

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Brent Snyder
Andrea Cameron
Randy Clark
Pat Fisher

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 11, 2013 – 9:15 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

SHUT-INS: Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Florence B.

OTHERS: Tammy W., Wilma P., Audrey L., Josh B., George and Lorraine H., Karl and Margaret G., Sarah D., Clara S., Justin T., Connor L., Carol D., Don L., Don and Arlene D., Darlene Y., Arielle D., Wib T., Sarah S., Bill S., Gwen S., Troy B., Rick F., Riley C., Kitty W., Allen H., Harry W., Esther L., Joan F., Rick V., Brian M. and family, and Michael S.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part today in assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253. A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that,

attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

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

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you 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 "How Great Thou Art"

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (sung)

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: C Lord, have mer-cy.

P Chri-ste, e-le-i-son: C Christ, have mer-cy.

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: C Lord, have mer-cy.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung)

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.**

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take
a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;**

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.**

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest; glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE **(spoken)**

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

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

P Let us pray...

C Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

WORD

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

FIRST READING

A reading from Genesis 15:1-6

THE LESSON READS:

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22 **(Responsively)**

L – Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.

²¹Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

ALL – Let your lovingkindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you.

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

SECOND READING

A reading from Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

THE LESSON READS:

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al-le-lu-ia. You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu—ia. Al-le-lu—ia.

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from

God and to give to others.

* GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] ³²"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus, Still Lead On"

* APOSTLES' CREED ('new version') **(all)**

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

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

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

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].

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Church In The Wildwood"

"Precious Memories"

Steve & Linda Bahorik

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

Let the vine-yards be fruit-full, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Confident in God's compassionate rule and enduring love, let us lift up the needs of the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P Invigorate the varied ministries in your church and encourage new avenues of praying and proclaiming, nurturing and teaching the good news to all in need of receiving it. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Nourish the vital web that connects all of creation, and open in us occasions for reflection and rejuvenation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Intercede where justice and peace are lacking, and raise up wise leaders who will regard the needs of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Assure the restless and those seeking answers; relieve the suffering of all who need healing or resolution (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Tammy Walton, Wilma Pyles, Dorothy Patterson, Audrey Landis, Josh Beitz, George and Lorraine Hazard, Karl and Margaret Guss, Sarah Dressler, Clara Schlegel, Justin Tabb, Connor Lauver, Carol Dasen, Don Lewis, Don and Arlene DeLauter, Darlene Yutzy, Arielle Dougherty, Wib Taylor, Sarah Shellenberger, Bill Stoner, Gwen Swisher, Reba Sigler, Troy Burd, Rick Fultz, Riley Cooper, Kitty Walters, Allen Hall, Harry Woltman, Esther Long, Joan Nace Foltz, Rick Varner, Brian Marshall and family, and Michael Slagle). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Accompany all who travel and are far from home; help us to welcome the visitors among us and learn from what they have to offer. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Draw us to the heavenly city prepared for those who have trusted in your promises (especially Clare, Abbess of San Damiano), and grant us the

assurance of all that we hope for. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of mercy, hear the cries of your people, and answer us according to your steadfast love; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

C Amen

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] **(all)**

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

* BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

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

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

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

(In hospitality and attempting to meet the needs of individuals, Messiah now offers gluten free communion hosts. If you wish to receive gluten free hosts, please come to the side where Pastor Esborn is serving).

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 Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Sam Leister

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 green 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 worshipping 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 memory of William C. Nipple by Edith Nipple and family.

WE WELCOME Steve and Linda Bahorik and thank them for providing our special music this morning.

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 – J. I. Packer, Canadian Christian Theologian (b. 1926): There is nothing irrational about believing that God who made the world can still intrude creatively into it.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN WILL BE UPDATED – The current Prayer Chain will be deactivated and a new one started. If you would like to receive emails for persons needing prayers, please contact Stacie Kint at diskint@nmax.net. A new phone chain will also be established. If you wish to receive phone calls for persons needing prayers, please contact Stacie at 436-6341.

MESSIAH IS IN NEED of a new treasurer to replace Ken Eyler after his many years of service. If you would like details, please contact Executive Director Guy Dillman or Pastor Esborn.

QUIET COMMUNION – Each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. (during June, July and August), a Quiet Communion Service will be held in the Jr. Church/Showers Class Room for those who are unable to attend on Sundays during the summer. Pastor Esborn, Jim Bahorik and Andrea Cameron will be presiding over these services.

EARLY SUMMER SERVICES will continue through September 1, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services will resume on September 8, 2013 with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

"THE NEEDLERS" will continue their sewing project on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in helping to make patch quilts for local and World Relief, please come and join us!

A BIBLE STUDY ON LUTHERANISM 101 will be held beginning on Sunday, September 15, 2013 at 9:15 a.m. and Monday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Sunday School Room near the Library. Material is from the Concordia Publishing House and the text for the class will cost \$20.00 and can be found at [LUTHERANISM 101 text Amazon](#) and in [Kindle Edition](#). Anyone wanting to join Messiah as their church home can use this course as their new member class.

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael "Doc" Johnston at 436-9209, or Cynthia Smith at 436-8512.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SOAP PROJECT: "***Rub-a-dub-dub, let's fill the tub!***" Women of the ELCA are collecting new bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of any brand soap in its original wrapping (boxes are accepted) for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the wash tub in the Adult Sunday School Room.

SEAFARERS PROJECT - Women of the ELCA are collecting items for the Seafarers Christmas gift set through October. Please place collected items below on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room:

- casual T-shirts, medium & large (no slogans, etc.)
- sweat shirts, large & extra-large
- 3 pairs of socks
- 1 heavy knit winter cap

COLLECTION OF ITEMS FOR SCHOOL KITS (July, August and September) – Now is the time to be watching for the start of school sales for items for our school kits at stores like Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and Target. Items needed:

- 4 (70 sheet) notebooks, 8 x 10½ wide or college ruled paper "no loose leaf paper"
- 1 (30 centimeter) ruler or one with cm. on one side and inches on the other
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt pair of scissors
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2½" eraser

Place any items on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you would rather give money for these items, you may give it to Cynthia Smith or any other WELCA member.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST

FRESH PRODUCE AND ANY OTHER FOODS,
BABY WASH, DIAPER RASH OINTMENT, WIPES, DIAPERS (SIZES 4-6), PULL-UPS (ALL SIZES),
PAPER PRODUCTS (PAPER TOWELS, TOILET PAPER, AND TISSUES)

WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL STORES

PLASTIC AND PAPER GROCERY BAGS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

PHONE: 436-9718 – CONTACT: KATHY QUEITZSCH
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 44, 114 N. MAIN ST., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
HOURS: MON/WED 2:00-6:00 PM, SAT 9:00-1:00

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – We would like to invite you to become a member of our volunteer team at Abundant Blessings. We are looking for volunteers in all departments of the store. For example we could use your love for dishes and house ware items as we clean, price and get them ready for display. If you like toys, we could use you in this area. We are also in need of more cashiers. You meet many wonderful people and get to practice your math skills. Please call us at 436-6947. We would be happy to help you find your area of expertise.

Gwyn Martin, Manager

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer drivers, cooks and people to help assemble meals. If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

LONGWOOD GARDENS BUS TRIP – Join the Mifflin County Garden Club and fellow garden lovers as we take a day trip to one of the most beautiful public display gardens in the country! Bus will depart on Friday, August 16, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. from Mifflin County Library, Lewistown, and arrive at Longwood Gardens between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Lighted Fountain Show at dusk and return to Mifflin County Library Midnight or later. Cost is \$43.00 per person and includes bus trip and admission to gardens with Longwood Story Tour. Lunch/Dinner is on your own. We suggest packing a bag lunch to eat on the bus as we arrive at the gardens. Dinner at the Terrace Restaurant in the gardens (estimate \$10-\$15). Money for Gift Shop is optional. Scooter rental is available for \$15 a day on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress for all weather variables. Call Maggie Shafferman to sign-up for the trip at 527-4234 or 717-269-9617 or email at: huntersrunnursery@embarqmail.com

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Summer Worship/Communion.
-Pastor Esborn away Aug. 11-17.

Monday: -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday: -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday: -OFFICE CLOSED (during July & August).
-6:30 p.m., Quiet Communion in Jr. Church Room.

Thursday: -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Summer Worship/Communion.