

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
Louis Lynch
Ron Yorks
Christie Holderman

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

April 17, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Helen C., Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Arlene M., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., JoAnna C., Bob C., Ruth C., Linda R., Jesse K., Audrey M., Conner L., Karen G. and family, and George and Mary Lorraine H.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Today's liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Quickly the tone of the service changes as we meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. Because this story is so central to our faith, we hear Matthew's account of the passion today and John's version on Good Friday. Though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. This holy week will culminate in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.

* 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 Olivia Anne Reed to receive The Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P *Olivia Anne Reed 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 they who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors 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 Olivia Anne Reed, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

* 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: Matthew 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, ⁵"Tell the daughter of Zion, look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey." ⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in highest heaven!" ¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

* 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. 15 in bulletin

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your son from the power of sin and for raising him up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Olivia: 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 Olivia Anne Reed 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 Olivia Anne Reed 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 servant of the Lord expresses absolute confidence in his final vindication, despite the fact that he has been struck and spit upon. This characteristic of the servant played an important role in the early church's understanding of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

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.

¹²**Like 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.

¹⁴**But 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.

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

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

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

Paul uses an early Christian hymn to help us comprehend Jesus' obedient selflessness on the cross and how God has made Christ lord over all reality. The perspective of the cross becomes the way we rightly understand God, Christ, our own lives, and fellowship within the community of Christ.

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 ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

* PASSION HYMN

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

p. 16 in bulletin

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P We pray that the same mind be in your church as was in Christ Jesus; that we continue to bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray that the earth, the seas, the stars, and every living creature bow before you; that all human beings be humble stewards of the world we call home. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray that those with authority show great mercy; that war-weary nations be sustained by your word; that innocent victims not be condemned. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray that you feed the hungry; free the captives; clothe the naked; heal the sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Paul Woltman, JoAnna Cameron, Bob Cameron, Ruth Crist, Linda Rhine, Jesse Kint, Audrey Morral, Connor Lauver, Karen Goss and family, and George Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family); end torture; and turn our swords into plowshares. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray that all of us, who desert, deny, or betray you, be forgiven; that during this Holy Week, ears are opened to the life-giving story of your death and resurrection. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We pray for all those involved in the budget process for the state of PA, and for all of those who are affected. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Hold us in communion with the faithful witnesses who have gone before us, until that day when we join them at the feast that is to come. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

* 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

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The blessed, holy Trinity keep you in grace, lead you in light, and + give you peace.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemene”

p. 17 in bulletin

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

* POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Cynthia Smith

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Stoner

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) worshipping 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 Caden Geedey by Don and Barb Geedey.

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 Olivia Anne Reed, daughter of Matthew and Amy (Stuter) Reed.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Karen Goss and family on the death of her mother, Lois Noss, who died on April 10, 2011 at Hershey Medical Center. Please keep Karen and family in your prayers.

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 – Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811 – 1896), on the evil of sin and the role of the church: “There is no doubt that if the moral power of the church were brought up to the New Testament standpoint it is sufficient to put an end to all these (sins) as well as to slavery.”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Volunteers are needed to submit the weekly Messiah Herald article for the newspaper. There are currently four individuals who submit the article each week. Each person is responsible for 3 months of the year. It can be completed at home on a computer and submitted to The Times and Juniata Sentinel via email: thetimes@nmax.net and csmith@juniata-sentinel.com. Coverage is needed for the months of February, June and October. Anyone who is interested can call the church office at 436-6213.

AN EASTER EGG HUNT will be held this morning at 10:00 a.m. for all children through grade 6. Those planning on participating should meet in the Fellowship Hall.

SAVE THE DATE – Vacation Bible School “Acts of Kindness Camp” will be held the week of June 20—24 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Messiah. More information to follow.

EARLY SUMMER SERVICES FOR 2011 will begin on **Sunday, June 19th** and end on Sunday, September 4th. Worship service will begin at 9:15 a.m. with Sunday School class time being determined by the individual classes.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Property Committee meeting will be Monday, May 16, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. Note that this is a week early.

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE from June, 2011 through June, 2012 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 2011 through June 2012 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.

THE 2011 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or on our church website under the “publications” tab. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 15th for the early discount.

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.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, April 10, 2011: \$365.00. This brings the total received to \$56,827.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

MESSIAH CHOIR meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. for one hour – anthem practice run-through at 10:15 a.m. Sunday morning prior to church service. We are happy to welcome new voices—anytime!

A CONGREGATIONAL MEAL will be held following the worship service on Pentecost, June 12, 2011 honoring confirmands and graduating seniors. Please mark this date on your calendar.

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.

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LOVE PROJECTS FOR FAR AND NEAR – We are taught in Matthew 25:31-46 that we are to show our love by caring for those who are in need.

The “Far” project is Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The in-gathering items are:

- nail clippers with attached nail file or metal nail files (no emery boards)
- hand towels 15 or 16 inches wide and 23 or 25 inches in length
- wash cloths in dark colors

The “Near” project is items for the Ronald McDonald House at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. The list of needs are:

- anti-bacterial hand soap.
- laundry detergent
- socks of all sizes

--TRAVEL-SIZE (SMALL) PERSONAL CARE TOILETRIES

As of March 20, items collected for the:

- “Far Project” - Health Kits: we have 55 towel and wash cloth sets, 5 wash cloths that need towels, six nail clippers with file, and 2 toothbrushes.
- “Near Project” - Ronald McDonald House, Danville: 62 personal-size toiletries, 19 pairs of socks, 6 laundry detergents, and 1 fabric softener.

There is a recent appeal from Lutheran World Relief that **the need is great for Health Kits.**

Please place your love gifts on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

* * * * *

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for April: All non-perishable foods, shampoo, first-aid items and over the counter pain and cold medicine. Donations of cash and Weis or Schlegel's gift cards will also be gladly accepted.

2011 COMMUNITY HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

- April 21, 7 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity United Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor Chris Mathiason. Theme: “Forty Days of Repentance” (Jonah 3).
- April 22, 12 noon – 3 p.m. – Good Friday Service at Westminster United Presbyterian Church (Pastors of the community):

“The Seven Last Words”

12 noon, Welcome & Opening: Pastor Martha Carlson

12:05-12:30, “Father forgive them” Pastor Martha Carlson

12:30-12:55, "My God, my God" Pastor James Wooster
12:55-1:20, "Today you will be" Pastor William Esborn
1:20-1:45, "Mother, behold thy son" Pastor Gay Irwin
1:45-2:10, "I thirst" Pastor Chris Mathiason
2:10-2:35, "It is finished" Pastor Edd Carlson
2:35-3:00, "Into thy hands" Father William Weary
3:00 p.m., Closing & Sending: Pastor Martha Carlson

-April 22, 7 p.m. – Good Friday Tenebrae Service at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (service of Lessons and Prayers).

-April 24, 6:30 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor Martha Carlson. Theme: "Forty Days He Appeared to the Disciples" (Acts 1:1-8).

MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER MEETING AND BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. at The Stop. The speaker will be William Rohm.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, Carl Shoemaker Chapter, and Radio Reading Service, will hold its annual Walk For Sight Walkathon on Saturday, May 7, 2011 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 at Messiah Lutheran Church and end at Pennwood Development. 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 is holding the following blood drive:

Friday, April 22, 2011
Fayette Community Building
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
School St., McAlisterville

The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older, and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood every 56 days. Donors are asked to bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. To schedule an appointment in your area, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 Red Cross.

NURSE'S NOTES – Eyestrain and your computer screen – tips for getting relief:

- ~take eye breaks throughout the day by forcing your eyes to focus on something other than on your screen.
- ~change the pace – stand up and move around at least once every hour or so. Do other work, such as phone calls or filing, during this time.
- ~blink often to refresh your eyes – dry eyes can result from prolonged computer use; blinking produces tears that can help moisten and lubricate your eyes.
- ~consider using artificial teardrops. Available over-the-counter, artificial tears can help

relieve dry eyes (read the label carefully, especially if you wear contacts),
~Get appropriate eyewear. Make sure the prescription is the correct one for computer work. Most lenses are fitted for reading print and may not be optimal for computer work. Glasses or contact lenses designed specifically for computer work may be a worthwhile investment. (<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/eyestrain/WL00060>).

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Palm Sunday
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-7 p.m., Community Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity United Methodist Church.
- Friday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.
-12 noon—3 p.m., Community Good Friday Service at Westminster United Presbyterian Church.
-7 p.m., Community Good Friday Tenebrae Service at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at The Stop.
- Sunday:** -Easter Sunday.
-6:30 a.m., Community Easter Sunrise Service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.

