

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
Linda Leister
Kay Varner (Clint & Jamie Miller – Cup Communion)

Pastor
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD January 13, 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., Sarah D., Gene R., Jesse K., Susan M., Tammy W., Josh B., Matt H., Lura A., Herbert B., Martin E., Pat and Joe F., Dan C., Florence B., Betty K., Jeanette S., Patty S., Destiny D., Margaret B., and family of Arthur A.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Baptism of Our Lord cannot help but recall our own and all baptismal blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as daughters and sons, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters...the rivers...fire.” On this day the heavens open again, for this assembly, and we receive the gift of the beloved Son of God in bread and wine.

* 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

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

* 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 (**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 **Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

WORD

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 43:1-7.

THE LESSON READS:

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29 (intoned by Choir)

L *The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name; worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders; the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice; the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.

R

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees; the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

⁷The voice | of the LORD bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

R

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength | to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. **R**

ALL The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

SECOND READING

A reading from Acts 8:14-17.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* THE VERSE (sung)

Al – le-lu – ia! Lord and Sav – ior: o-pen now your sav – ing word. Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un – til our hearts are stirred. Al – le-lu – ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

* GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Spirit of Gentleness"

* NICENE CREED (all)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

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 God of life, call your church on earth to bring the good news of redemption to all your beloved children throughout a hurting and broken world. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Call us to restore rivers and seas, ponds and creeks to the beauty and clarity you gave them. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Bless your people with peace by raising up leaders to serve with mercy and justice (especially). Let the world praise your glory and strength by putting down weapons of war. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Comfort all your cherished sons and daughters, and call us to aid those who suffer (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Kerese, Sarah Dressler, Gene Rhine, Jesse Kint, Susan Minick, Tammy Walton, Josh Beitz, Matt Hutchinson, Florence Beasom, Betty Karstetter, Lura Aughey, Herbert Burd, Martin Ehrenzeller, Jeanette St. Clair, Joe and Pat Forney, Dan Conner, Marian Gross, Patty Shearer, Destiny Devlin, Margaret Bryner and family of Arthur Aumiller). Bring to your table all how hunger and thirst for you. Help us to share our bread with a hungry world. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Strengthen this community of faith. Plant and make grow in it the desire to share the gospel in word and action. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Sustain us in the gift of baptism until we gather around your throne with all your saints from every time and place. 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.

* 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."**

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

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me') **(sung)**

**Cre – ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re – new a right spir – it with-in me.
Cast me not a – way from your pres – ence, and take not your Ho – ly Spir – it
from me. Re-store to me the joy of your sal – va – tion, and up-hold me with
your free Spir – it.**

* 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

MEAL

* GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung responsively)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

* PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* 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.

(sung) Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. 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 the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.

* LAMB OF GOD **(sung)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(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

["AT CHANCEL RAIL" – come forward by the aisle on your right; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Stand around the chancel rail to partake and return by the aisle to the left of your seat].

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE **(sung)**

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* 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

SENDING

* 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

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barbara S. Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the yellow 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Edie Mae Switzer by Nancy Peters.

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 – Steve Kamer, Announcer for the TV program, “Inside Edition:” for without the resurrection there will not be a Christianity.

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.

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 21, 2013 if you would like your child to attend. Date and time for the class will be arranged with parents.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library.

THE 2013 FLOWER CHART is now in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come-first-served basis.

THE 2013 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available for you to pick up in the Adult Sunday School Room. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2012 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER, sponsored by the Disciples Class, will be held on Friday, February 8, 2013 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Messiah’s Fellowship Hall. Cost will be \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 6 to 12, and children 5 and under FREE. Dinner includes: spaghetti (with plain or meat sauce), salad, bread, beverage and dessert (take-out orders will be available). Donations of spaghetti sauce, dessert, or monetary donations would be greatly appreciated (helpers are also needed). Proceeds will benefit the Central Juniata Swimming Pool. Tickets are available from any member of the Disciples Class or at the door.

THANKS TO ALL for your donations of gallon-sized canned food. A total of 54 cans were delivered to Bethesda Mission.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, January 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. All members are asked to attend.

THANK YOU – I want to thank everyone at Messiah and especially those on the Prayer Chain for the prayers that have been said for me. I have spent most of December either at Locust Grove or the Hospital (including Christmas Day in the hospital). I have blacked out and fallen hard twice, but have not broken any bones—so I know someone has been looking out for me. May God bless all of you!

Sincerely,
Betty Karstetter

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.

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).

SOUP SALE FUNDRAISER – A soup sale fundraiser will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church to benefit the Central Juniata Park Pool. Order forms are available for pre-orders in the Adult Sunday School Room. We are also soliciting for baked items to sell. Soup will be \$5.00 per quart (buyers are asked to bring their own containers). Walk-in orders will be filled as long as the soup lasts. Soup choices are: Ham Bean, Chicken Corn, Beef Vegetable, and Broccoli Cheddar. If you would like to donate ingredients for the soup or help in any way, please contact Kathy Whitesel at 436-2401, Linda Leister at 436-8589, Shirley Hostler at 436-6371, or Tammy Ehrenzeller at 436-5583.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY

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:** -Baptism of Our Lord.
-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 Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Sq. Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.