

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
June Bricker
Cynthia Smith
Nate Swailes & Gavin Kint
Sandy Pines

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Acolytes
Altar Guild

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2014 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

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

OTHERS: Tammy W., Josh B., Karl and Margaret G., Sarah S., Jo-Anne B., Matt H., Chris A., Rick W., Avonel W., Clark S., Bob S., Jesse K., Billy H., Betty K., Dutch W., Mary Ann Z., Charlene A., Robert R., Rick V., Sally and Ray M., Fred M., Bonita G., Kim S., Victoria R., Allison G., Max E., Angie G., Anna D., Craig C., Carol S.

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 of 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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen

P Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Holy and faithful God,

C we so often choose our own way instead of yours. We think we can evade your commandments. We have spoken in ways that kill, strayed with our hearts, betrayed friends, and hated enemies. We have broken our promises. Search us deeply and create us anew. Lift the heavy burden of our sin and free us to follow your way of life. Amen

P "Call upon me," says the Lord, "and I will answer." Our God has come among us to loose every bond and set us free from all that weighs us down. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of + Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.

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

"Jesus, We Are Gathered"

* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God 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 **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 and holding fast to the Lord. 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:

And so, 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:] ²¹"You 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. ²⁷"You 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. ³¹"It 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. ³³"Again, 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

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

* 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].

* 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 God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Guided by the light of Christ, who has been made known to the nations, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

P God, you are faithful all the time. Show us the way to live faithfully as your church on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You give growth to all living things. Provide snow and rain in their season, and lift up all who plant and till your earth. Lord, in your mercy

C hear our prayer.

P Help the leaders of the world to put aside jealousy and quarreling so that we see your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Reconcile families with one another and give comfort to those who mourn. Send healing to those who are ill or in pain (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Tammy Walton, Dorothy Patterson, Josh Beitz, Karl and Margaret Guss, Sarah Shellenberger, Jo-Anne Brooks, Matt Hutchinson, Marian Gross, Chris Albright, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonell Waller, Clark Shirk, Bob St. Clair, Sr., Jesse Kint, Billy Holderman, Betty Karstetter, Dutch Walters, Mary Ann Zook, Charlene Aughey, Robert Reynolds, Rick Varner, Sally and Ray Miller, Fred Marshall, Bonita Gilson, Kim Shearer, Victoria Ricedorf, Allison Garver, Max Ernest, Angie Goss, Anna Dullea, Craig Cisney, and Carol Spigelmyer). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Continue to raise up leaders in this and every community of faith so that your word will be shared and all will know life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Holy Spirit, comfort and sustain us until we gather with all the saints around the throne of God. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, 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 May the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

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.

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 Lord, it is good for us to be here, for we have tasted your glory in this holy meal. Continue your goodness as we go out from here. Open our eyes to see your face shining in every person, and send us to be your servants in every place, for you are the life and light of all, both now and forever.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is your light.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Sam Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Sandy Pines

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Zane Hazard and Emma Hazard

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.

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 – Henry Law, Christian Thinker: In Christ Jesus heaven meets earth and earth ascends to heaven.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net. If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

THRIVENT CHOICE – Thank you to everyone at Messiah who has designated choice dollars to Messiah. If you are a Thrivent member and have questions about Thrivent Choice please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net or 436-6341.

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES with updated addresses and phone numbers are now available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on June, 20-21 2014 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

THE 2014 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or you may register 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 to avoid a late fee.

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

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4oz. to 5oz., 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 Adult Sunday School Room.

THE FIRST PROJECT THIS YEAR for Messiah Women of The ELCA for Lutheran World Relief will be baby care kits. Items needed are:

- 2 (6-24 months) lightweight cotton T-shirts
- 2 longer short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets—medium weight cotton or flannel, crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn (up to 52" square)
- 4 cloth diapers (flat fold preferred)
- 1 jacket, sweater (with buttons or ties down front), or sweatshirt with a hood, or (include a baby cap)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel (dark color recommended)
- 2 bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins

Place items on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WELCA PROJECT FOR FRIENDS OF PINE RIDGE RESERVATION FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP – The biggest need right now is for the reservation's foster care agency, LOWO. They typically have about 450 kids in their system and unfortunately LOWO has no budget to provide clothing, bedding or other supplies for the children, most of whom arrive with only what they are wearing. They serve children from infant to teens so pretty much anything a child can wear, they can use (except preemie sizes for the baby items which are not needed). Toddler pants, teen p-j bottoms, sleepwear for all ages, sun dresses and shorts during the summer, shirts and blouses, diaper bags, crib quilts, stuffed toys, bibs, cute colorful pillowcases, twin size bed sheets, crib sheets, Pack 'n Play size sheets, etc. Sewn tote bags are also always needed so the kids don't have to use plastic trash bags to carry around their few belongings. For those who knit or crochet, crib and smaller size baby blankets or

afghans, slippers, cute scarves for the teens, mittens for the little ones, baby hats, booties, bunting, etc. would be welcome. Any colors and fibers and fabrics will work for any of the items that are made. The only restriction is not to send anything with an owl print as owls are a symbol of death in the Lakota culture. Place items on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Any questions, contact Barb S. Geedey, Linda Leister, Cynthia Smith, or Marilyn MaCoy.

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).

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY FEBRUARY UPDATE – Here at the Juniata County Food Pantry we are so thankful for all who shared their abundance with us throughout November and December. Thanks to the generosity of our community and our partnership with local branches of Kiwanis, the Boy Scouts, Salvation Army and others, we were able to provide over 400 families with both a Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal in 2013. Unfortunately, the excitement of the “giving months” has passed and donations have slowed almost to a standstill. And hunger is not reserved to only two months a year. The Food Pantry relies totally on contributions by the community to continue serving over 1000 Juniata County residents in poverty. Please help us help them! In December 2013, the Food Pantry served 375 families – 1080 of your neighbors! We thank River Church for sending volunteers for the month of December. If you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; DISH SOAP,
ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT

**P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, 17059
Phone # 717-436-9718, Hours: Mon. & Wed. 2-6, Sat. 9-1**

Our vestibule is open to receive donations 24 hours a day! Cash or gift card donations may be deposited through the mail slot.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Bible Study.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-6 p.m., Youth archery workshop in Fellowship Hall.
- Monday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.
-NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
-7 p.m., Bible Study in Library.
-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.
- Friday:** -6-9 p.m., Square & Line Dancing in Fellowship Hall (caller: Leslie Herb).
Everyone welcome!
- Saturday:** -10 a.m., Baptismal/New Member Class in Library
-3—8 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.
- Sunday:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Bible Study.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-1—8 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.