

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
Linda Bahorik
Linda Clark

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

April 3, 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., Avonel and Rick W., Paul W., Bob C., JoAnna C., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Helen K., Linda R., Jesse K., Steve B., Deb E., Tammy P., Joe T., Dave R., Mel L., Rick B., family of Ernie S., and the Hazard family.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. I was blind, but now I see, declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

MEMORY VERSE: Philippians 2:5

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the well of eternal life, the light of the world, the breath giving life to dry bones.

C Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P Gracious God,

C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen

* 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."**

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" p. 13 in bulletin

* GREETING

P The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (**C - spoken**)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**spoken in unison**)

P Let us pray...

C Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

FIRST READING: Psalm 119:9-11

The First Reading is from the 119th chapter of Psalm.

THE LESSON READS:

⁹How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. ¹⁰I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. ¹¹I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23 (responsively)

L *You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)*

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

ALL You anoint my head with oil.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:12-13

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

THE LESSON READS:

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* LENTEN VERSE (**sung**)

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

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

* GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born

entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "God, Whose Almighty Word"

p. 13 in bulletin

* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P 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 Let us pray for Christians around the world, made one in baptism; for ecumenical partnerships; and for our sisters and brothers in other faith communities. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the receding polar ice caps, and the disappearing glaciers; for polluted waterways and garbage-filled oceans; for the shrinking rain forests and the many creatures that call them home. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for kings and queens; for presidents and prime ministers; for legislatures and court systems; and for local governments, that all these may serve their peoples with justice. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for day-care providers and librarians; for business owners and artists; for social workers and custodians; for farmers and scientists; for the sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Avonel and Rick Waller, Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, JoAnna Cameron, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Ruth Crist, Sue Collins, Helen Coder, Helen Knox, Linda Rhine, Jesse Kint, Steve Bahorik, Joe Tusing, Dave Rickenbaugh, Mel Love, Deb Esborn,

Tammy Page, Rick Baney, family of Ernie Switzer, and George Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family), and for all who cannot find work. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the members of this assembly, and for any visitors among us, that we all might see and proclaim you as the light of the world. 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 Let us give thanks for the many witnesses, living and dead, who have served you in astonishing ways; and let us pray for all those who grieve for the dead. 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 "Everybody Ought To Know" "With All My Heart" Junior Choir

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

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

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

CLOSING CHIMES

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman

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.

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 – Alexis DeTocqueville (1805 – 1859): “Among the Anglo Americans there are some that profess Christian dogma because they believe them and others who do so because they are afraid to look as though they did not believe them.”

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.

CARD SHOWER – Sue Collins will be celebrating her birthday tomorrow, April 4, 2011. She has recently moved to Locust Grove and is adjusting to her new environment. It would be nice to remember her with a card to let her know we are thinking of her. The address is 69 Cottage Road, Room 315A, Mifflin, PA 17058.

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.

A GOSPEL CONCERT to benefit Juniata Agape Ministries (JAM House) will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church. Cost of admission will be \$5.00. Participating are:

Messenger Chris Ruble
Friends In Christ

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.

PHONE BOOK – If anyone has a recent (not current) Harrisburg phone directory they could donate to the church office, it would be greatly appreciated.

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.

THANK YOU to all who helped with the Lenten Tea on March 30. Thank you to all who donated food and paper items. Thank you to “The Needlers” for setting-up the tables, chairs, and table settings. Thank you to Margaret Guss for devotions and to Paula Frymoyer for the Bibly Study.

Barb S. Geedey, WELCA

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.

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MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader.

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 Schlegels's gift cards will also be gladly accepted.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday through April 15th, 2011 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Mifflintown. Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids 6—12 years old, and kids 5 and under FREE. Sponsored by St. Jude's Knights of Columbus.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at Westminster United Presbyterian Church, beginning with tea at 9:30 a.m. and the lesson at 10:00 a.m. Bible Study is on the book "Uphill Faith."

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church. Preacher will be Pastor Martha Carlson. Theme: Forty Days of Fasting. (Matthew 4).

MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER MEETING AND BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. at The Stop. The speaker will be Sam Leister, retired school administrator.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is holding the following blood drives:

Thursday, April 14, 2011	Friday, April 22, 2011
Tuscarora Grange	Fayette Community Building
1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. –6:00 p.m.
Main St., East Waterford	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 – To nap or not to nap? The answer....that depends. In the afternoon your energy levels are likely to dip naturally, and napping can improve alertness, performance, and memory. So if you're sleep deprived and circumstances allow, indulge! Your nap should start before 3 p.m. If you can't nap, try a quick brisk walk to refresh yourself.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.
- Monday:** -7 p.m., Purpose Driven Life Lenten Study in Library area, (Washington Avenue entrance).
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -9:30 a.m., Women's Lenten Tea at Westminster United Presbyterian Church.
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at The Stop.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.