

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street

Mifflintown, PA 17059

Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Brent Snyder
Ed Beaver
Linda Clark

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

April 1, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Fannie K., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Norm and Mary E., Al S., Emery K., Dave P., Harry A., Bill W., Clair G., George, Jamie and Luke D. and Ed and Ann B.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.

* SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Parents: We present Ava Lynn Miller to receive The Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P *Ava Lynn Miller do you desire to be baptized?*

Parents: I do.

P *In Christian love you have presented this child for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.*

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

Parents: Yes, by the help of God.

P *Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.*

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that she who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of she who is cleansed by this water and bring her forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

P *I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.*

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

Parents: Yes, by the help of God.

P *Do you believe in God the Father?*

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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

P Ava Lynn Miller, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

* PROCESSION WITH PALMS

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray,

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

* PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.
⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,
"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"
¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

* THANKSGIVING (raise your palms)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in His path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

* PROCESSIONAL

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of Christ. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!"

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Ava: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C Amen

P Ava Lynn Miller child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Parents: Amen

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the father and mother of this child. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you

have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Through Baptism God has made this new sister a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C We welcome Ava Lynn Miller into the Lord's family. We receive her as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The First Reading is from the 50th chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16 (responsively)

L *Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)*

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

ALL Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

The Second Reading is from the 2nd chapter of Philippians.

THE LESSON READS:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* LENTEN VERSE (remain seated)

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The passion story in Mark's gospel presents Jesus as one who dies abandoned by all. He shows himself to be the true Son of God by giving his life for those who have forsaken him.

* GOSPEL: Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

THE LESSON READS:

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²²Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Ah, Holy Jesus"

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

A brief silence.

P For all Christians who today raise palms and hear the story of your passion; for humility as we confess you as Lord; for our Jewish brothers and sisters who will soon celebrate Passover. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For wastelands and deep waters; for mountain peaks and valley floors; for ancient forests and high plains; for creeping things, swimming things, flying things, and running things. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the leaders of nations and tribes around the globe; for all who enact laws; for all who sit in judgment over others. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For those who have been deserted and their deserters; for victims of crime and for persons on death row; for those who are ill (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Norm and Mary Esborn, Al Smith, Emery Kirk, Dave Phelan, Harry Aurand, Bill Walters, and Clair Goshorn); for all grieving the loss of loved ones (especially); for all who care for the dying and the dead: nurses, hospice workers, coroners, and funeral directors. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For a spirit of welcome, as our congregation enters this Holy Week; for energy for our musicians and pastor, our readers and altar guild, and all preparing for the worship services this week. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We thank you for all the saints who cried "Hosanna" to the Lord in life and now rest in everlasting light. Bless us with their memory, and sustain us by your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

ANTHEM

"Ride On, King Jesus"

by Gilbert Martin

* SUNG OFFERTORY **(sung)**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

MEAL

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P With his Body and Blood, Jesus Christ delivers us from the power of darkness.

C and leads us into the Kingdom of God.

P Christ has humbled himself and become obedient unto death,

C even to death on a cross.

P He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities,

C and on him was the chastisement that made us whole.

P Here at his holy table he feeds us now with his Body and Blood.

C Glory to you, our Lord and Savior; with your Body and Blood you redeem the World.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

P 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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C Amen

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] **(all)**

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* 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, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)

* CLOSING HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor. **C Thanks be to God!**

* POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Sam Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barbara S. Geedey (Cup Communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the purple portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also 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 worshiping with us. We invite you to return. 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.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshiping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are

communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Andrea Ernest by the Max Ernest family.

TODAY OUR CHANCEL is decorated with palms as we observe Palm Sunday. We are also reliving the events of Holy Week that culminate with Christ's crucifixion. Therefore, our altar vases hold not only palms but also 5 red flowers reminding us of the five wounds of Christ (the nails in his hands and feet and the spear in his side) as he hung on the cross.

THE INDIVIDUAL PALMS are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Ira (Floss) Smith, who for many years donated the palm fronds on Palm Sunday.

THE PALM BRANCH ON THE WOODEN CROSS is given to the Glory of God by Pastor Esborn.

GOD CREATES A NEW SAINT TODAY through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We welcome Ava Lynn Miller, daughter of Jessica Haggas and Derek Miller.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

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

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – William S. Plummer, Bible Scholar: The bond of the Covenant is able to bear the weight of the believer's heaviest burden.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING needed to fund 2012 expenses is \$3,250. Offering received on 3/25/12 was \$2,178.

AN EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Sunday, April 8, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. All children are invited to participate. Please plan on meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

MESSIAH RECEIVES THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Church members that have various products with Thrivent can designate funds from Thrivent to be forwarded to Messiah. When we receive the funds from Thrivent, we receive a list of church members who have funds designated for Messiah and the total amount being remitted, but we do not receive information on amounts being designated by individuals. At present, those funds are being deposited into the church current account. If you have designated or will be designating any funds to be sent to Messiah from Thrivent and you want them to be used in any capacity other than the church current account, please contact church treasurer Ken Eyler at 436-8543 or via email at keyler@nmax.net and provide him with the

amount being sent by Thrivent and where you would like to have the funds applied. Upon receipt of that information, funds will be sent to the designated recipient.

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE from June, 2012 through June, 2013 will be completed soon. If you are not already on the Altar Guild and you would like to serve, please notify the church office. If you no longer wish to serve, again let the office know. All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in May. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE from June, 2012 through June, 2013 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a Lector (the lay person who reads the scripture lessons at the worship service) and you would like to do so, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All Lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in May. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship services.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES will begin on June 10, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. (Sunday School at 8:15 a.m. if classes are meeting) and end on September 2, 2012. Regular worship services will begin on September 9th.

EASTER LILIES to decorate the church on Easter Sunday, may be placed in memory or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God. Cost will be \$10.00 for a plant with 4 to 6 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.

NEW ADDRESS – Joe and Pat Forney have moved and their new address is: 30 Pebble Drive, Apt. 47, Mifflintown, PA 17059.

THANK YOU – Our sincere appreciation and thanks for all the phone calls, cards, thoughts and prayers during the illness and after our sister, Mary's, death. A special thank you to Pastor Esborn for his many visits and to the ladies who served the meal. All were greatly appreciated.

Sieber and Ona K. Stoner & families
Ray and Jane K. Miller & families

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to "The Needlers" for the beautiful flowers. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Ona Stoner

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader and Linda Leister and Cynthia Smith as hostesses.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE in the first 2012 project for Lutheran World Relief by the Messiah Women of the ELCA – FABRIC KITS – Sewing is a valuable skill, one that leads to a reliable income for many women and men. Fabric Kits supply vocational training programs with fabric for teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses. Include the following items in each Fabric Kit:

--Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and should be cut into pieces measuring 2¼ yards of 60" wide fabric, or 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or 4 yards of 36" wide fabric.

--Two spools of matching or neutral-colored general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each.

The following is an example of how the Fabric Kits are used by Lutheran World Relief – BUNDLES OF HOPE – Young women in West Africa face many challenges as they enter early adulthood. Learning marketable skills to support themselves and contribute to their families can often keep them from being married off at a young age. At the House of Hope for Disadvantaged Girls in Bamako, Mali, Fabric Kits are distributed to the 40 young women who live at the school and learn a number of skills—including tailoring—as a means of earning an income.

When choosing fabrics, consider bright colors and colorful prints. If you are not a shopper and want to participate in the project, we will be glad to do your shopping. Just give your donation to Cynthia Smith or Linda Leister.

Matthew 25:40; And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

COMMUNITY

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE – April 5, 2012, 7:00 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pastor Chris Mathiason preaching on the theme: "The Cross in Holy Week."

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – April 6, 2012, Messiah Lutheran Church. "The Seven Last Words."

12:00 noon, Welcome and Opening – Pastor William Esborn

12:05—12:30 p.m., Father forgive them – Pastor William Esborn

12:30—12:55 p.m., My God, My God – Pastor Martha Carlson

12:55—1:20 p.m., Today you will be with me – Pastor Charlie Stump

1:20—1:45 p.m., Mother, behold thy Son – Pastor Edd Carlson

1:45—2:10 p.m., I thirst – Pastor Gay Irwin

2:10—2:35 p.m., It is finished – Pastor Chris Mathiason

2:35—3:00 p.m., Into thy hands – Father William Weary

Closing and Sending – Pastor William Esborn

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – April 8, 2012, 6:30 a.m., Trinity Methodist Church. Pastor William Esborn preaching.

THE FINAL 2012 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will be Saturday, April 7th at 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House. Speaker will be Harold Oberholtzer.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, Carl Shoemaker Chapter, and Radio Reading Service (formally CARRS), will hold its annual Walk for Sight Walkathon on Saturday, May 19, 2012 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Walk will be a state-wide Walkathon again this year and will be a distance of approximately 6 miles. Registration will be from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Walk will begin and end at Messiah Lutheran Church. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be provided. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Your support for this annual event would be greatly appreciated. To obtain a sign-up sheet or for more information, call Geraldine Zeigler at 436-2746.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will be holding the following 2012 local blood drives:

- Friday, April 6 – Fayette Community Building, McAlisterville, 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Community Building.
- Thursday, April 12 – Tuscarora Grange, East Waterford, 1:00-7:00 p.m. Sponsored by Blairs Mills Lions Club.
- Saturday, April 14 – Tuscarora Valley Elementary School, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the school.

The need for all blood types is constant and ongoing. Appointment are encouraged. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs a head cook and team for the fourth Tuesday of the month (beginning in November). Also needed, at least two people to help assemble the meals for delivery on the second Friday of the month (needed immediately). Drivers are also needed for several routes. If you can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

SHAMPOO, DEODORANT & FIRST-AID SUPPLIES

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN – Malaria is a leading cause of death in Africa, claiming the life of a child every 45 seconds. In Liberia, malaria accounts for 30 percent of all deaths seen in hospitals. Since the launch of the ELCA Malaria Campaign last year, Lutheran churches in Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe are working to control this disease – distributing mosquito nets and medicine, as well as educating communities on prevention. However, we don't yet have the funds to begin this work in Liberia. Congregations are invited to join other congregations across America to take an offering for World Malaria Day on Sunday, April 29, 2012 and help make this dream a reality. Checks may also be mailed to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. Be sure to include "World Malaria Day" in the memo line.

NURSE'S NOTES – Walk away from the bunny!!!! Did you know that the typical solid 5½" chocolate Easter rabbit packs in a whopping 958 calories! If you are one of those who go for the ears first, you've consumed 49 calories. The head contains 82 calories, body 537, and legs 279 calories! Now consider this, it takes a brisk walk the entire length of a football field to burn off the calories in one M&M. Just saying ... you may want to read some labels before digging in!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -PALM SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
-7 p.m., NA meeting in Youth Area.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., Maundy Thursday Service at Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- Friday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.
-12 Noon—3 p.m., Good Friday Service at Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Mifflintown Men's Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House. Speaker, Harold Oberholtzer.
- Sunday:** -Easter Sunday.
-6:30 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service at Trinity Methodist Church.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt in Fellowship Hall.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.