

# SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

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*Teach God's Grace through Fellowship,  
Study, Service & Witness*

**TODAY'S INTRODUCTION:** *Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

# 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  
Grace Miller  
Braedon Walton & Carter Ehrisman  
Silas Smith, Hannah Ehrisman & Paige Martin  
Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman  
Jamie Miller

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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS JANUARY 5, 2025 – 10:00 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, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God-with-us,

**C we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory; a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING

### \* GATHERING HYMN

*"You Servants of God"*

#252 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"*) (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!

\* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

FIRST READING.....Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup>For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." <sup>11</sup>For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup>They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup>Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup>I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: .....Psalm 147:12-20 (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>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. **R**

<sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**



know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And 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. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Leister

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

*"We Three Kings of Orient Are"*

#646 WOV

\* 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

P God of grace,

**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

*"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."

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**C Amen.**

**MEAL**

\* COMMUNION DIALOG

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.**

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

**C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.**

P Let us come to his table with joy,

**C for we come as God's invited guests.**

\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

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.

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 (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.**

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

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

**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 Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\* BLESSING**

P The God of love, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

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

**\* SENDING HYMN**

*"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

#55 Green Hymnal

**\* DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**C Thanks be to God.**

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Andrea Cameron  
NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Nick & Gabby Reed  
NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Ella Harris, Stella & Sofia Reed  
NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman (12/23/25 – 1/19/25)  
NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Cynthia Smith

**JANUARY COLLECTION COUNTERS:**

Today: Don & Barb Geedey  
12: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss  
19: Ron & Christie Yorks  
26: Tammy Brackbill & Nick Beward

**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 Sieber Stoner by Ona Stoner and Dan and Michelle Stoner.

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.

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.

JANUARY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will go to the Juniata County Library. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Library so they may continue to serve those in our community. 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.

REMINDER: **Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter** to **Bob** at [stclairb@embarqmail.com](mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com) or the **church office** at [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) by the deadlines which are listed monthly in the newsletter.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING scheduled for today, will not meet due to the lack of items on the agenda. The next meeting will be February 16<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

"THE KNITTERS" will resume meeting on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Junior Church Room.

BIBLE STUDY will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup> in the Library.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2025 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.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, 2025. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "help our neighbors" by dropping a dollar in the soup pot and also by donating a can of soup on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

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).

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.

THE 2025 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2024 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2025 is in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place flowers on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart.

THANK YOU, members of Messiah and the Choir, for your very generous gifts this Christmas season. Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Slone Smith

**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.

THE NEXT WELCA meeting will be on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

*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.*

**THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -Second Sunday of Christmas  
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.  
-Undecorate church following worship service.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room.  
-5:00 p.m., Lions Club in Fellowship Hall.  
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Library
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.  
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary.
- Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Saturday:** -9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Quilters in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -Baptism of Our Lord.  
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

### PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold  
Linda Bahorik  
Melissa Bargo  
Jeremy Barnes  
Ryan Barr  
Donna Barton  
Tony Beward  
Bill Book  
Linda Brouse  
Jim Burdge  
Andrea Cameron  
Evitt Campbell  
Terry Coder  
Kenton Cohenour  
Heather Compton  
Family of Jerry Cook  
Fred & Dot Dowling  
Seth Dowling  
Kim Dumais  
Freda Durio  
Cathy Dysinger  
Renee Dzikowski  
Rev. Jodi Ellis  
Kevin Fetterhoof  
Neil & Pat Fisher  
Bentley Fulkroad  
Terri Gayer

Deb Geedey  
Sheree Goss  
Amanda Gregg  
Fred Gross  
Hannah Hart  
Mark Harvey  
Bill Heck  
John (Pat) Henry  
Nox Hepburn  
Nancy Howell  
Terry Imes  
Annie Ingle  
Guy Kerstetter  
Jesse Kint  
Carlen McClure  
Andi McDanel  
Cecilia Miller  
Curt Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Marlin Milliken  
Claire Mummah  
Carole Nace  
Linda (Kerchner) Parks  
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine  
Cheryl Pinkerton  
Donna Pontius

Betty Ranck  
Keith Ranck  
Dave Reed  
Jan Reisinger  
Diane Rowles  
Greysley Rowles  
Kelley Rusenko  
Arlene Shearer  
Jennifer Smith  
Judy Smith  
Joyce & Todd Spangler  
Donna Stoner  
Barry Strawser  
Vicki Suoja  
Molly Ulsh  
George Varner  
Kristy Wagner & family  
Heather Walton  
Roscoe Warner  
Kathy Whitesel  
Mary Jane Williamson  
Jim & Heidi Woltman  
Gary Zeiders  
Paul Zeiders  
George Zimmerman  
Jean Zimmerman  
Linda Zimmerman

### PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, 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
- Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044