hower by family.

JUST A THOUGHT – Eli Cass, Christian Thinker: The cross is the invincible sanctuary of the humble.

## **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 Pastor Leister at [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@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 Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com).

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.

THE YOUTH OF BOTH MESSIAH AND ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES will be holding fundraisers in the coming months to support both work trips and the 2024 Youth Gathering in late July in New Orleans. Please see Christina Martin for cards to signify that you want to participate in the fundraisers at the Tyson Hill OIP and/or Harshbarger's Subs and Malts. Below are the dates and locations of the upcoming fundraisers:

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Tyson Hill OIP  
**January 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Harshbarger's Subs & Malts  
**February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Tyson Hill OIP  
**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – Harshbarger's Subs & Malts

Thank you for supporting the youth of our churches!!

DONATIONS OF COOKIES will be needed for refreshments following the Christmas Cantata on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Cookies may be brought to the church anytime that weekend or on Sunday morning December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who are willing to donate.

DECEMBER'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will go towards Shelter Services of Mifflin and Juniata Counties. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Shelter Services so they may continue to serve those whose lives have been turned upside down by these disasters. 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.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES – If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to become a member of Messiah and attend the New Member Class, please let Pastor Sam or the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

FIRST COMMUNION – Please let Pastor Sam or the church office know if you would like your child to attend a First Communion Class and a date and time will be arranged with those who are interested.

BIBLE STUDY WILL CONTINUE on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will be studying the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Anyone is welcome to attend. Below is the schedule through January 9, 2024:

December 12, 10:30 a.m.  
December 19, NO BIBLE STUDY  
December 26, NO BIBLE STUDY  
January 2, NO BIBLE STUDY  
January 9, 10:30 a.m.

"THE KNITTERS" WILL NOT BE MEETING for the month of December. They will meet again on Monday January 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. Church Room.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 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 2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2023 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

ALL LOOSE OFFERING AT THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will go to the Matthew 25 Fund to help those in need throughout the year. You can also donate to the fund by writing Matthew 25 Fund on your regular offering envelope and the amount you wish to contribute.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2024 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 Pastor Leister or the church office. PPC will approve the 2 delegates at their January meeting.

MESSIAH'S PPC has purchased two AED'S (Automatic Electronic Defibrillators) along with upgraded first aid products for the Fellowship Hall and the main worship area. The estimated cost is approximately \$3,000. We are all given the opportunity to contribute to the purchase of these life-saving devices. There is a chart showing envelopes with numbers on them in the Adult Sunday School Room. The number is the amount of a contribution you can make to help with this purchase. Please take an envelope and return it when you come to church.

### DECEMBER ADVENT SEASON & CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**Today:** Second Sunday of Advent. *Hanging of the Greens* program during the morning worship service. The topic of this year's program will be "*Christmas Greens.*"

**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>:** Poinsettias arrive. (LAST DATE TO ORDER IS DECEMBER 12th).

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>:** Third Sunday of Advent. Community Christmas Cantata "*Bethlehem's Child*" at 2:00 p.m. at Messiah.

**Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>:** Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Children's Christmas Program during 10:30 a.m. worship service. The *Christmas Eve Music Prelude Service* begins at 7:00 p.m. featuring our in-house musicians, Bob St. Clair and Slone Smith. *The Candlelight/Communion Service* will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include the singing of Carols and special anthems

THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS were ratified by the congregation at the Voters Assembly meeting on November 26, 2023. On Monday, November 27, 2023, they were submitted to the Synod and a 120-day waiting period will begin. If the Synod raises no concerns with the ratified constitution and by-laws then it will become effective on March 26, 2024.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLWS:

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.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at [msgoss@gmail.com](mailto:msgoss@gmail.com).

THANK YOU to Messiah Lutheran Church for being an Angel for the homeless this Christmas Season. Wishing you a beautiful Holiday Season and a New Year of peace and happiness.

Shelter Service

## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Shelter Service, Inc. in Lewistown:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| --Laundry Detergent | --Shaving Cream |
| --Clorox            | --Shampoo       |
| --Dryer Sheets      | --Deodorant     |
| --Dish Soap         | --Body Wash     |

Please place items in the Adult Sunday School Room in the container provided.

WELCA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Area. Everyone is asked to bring their favorite reading and a snack. Beverage will be provided. Our group will be returning to evening meetings beginning in December at 7:30 p.m. and will continue into 2024

## *WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT*

*As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

## **COMMUNITY**

### **HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS THAT ARE STILL NEEDED**

TURKEYS (AROUND 12 LBS.), TURKEY BREASTS, WHOLE CHICKENS, HAMS (3-5 LBS.),  
INSTANT POTATOES, BOXED STUFFING, TURKEY GRAVY,  
BOXED BROWNIE OR COOKIE MIX,  
OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!

\*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

THE 2023 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA, "Bethlehem's Child" by Victor C. Johnson and Lloyd Larson, will be held on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at Messiah at 2:00 p.m. Rehearsals are every Monday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m. through December 11<sup>th</sup>. If you are still interested in joining the cantata, please contact coordinator Bill Angenent at [k6nd@k6nd.com](mailto:k6nd@k6nd.com) or director Andrea Cameron at [messiahchoir88@yahoo.com](mailto:messiahchoir88@yahoo.com)

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Second Sunday in Advent.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Hanging of the Greens Service/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.  
-7:00 p.m., Cantata Rehearsal in sanctuary.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m. Bible Study.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall (luncheon to follow)  
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.
- Thursday:** -7:30 p.m., WELCA Christmas Program in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -Third Sunday in Advent.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.  
-2:00 p.m., Christmas Cantata at Messiah.

## PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik	Fred Gross	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Jeremy Barnes	Hannah Hart	Betty Ranck
Ryan Barr	Nox Hepburn	Keith Ranck
Donna Barton	Judy Hosler	Dave Reed
Gary Bechtold	Nancy Howell	Diane Rowles
Linda Brouse	Erin Husler	Kelley Rusenko
Andrea Cameron	Terry Imes	Ron & Arlene Shearer
Terry Coder	Annie Ingle	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Rob Davis	Guy Kerstetter	Barry Strawser
Fred & Dot Dowling	Jesse Kint	Vicki Suoja
Seth Dowling	Carlen McClure	Tonya Tabb
Kim Dumais	Alice McClure	Dorothy Towsey
Freda Durio	Andi McDanel	Molly Ulsh
Cathy Dysinger	Cecilia Miller	Doug Wagner
Renee Dzikowski	Curt Miller	Roscoe Warner
Neil & Pat Fisher	Ellwood Miller	Mary Jane Williamson
Kevin Fetterhoof	Jane Miller	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Bentley Fulkroad	Larry Miller	Gary Zeiders
Terri Gayer	Shirley Miller	Paul Zeiders
Deb Geedey	Claire Mummah	George Zimmerman
Bob & Eddi Kay Gill	Carole Nace	Linda Zimmerman
Sheree Goss	Donna Parks	
Sylva Grimm	Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks	

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Mifflintown, PA 17059  
--Rich Smith – Magnolia Personal Care Center, 68 Lexi St., Mifflintown, PA 17059  
--Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094  
--Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094  
--Edith Nipple – 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059  
--Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044