



## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16, 2018

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEW BERLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

### **Today's Worship Leaders/Assistants**

Acolytes:	Jillian Fee, Garrett Benfer
Organist:	Mary Agnes Hackenberg
Head Usher:	Kay Trick
Greeters:	Stephanie and Reese Stahl
Lector:	Nate Williard
Cantor:	JR Erdley
Offering:	WELCA
Comm. Assist.:	Katie Mitchell, Tom Milbrand Frances Blatchley, Kate Williard
Altar Guild:	Chris and Stacy Sauers
Fellowship Hosts:	*Christmas Cookie Sunday*

### *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Liturgy Music Setting 4*

*"This morning we are led in worship by Edward Coup, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations."*

### **VISITORS and FRIENDS: WELCOME!**

*We are glad that you are worshipping with us and hope that you will be encouraged and empowered for the coming week. Please fill out a pew card so that we can get to know you better. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to the usher at the end of the worship service. If you are interested in joining our church family, please let the usher know.*

**If you receive Communion today,  
and haven't filled out a Communion Card this year,  
fill one out today and place it in the offering plate.**



## Hymn of Praise - "This is the Feast"

*Refrain*  
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

Advent Wreath Lighting

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Stir up your might and come to save us.  
**Reveal your face to us, and give us life. Amen.**

*An acolyte lights one candle during hymn.*

Hymn—"People, Look East" verse 3

#248

**+WORD+**

First Reading

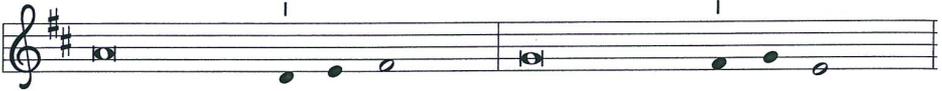
Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you

renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody Isaiah 12:2-6 Tone 10 Sung responsively



<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not / be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;  
he has become / my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you / will draw water; from the wells / of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call /  
on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim  
that his name / is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done / gloriously;  
let this be known in / all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O / royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy / One of Israel.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Those who are able, please stand.*

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

The Children's Message

The Message

Hymn of the Day - "All Earth Is Hopeful"

#266

### The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our Christian faith together.

**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.**

### The Prayers of God's People

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*(After each petition, we hear the words, "Lord in your mercy," and the people respond, "**Hear our prayer.**")*

... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Prayer List**

### *Prayers of healing, wholeness, encouragement—Long Term:*

Julia Hauck, Logan Roush, Alicia Saxon, Aimee Erdley, Noah Navickas, Katie Benfer, Bill and Bonnie Pontius, Nancy Pursley, Keith Phelps, Melanie Sanders, Bev Fausey, Kermit Dale Carnahan, Tom and Dana Mitchell, Ruthie Miller, Travis Erb, Christine Koons, Matthew Myers, Steve Boonie, Janet Neidig, Peg Mattern, Lori Haines, John Snook, Baby Nolan Redmond, Vicki DePhillips, Jamie Zeiders, Craig Ritter, Deb Dressler, Gloria Callahan, Gayle Napp, Paul Kratzer, Jr., Paul Treaster, Lois Lark, Nancy Hummel, Mary Hummel, David Hummel, Gary Keister, David Brill, David Kline, Bertie Foust, Jean Smith, Darren Moyer, Dawn Wagner, Loren Miller, Darrell O'Bryant, Rev. David Hauck, Mary Stillman, Pete Dreisbach, Patti Faux, Donnie Ritter, Delilah Worthington, Robert "Butch" Hestor

### *Prayers of healing, wholeness, encouragement—Short Term:*

Gaye Wetzel, Marion Fisher, Eric McDonald, Bill Frank

### *Providence and protection for first responders, military service men and women:*

Stanley Miller, Shane Keller, Jonathan Ward, Sean Wagner

### *Prayers of care and help for our homebound:*

Bob Frank, Erma VanHorn, Roberta Hollenbach, Martha Wetzel, Carol McJilton, Ralph Geiswite, Donald Wetzel, Wayne Moyer, Bob Hummel

### *Prayers of consolation and comfort for those who are grieving:*

Family and friends of Miriam Specht

## **We Share God's Peace Together**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### **And also with you.**

*(We greet our brothers and sisters with a kiss, a handshake or a hug as we say, "Peace be with you." They respond, "And also with you.")*

*Please be seated.*

## +MEAL+

The Offering An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. We are encouraged to give cheerfully and freely in response to all that God has first given us through the bounty of creation, the life of the Son, and the work of the Spirit.

### Chancel Choir Anthem - "Morning of Promise"

Please stand as able when the Gifts are brought forward.

### The Offertory



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

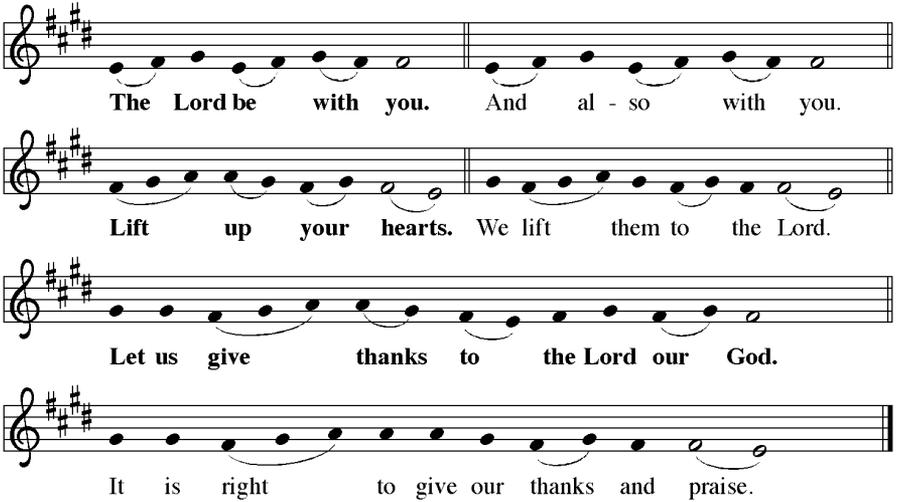
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance,  
**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and  
with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we  
care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our  
Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season; the assembly responds:*

### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

### Eucharistic Prayer (III)

Holy One,...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

With this bread and cup...We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God,...Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory...now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please be seated.*

### Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### We Receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

*All are welcome—no exceptions!*

*If you are unable to move forward to receive the sacrament, please inform the usher and the elements will be brought to you.*

*The first chalice is for dipping (intinction) or common cup. This echoes the practices of the Last Supper. The second cup on both sides is a pouring chalice for individual cups.*

**The congregation may join in singing hymns during Communion.**

### Communion Hymns

“Blessed Be the God of Israel” #250

“Savior of the Nations, Come” #263

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken” #494

**Stand and sing:**

**“What Feast of Love” Verse 3 #487**

1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?  
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?  
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?

What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

The most precious body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Holy One,  
**we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**+SENDING+**

The Blessing

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn - "Hark the Glad Sound"

#239

The Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

***Anyone who would like to provide special music during the preludes for the 7pm Christmas Eve Service should contact Gaye Wetzel.***

**All are invited to our Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and fellowship immediately following worship this morning.**

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**Interim Pastor: Rev. Rick White**  
**Pastor White's Cell: 570-847-3113**

**Parish Secretary: Tina Fern**  
**Secretary Email: messiahlutherannewberlin@gmail.com**  
**Church Office Phone: 570-966-2815**  
**Regular Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10am-2pm**

**Our Website: [www.newberlinlutherans.com](http://www.newberlinlutherans.com)**

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*For Pastoral Emergencies, contact Interim Pastor Rick White at 570-847-3113. If the pastor doesn't answer the phone, please leave a message and include that you are a member of Messiah, New Berlin.*

*For Immediate Prayer Requests, contact Tom Milbrand at 570-966-1352, Diane Walter at 570-966-0333 or Frances Blatchley at 570-966-0288.*

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### **Attendance & Offering for Sunday, December 9, 2018**

Attendance – 74

Offering - \$ 2,877.00

This offering includes:

Weekly Giving	2379.00
Building	270.00
World Hunger-XYZ	8.00
Benevolence	160.00
Fellowship Offering	10.00
Preschool Donation	50.00

### **Please Remember ...**

All offering that is designated to the Building Fund through December 2018 will be placed on the principal of the church mortgage. These contributions will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000, by an anonymous donor.

**Altar Flowers** are placed to the glory and honor of God by Chris and Stacy Sauers in honor of their 23rd wedding anniversary.

**TODAY:** \*Christmas Cookies during Fellowship  
\*MACY (Mifflinburg Area Christian Youth)  
Dinner and Devos at Sawyer's home at  
6:00pm. If you are interested in going,  
please let Janine know. We will carpool.

Tue., Dec.18 11:30am XYZ Lunch at Country Cupboard

Wed., Dec. 19 7:30pm Long Choir Rehearsal

Thu., Dec. 20 10-11am Food Pantry Food Distribution

Sat., Dec. 22 9am-Noon Dress Rehearsal for Musical

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Christmas Musical during 9am Worship

***Worship Leaders/Assistants for next Sunday, December 23***

Acolytes: Madison Styers, Hannah Fee

Organist: Gaye Wetzel

Head Usher: Kay Trick

Greeters: Greg and Kim Schlegel

Lector: Carl Scholl

Cantor: Nate Williard

Offering: Kurt and Linda Zimmerman

Katie and Ross Mitchell

Comm. Assist.: George Hauck, Carl Scholl

Ronald Blatchley, Greg Schlegel

Altar Guild: Ginny Engel, Paul Kaler

Fellowship Hosts: Parents of Children in Christmas Musical

Flower Sponsor: Ken and Patty Wetzel

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**Logan Roush** graduated from rehab on November 21st. He is getting closer to being listed for the transplant. He and his dad were home for Thanksgiving but returned to North Carolina on November 25. Logan thanks everyone for their prayers and concerns; he really appreciates the church family. If you would like to continue to support Logan while he is in North Carolina, his address is:

Logan M. Roush  
Apt. 1C  
201 Hampton Lee Court  
Cary, NC 27513

**This year's Christmas Musical**, *Twas the Night Before: A Christmas Musical* by Roland Claire Jr., will be next Sunday, December 23rd. Rehearsal will take place from 10:30am to 11:30am **today**. On Saturday, December 22, dress rehearsal will be from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. Pizza will be provided. On Sunday, December 23rd, youth are to arrive at 8:30am to prepare for the performance.

### **2019 Altar Flowers**

For 2019, the cost of honoring or memorializing someone with altar flowers will remain at \$40. If you prefer not to be responsible for fresh flowers, you may request the church's silk flowers be used.

The sign-up chart for flowers for 2019 is available in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up as you want your name in the bulletin and indicate if the flowers are in honor or in memory of someone or a special event. Also, indicate if you are unable to serve on Altar Guild the week you sponsor flowers.

The following lists are 2019 dates that need to be filled for each category.

#### Flowers and Altar Guild:

July 28  
November 17

#### Fellowship:

July 14  
October 6  
October 13

#### Altar Guild

Jan. 27	July 21
May 12	Sept. 22
May 26	Nov. 3
July 14	Nov.10

**XYZ (eXtra Years of Zest) Luncheon ...** Tuesday, December 18th at 11:30am at Country Cupboard, Lewisburg. Please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you plan to attend. If you have a Messiah t-shirt, please wear it for this lunch. These luncheons are open to anyone who wants to join in, regardless of age.

### **Food Pantry Stats:**

On November 15th, our food pantry served 28 families or 76 people. Thank you to all of the volunteers who give of their time every month. Please bring **Holiday Desserts (for example: cake mix, cookie mix, pie filling, etc.)** before December 20th. If you wish to contribute monetarily, checks may be made payable to New Berlin Food Pantry. Of course, you may still donate other food items to the pantry if you find good sales on different items. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

**Movie Night** ... Messiah will be hosting its 3rd movie night of the year with the showing of Catherine Hardwicke's "The Nativity Story" on Thursday, December 20th at 6:00pm. Movie and popcorn will be free and open to the public. Unlike our previous showings, this movie is geared more to our Adult members but all family types are welcome.

**Quilters need sheets** ... Full-size flat sheets are needed for making quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief. If you have sheets to donate, please give them to Miriam Milbrand.

**Missionary Stockings** are being collected through the month of December. You may put your stocking or stocking money in the offering plate, marked "Missionary Stocking" or give it to any of the Lutheran Church Women. If you don't have a missionary stocking and would like one, please see Miriam Milbrand.



### **2019 Mission Trip Fundraiser—Grocery Cards**

Madison Styers, Kaylin Foss, Hannah Fee, Jillian Fee, Brian and Janine Fee are planning to go on a Mission Trip to Puerto Rico in June 2019. To help defray costs we are selling \$25 Weis cards and \$25 Wenger cards. The girls will get 5% of the Weis cards sold and 10% of the Wenger's cards sold. The cards will be available for purchase every Sunday during fellowship. Prayerfully consider helping our youth by purchasing these cards.

Dear Messiah Congregation,

We want to begin by simply saying THANK YOU to the member who so generously suggested the challenge of matching dollars to reduce the mortgage and THANK YOU to each and everyone of you who contributed to the debt reduction!! Your leadership in generosity contributes to the long standing success of our community of faith. Because of your commitment to the ministry of this congregation, we are an ever increasing effective witness to Jesus Christ. This congregation is grateful for each of you, and for the example you set for each of us on what it means to be a faithful steward.

Giving to others is such a joy. Being a partner in movements that change the lives of individuals and enrich our community is so satisfying. That is a secret we wish more people could discover for themselves! Our financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission, and for Messiah it was the reduction in our mortgage. We are especially proud of our church family unity which is something that has grown stronger in the last year.

Our God is a generous God – A God who has been revealed in Jesus as the One who deeply and passionately loves us. Our God is a God of transformation – who changes us, and through us, changes the world. Our financial challenge was an invitation to share the love and power of God with others.

As Ron Blatchley reports: At this point all contributions to the Building Fund since mid-August when we shared the personal challenge is (\$7041.00) and the \$5000.00 matching donation have been applied to the mortgage principal. The balance on the mortgage is now about \$90,434.00 For comparison, it was \$113,849.06 January 16, 2018.

Again, we thank you for your support in this effort. Giving in the manner that you do does not simply happen – it is the result of faith, trust, intentional choices, and a life of discipline. We join you in the hope of creating a culture of generosity that touches every person in our church. Giving is where we find the true meaning and purpose for our lives, a discovery you had already made.

In Christ, Messiah Church Council