

# 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  
Carole Nace  
Andrea Cameron  
Sandy Pines

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT February 26, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Norm and Mary E., Al S., Gary B., Eddie Kay G., Fay M., Dorothy S., Emery K., and Dave P.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Denton

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

*On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.*

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.*

**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

"Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

\* GREETING

*P The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy of God, and the unity 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 Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**WORD**

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

The First Reading is from the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10 (responsively)

L *Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (Ps. 25:10)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

**ALL Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

The Second Reading is from the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter of 1 Peter.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also

he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you — not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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.

\* GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

*P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.*

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

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

*A brief silence.*

*P We pray for the church in this season of Lent; for our denomination and our full-communion partners; for our congregation and other congregations in our community (especially); for those persons preparing for baptism (especially). Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P We pray for the wild beasts, the birds, the domestic animals, and every living creature; for the wilderness areas on this continent; for rain, enough but not too much. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P We pray for those countries, cities, and villages that have been ravaged by floods (especially); for those who provide leadership in times of chaos; for disaster relief workers and aid organizations. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P We pray for people in prison; for those who live in long-term care facilities (especially); for the homeless, the sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], also Ryan Keresey, Norm and Mary Esborn, Al Smith, Gary Beward, Eddie Kay Gill, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Smith, Emery Kirk and Dave Phelan); for the dying, and those who will die today. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P We pray for this community; for single people; for married couples, and those who are divorced; for widows and widowers; for children and youth; for those who come here in need of good news. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P We thank you for the everlasting covenant you have made with all flesh, and We remember our ancestors and loved ones, who know the fulfillment of your Promises (especially). Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

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

**C Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"God So Loved the World"

Stainer

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

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

\* DISMISSAL

*P Go in peace. Remember the poor.*

**C Thanks be to God!**

CLOSING CHIMES

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barbara S. Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Clark

**WELCOME**

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

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also in the guest book provided in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us. We invite you to return. Visitors are invited to commune with us if they are baptized and, if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshiping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of the birthday of Andrea Ernest by the Max Ernest 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 – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop of Hippo (354 – 430): God is more anxious to bestow his blessings on us than we are to receive them.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16, 2012 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING needed to fund 2012 expenses is \$3,250. Offering received on 2/19/12 was \$2,382.

A FELLOWSHIP/GAME DAY will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. There will be a light lunch followed by games for all ages.

THE 2012 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee.



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.

THANKS TO EVERYONE for your prayers, cards, and concerns after the death of my sister, during my hospitalization, and since my return home. The flowers from the altar are still beautiful and the visits from Pastor Bill were appreciated.

Dorothy Smith (& family)

### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

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

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area, with the History of the group being discussed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **COMMUNITY**

THE NEXT COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will be on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Pastor Martha Carlson will be preaching on the theme "The Cross in Christmas."

2012 WOMEN'S LENTEN TEAS – The Women's Community Lenten Teas will begin on February 22, 2012. This year's study will be from the book "Words of Life from the Cross." Fellowship time is 9:30 a.m. followed by the program at 10:00 a.m. Locations are listed below:

February 29, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
March 7, Trinity Methodist Church  
March 14, St. Jude's Catholic Church  
March 21, Messiah Lutheran Church  
March 28, Westminster Presbyterian Church

2012 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS will begin on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House. Speakers are listed below:

March 3, Pastor Terry Smith  
March 10, James Bahorik  
March 17, Pastor Ken Longfield  
March 24, Pastor Gary Krabill  
March 31, Pastor Edd Carlson  
April 7, Harold Oberholtzer

A SPAGHETTI SUPPER will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church to benefit the Alzheimers Association. The meal will include all-you-can-eat spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert. Cost will be \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 3-12, and children under 3 are FREE. Donations of spaghetti sauce or monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. Tickets will be available at the door.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday from February 17 until March 30, 2012 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church. Cost is \$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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY – BABY CARE PRODUCTS, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, DISH SOAP, ALL-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT.

NURSE'S NOTES – **Sell your old cell!** Instead of letting your old phone collect dust in a drawer, check out [ExchangeMyPhone.com](http://ExchangeMyPhone.com) and get an instant price quote for it. They will pay you the phone's current cash value, if it has one. If it doesn't, they'll pay you to ship it to them, and then they'll scrap it responsibly through WeRecycle.

## **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -First Sunday in Lent.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:30 a.m., Women's Community Lenten Tea at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.  
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church.  
-Choir rehearsal following service.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.  
-7 p.m., Thrivent Meeting in Library.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing group in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Mifflintown Men's Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House. Speaker, Pastor Terry Smith.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.  
-11:30 a.m., Game Day event in Fellowship Hall.