

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Louis Lynch
Ron Yorks
Linda Clark

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 27, 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., George, & Mary Lorraine H. and family., and family of Tad T.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Christians recognize that the source of all good things is the God who feeds the birds and clothes the grass of the field. We rejoice that we are held in the palm of God's hand. God cannot forget us any more than a woman could forget her nursing child. Nourished at the Lord's table, we share these gifts with those who are anxious, hungry, poor, or in any kind of need.

* 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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

* 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 **God of tender care, like a mother, like a father, you never forget your children, and you know already what we need. In all our anxiety give us trusting and faithful hearts, that in confidence we may embody the peace and justice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

The Lord shows motherly compassion for God's suffering people. Even if a nursing mother could under rare circumstances forget her child, God will never forget us.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 49:8-16a

THE LESSON READS:

⁸Thus says the LORD: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; ⁹saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; ¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. ¹¹And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. ¹²Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene. ¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. ¹⁴But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, my LORD has forgotten me." ¹⁵Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 131 (responsively)

L *Like a child upon its mother's breast, my soul is quieted within me. (Ps. 131:2)*

¹O LORD, I am not proud; I have no haughty looks. I do not occupy myself with great matters, or with things that are too hard for me.

²But I still my soul and make it quiet, like a child upon its mother's breast; my soul is quieted within me.

³O Israel, wait upon the LORD, from this time forth forevermore.

ALL Like a child upon its mother's breast, my soul is quieted within me.

We are servants and stewards of Christ whose primary responsibility is to be trustworthy. We do not stand over others as their judge, but we stand under Christ to whom we will be held accountable.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

THE LESSON READS:

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.

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 encourages his followers to trust in God rather than material wealth.

- * GOSPEL: Matthew 6:24-34

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ²⁴"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about

clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'" ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Now Thank We All Our God"

* 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 "As This Broken Bread"

by Wayne Wold

* 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 That the baptized may be servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries we celebrate in this assembly. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That the leaders of nations, states, cities, and towns extend compassionate care to those without food, clothing, or shelter. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That our gratitude for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field lead us to treasure each day, care for the earth, and seek the welfare of generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That like a patient mother you comfort all those who suffer with illness, grief, worry, or anxiety (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, Deb Esborn, Tammy Page, George and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family, and family of Tad Treaster). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That as we strive first for your kingdom, you feed us at your bountiful table and deepen our faith in your provident care. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P That you gather us with all your holy ones, who treasured the riches of your grace and whose names are inscribed on the palms of your hands. 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)

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 – Cynthia Smith

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 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 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Messiah's Choir.

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 – D. L. Moody 1837 – 1899: “Some day you will read in the papers that D. L. Moody is dead. Don't believe a word of it. At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now.”

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.

KITCHEN HOUSECLEANING – All of the church kitchen cupboards, refrigerator, stove etc. were recently housecleaned with many hours of outside help at no cost to the church. The non-member workers were compensated for their hours by several Messiah members.

CHILDREN'S TABLE – A white homemade children's table was recently donated to the DeLauter Center. The table hadn't been used and has been in storage for many years. The Center was grateful for the donation and will put the table to good use.

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.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, February 20, 2011: \$600.00. This brings the total received to \$54,739.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

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

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!

THE MARCH 2011 “Messiah Herald” is now online! Go to our church website at www.mlc-mifflintown.org, click on the “Publications” tab and click on the “March 2011 Newsletter” button. Hard copies are also available in the church office, sanctuary, kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall.

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 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 for March is nail clippers with attached nail file or metal nail files (no emery boards). We will also continue to collect hand towels 15 or 16 inches wide and 23 or 25 inches in length and wash cloths in dark colors. As of Sunday, we have 26 towels and 26 wash clothes. Please place your gifts of love on the blue table in the Sunday School room.

The “Near” project is items for the Ronald McDonald House at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

The Upper Susquehanna Women of the ELCA Convention is July 23, 2011 at Camp Mt. Luther. There is always an opportunity for a love project in-gathering of material items. From the list of needs for the Ronald McDonald House, we have chosen to gather anti-bacterial hand soap, laundry detergent, socks of all sizes and **TRAVEL-SIZE (SMALL) PERSONAL CARE TOILETRIES**. Please place these gifts of love on the blue table in the Sunday School room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Claire Mummah as devotional leader and Margaret Guss as hostess.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for March: Any non-perishable foods, toilet paper, facial tissues, and paper towels. 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 beginning March 4th 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.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is holding blood drives at the following locations:

Wednesday, March 2 nd Juniata Mennonite School 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. 289 Leonard Hill Road, McAlisterville	Monday, March 21 st Emmanuel Lutheran Church 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. 19 N. Mill Street, Thompsettown
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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. Most people can safely donate every 56 days. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. Thank you for helping to save lives.

NURSE'S NOTES – Never let your dog off the leash on snow or ice, especially during a snowstorm – dogs can lose their sent and easily become lost. More dogs are lost during the winter than during any other season, so make sure yours always wears ID tags.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-Special offering collected for the Kay Yow Fund and the Penn State Lady Lions "Pink Zone" game.
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -March 2—March 10, Pastor Esborn on vacation.
-7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-7 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -Fellowship Hall reserved (afternoon).
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.