

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Sam Leister
Linda Clark

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 3, 2013 – 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., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Jesse K., Susan M., Tammy W., Lura A., Pat and Joe F., Dan C., Betty K., Wilma P., Patty S., Destiny D., Margaret B., Lucy C., Neil F., and Martha S.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

C Amen

P Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Mighty and loving God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We seek our own way. We divide the body of Christ. In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us. Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts, and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love. Amen

P Hear the voice of Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to proclaim release to the captives." In the name of + Jesus Christ, I proclaim to you that your sins are forgiven and you are released. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

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 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

* GREETING

P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (spoken responsively)

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 (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 and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love;
and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word in the midst of the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

FIRST READING

A reading from Jeremiah 1:4-10

THE LESSON READS:

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 71:1-6 (responsively)

L *From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)*

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

²In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the

oppressor.

⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, my confidence since I was young.

⁶I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.

ALL From my mother's womb you have been my strength.

Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

THE LESSON READS:

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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.

People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

* GOSPEL: Luke 4:21-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

* 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

Junior Choir

* 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 Called by the Holy Spirit into relationship with a loving God, we pray for the church, all in need, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

P In you, O God, your church takes refuge. Protect those throughout the world who worship you despite the threat of persecution and death. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let your whole creation praise you, O God. Restore the earth to the goodness that you created and that we too often take for granted. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Rescue those who call upon you, O God. Call the leaders of the world's nations to be just and merciful and to walk in your ways. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Comfort the grieving, O God, provide for the homeless and the unemployed, and give healing to those ill or in pain (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresev, Jesse Kint, Susan Minick, Tammy Walton, Betty Karstetter, Lura Aughey, Wilma Pyles, Joe and Pat Forney, Dan Conner, Marian Gross, Patty Shearer, Destiny Devlin, Margaret Bryner, Lucy Cargill Neil Fisher and Martha Stouffer). Help us to put our trust in you in all things. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Call us, O God, to be a fortress for your people. Inspire this congregation to act against injustice and speak out against wickedness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Sustain us, O God, until we gather with all your saints from every time and place in your eternal protection (especially Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your loving hands, gracious God, we place ourselves and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

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

- * CLOSING HYMN "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

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.

(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 We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Ron Yorks

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman (cup communion – Clint and Jamie Miller)

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.

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 – Harry Lathrop Reed, Christian Thinker: Rightness is not easy of definition, but everybody knows what it is.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2013 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES by Augsburg Fortress are available in the church office for anyone who would like one. Cost is \$24.00 each.

THE NEXT VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING will be held on Sunday, February 17, 2013 following the worship service. Business: quarterly reports of the boards and the 2012 audit.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church today, Super Bowl Sunday. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "help our neighbors" by dropping a dollar in the soup pot.

THE 2013 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or online at www.campmountluther.org (please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor). Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1st for the early discount.

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 7 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.

THE FEBRUARY 2013 "MESSIAH HERALD" is now available online. Go to the church website at www.mlcmiffrintown.org, click on the "Publications" tab and click on the "February 2013 Newsletter" button. Hard copies are available in the church office, sanctuary, kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and are not already on the list, please send your email address to stclair@embargmail.com.

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.

PERSONAL CARE KITS are the project for the Women of the ELCA for the beginning of 2013. Needed for the project are the following items:

- dark colored bath towels approximately (52 x 27),
- adult toothbrushes (can be large packages of more than 1)
- sturdy combs with wide teeth

Please donate as many items as you are able. You can share God's grace and love by providing simple comfort, starting with a bath! Soap is always needed too! (any brand in original wrapping).

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

COMMUNITY

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).

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEAS will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. This year's study will be from the book "Give Up Something BAD for Lent." Fellowship time is 9:30 a.m. followed by the program at 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church. Pastor Martha Carlson will be preaching on the theme "Ash Wednesday."

MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS will begin on Saturday, February 16, 2013, 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House with Pastor Esborn as the speaker.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday beginning February 8th until March 22nd 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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES;

OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES.

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

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Souper Bowl Sunday collection for the needy.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Friday:** -4—7 p.m., Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church