

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
Andrea Cameron
Linda Clark

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 13, 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., Kevin R., Mary Martha G., Avonel and Rick W., Paul W., Bob C., JoAnna C., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Arlene K., Helen K., Steve W., Linda R., Arlene D., Jesse K., Dorothy C., and George, & Mary Lorraine H. and family.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear or retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spread out the heavens and the earth, who gives light and breath to the nations, who makes all things new.

C Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P Holy and healing God,

C we confess that we have fallen short of the life you desire for us. We choose our priorities over your commandments. We divide the body of Christ. The earth groans under our demands. Have mercy, O God. Restore us and all things to health, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.
Amen

P Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved." You belong to Christ, and through the power of the cross + your sins are all forgiven. God is faithful and will strengthen you, that your light may shine before others, that you may be God's holy people in the world.

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 All Our Grief"

* GREETING

P The grace of God in Christ Jesus, poured out in every gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (**C - sung**)

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

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (**sung**)

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

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

P *Let us pray...*

C **O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

The Lord sets before the people of God a clear choice. Life and prosperity will come to the faithful; loss of the land will be the consequence of disobedience. Choosing life entails loving the Lord and holding fast to him. Life in God's presence presupposes the promise made to the ancestors.

FIRST READING

A reading from Deuteronomy 30:15-20

THE LESSON READS:

[Moses said to the people:] ¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:1-8 (responsively)

L *Happy are they who follow the teaching of the LORD. (Ps. 119:1)*

¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the LORD!

²**Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**

³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

⁴You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.

⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

⁶Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.

⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

⁸I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.

ALL Happy are they who follow the teaching of the LORD.

Human leaders in the church are not the ones who control ministry. Rather they are fellow workers who belong to God, the one who truly controls and continuously empowers the ministry of the church.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

THE LESSON READS:

Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

- * THE VERSE (sung to the tune of "Rise, O Children of Salvation")
Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to embrace standards of righteousness that exceed legal requirements and traditional expectations.

- * GOSPEL: Matthew 5:21-37

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²¹You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You

shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

³¹It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"

* 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

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

"In A Quiet Place"

by Heckler and McGlohon

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')

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 Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

C Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As God's beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P For the people of God, that they may walk in your ways and observe your commandments. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For nations, communities, and families that are estranged by conflict or violence, and for the gift of reconciliation and mutual forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the earth and its resources, that by choosing life our decisions will honor the welfare of generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For victims of sexual violence; for those affected by divorce; for those living with addiction, anger, fear, or illness (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Kevin Reynolds, Mary Martha Gilbert, Avonel and Rick Waller, Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, JoAnna Cameron, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Ruth Crist, Sue Collins, Helen Coder, Arlene Kint, Helen Knox, Steve Welshonse, Linda Rhine, Arlene DeLauter, Jesse Kint, Dorothy Cleck, and George and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family), that they may know your healing love. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For this community of faith, that it may be a place of safety, support, integrity, and encouragement. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P For all your saints who served you in life and now rest from their labors, that you bring us all to the joy of everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive our prayers and hopes, God of mercy and justice, for we pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world.

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

* BLESSING

P God the Father, the Majestic Glory; God the Son, the Morning Star; and God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, bless you and + grant you peace.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus, We Are Gathered"

p. 16 in bulletin

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG (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 O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 death, we cry out Amen. [**Amen.**] Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. [**Amen.**] Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. [**Amen.**]

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

C Amen.

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 Ever-faithful God, you have taken us again into your arms and nourished us as your dear children. Lead us and guide us, that we may share our bread and your healing light with those who hunger and thirst, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Ed Beaver

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barbara S. Geedey

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 Jessie S. Gaul by Ralph and Libby Gaul and family.

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 – Martin Sheen, Actor: “The bottom line is, I don’t know anything. I *believe* a lot of things. Do they work? I haven’t really had enough faith to move that mountain. There’s that old saying, ‘We shouldn’t be critical of Christianity. We’ve never tried it.’ “

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

FOLDING CHAIRS – Messiah members took most of the old folding chairs. The several that were left over were taken to the nursing home in Richfield. Thanks for helping to clear out a storage area and making the stored chairs useful again.

MESSIAH SIGNS – If you haven’t noticed please check out the newly painted wooden Messiah signs on the outside of the west and north sides of the church. They were repainted by Jay Swartz at a cost of \$450.00. However, we received \$225.00 from a Messiah member toward the cost of that project, and it is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who continue to support Messiah’s many projects.

FUEL OIL USAGE – The following list indicates a rather large reduction in the amount of fuel oil we use each year, starting in October of 2008 when McClures were first hired to perform much-needed repairs on the furnace. Along with making the furnace much more efficient, we lowered the temperatures in our buildings. In the past year Fred Gross also worked many hours on the furnace to promote better efficiency. We still need to replace two broken steam traps which will be done soon. The Property Committee is so grateful for all the

support from the congregation in our endeavor to significantly cut down on fuel oil expenses.

2007 – 6500 gallons (average cost per gallon - \$2.29)

2008 – 6315 gallons (average cost per gallon - \$2.50)

2009 – 4406 gallons (average cost per gallon - \$2.19)

2010 – 4707 gallons (average cost per gallon - \$2.58)

RECEIVED IN THE STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, February 6, 2011: \$150.00. This brings the total received to \$54,114.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

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.

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.

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

FOR UPCOMING VOTERS' ASSEMBLY – Several years ago when Men of Messiah decided to disband, the group gave the church treasurer about \$950 that was in their treasury. The treasurer put the funds into an interest bearing account in the event the group decided to be active at a later time. Recently it was mentioned to some of the former members that the funds were in this account and it was proposed that those funds be used towards the Stained Glass Fund debt. There will be an item in the Voters' Assembly to approve the transfer of these funds which now total \$1,027.46 to the Stained Glass Fund. If anyone has other suggestions for use of these funds, please attend the Voters' Assembly on Sunday, February 20, 2011 following the worship service.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD! Messiah's adult choir is in need of singers!! If you can sing in the shower, if you can sing in the car, if you can sing yourself to sleep at night, please consider joining the choir! If you can only sing on certain Sundays or for certain other services, or can join us for an entire “season,” such as the Easter season, please consider joining the choir! We meet each Wednesday evening in the Alice Rearick Room from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. If you are interested and would like to enjoy the music, fun, and fellowship the choir brings to Messiah, please talk to any choir member, with our director, Andrea Cameron, or just show up for rehearsal on Wednesday evening! We look forward to hearing from you—literally!

THANK YOU so much to Messiah for the donation of the chairs to Richfield Senior Living and Rehabilitation Center. The staff and residents are very grateful for your kindness.

Sincerely,
Julie Berryman
Business Office Manager

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.

LOVE PROJECT OF MESSIAH WOMEN – We are taught in Matthew 25:31-46 that we are to show our love by caring for those who are in need. We have chosen as our first project of 2011 to assemble Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. All we need to do is listen to the news about the upheavals in lives that people of the world experience from all sorts of disasters. For February we are asking for hand towels, in the size of 15" or 16" or 16" x 23" or 25" and wash cloths in dark colors. Please place your love gifts on the blue table in the Sunday School Room. We have not set a goal, but last year we were able to put together 141 kits.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for February: Any non-perishable foods; baby supplies (diapers [sizes 3-6], pull-ups [all sizes], baby shampoo, baby lotion, diaper rash ointment, and wipes.

A TIME OF PRAYER AND BLESSING FOR THE JAM HOUSE will be held on Sunday, February 20, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the JAM House. We invite you to join us in praying for this ministry, its residents, staff and board members. The JAM House is a home with a Christian environment for mentally challenged adults of Juniata County. Presently, there are 4 very special adults residing at the JAM House with room for up to 7. Our purpose is to enhance the lives of these individuals by providing a loving, caring, safe, and Christian environment for them, and to help them reach their full potential. We are very much in need of prayer, volunteers, material items, and financial support. For more information, call 436-2163.

NURSE'S NOTES – Certain chronic diseases may make one more prone to developing hypothermia:

- People with serious mental illnesses, developmental or cognitive disabilities who may not hear temperature or weather advisory warnings broadcast on TV or radio or may not fully recognize the significance of the cold weather warnings or who may wander are at serious risk of hypothermia and frostbite.
- Disorders of the body's hormone system such as low thyroid (hypothyroidism).
- Any condition that interferes with the normal flow of blood such as diabetes.
- Skin problems, such as psoriasis, cause your body to lose more heat than normal. Visit your doctor regularly to help keep any illness under control, and try to stay away from cold places.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -9:30—11:30 a.m., Headstart Program in Youth Area.
-1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-Voters' Assembly following worship service.