

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Carole Nace
Ed Beaver
Kay Varner

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 22, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Kaye C., Jesse K., Matt H., Sarah D., Dorothy P., Ryan K., Betty F., Whitey L., Norm and Mary E., and Grace S.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Stand Up For Jesus"

Webb

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spoke light into creation, who calls us to listen and follow, who sends us to shine like stars.

C Amen

P Let us come before God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Holy and merciful God,

C we confess that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers and against you. We cherish the values of this world. We cause others to stumble. The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight. Amen

P Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved." God gives power to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Be cleansed, be healed, for in the name of + Jesus Christ, I declare to you the forgiveness of your sins and the revealing of God's reign.

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 Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"

* 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 **Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

FIRST READING

A reading from Jonah 3:1-5, 10

THE LESSON READS:

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12 (responsively)

L *God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)*

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

ALL God alone is my rock and my salvation.

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

THE LESSON READS:

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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.

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

- * GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

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

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Andrea Cameron

* HYMN OF THE DAY "I Love to Tell the Story"

* 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

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

Lowry

[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')

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 people made radiant by the light of Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human family, and God's good creation.

A brief silence.

P Steadfast God, you call all people to turn to you and believe in the good news. Cast the net of your love over the earth, and make us willing messengers of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God our stronghold, you will never be shaken, and your sustaining presence holds all creation in life. Protect endangered species and fragile ecosystems, and give hope to those who labor on behalf of the environment. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of refuge, the cities of the world cry out for peace. Create new ways for enemies to be reconciled, and end the cycle of violence that perpetuates war. Hear us, O God.

P God of deliverance, we pour out our hearts on behalf of those in need. Bring to safety those who flee from war, poverty, and famine. We lift to you all who suffer from natural disasters (especially). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God who meets us in silence, you are near to those who wait. We pray for all who long for healing from addiction, despair, and illness (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Kaye Clark, Jesse Kint, Matt Hutchinson, Sarah Dressler, Dorothy Patterson, Ryan Keresey, Betty Fleisher, Whitey Lawson, Norm and Mary Esborn, and Grace Stuck). Comfort the dying (especially) and ease their passing. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Eternal God, you fulfill all things. We give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died, and we rejoice that you will be with us when this world passes away. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Holy God, we lift our prayers to you in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in 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 the Father, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless you and + give you peace.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

"Sent Forth by God's 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 Everlasting God, we bless you that you have brought us to the mountaintop and fed us with the life and light of your Son. Send us in his name from this place to bring light into dark corners, healing where lives are torn, and nourishment to every hungry heart, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

"Praise And Honor"

Smith

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Ron Yorks

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 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.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE by Andrea Cameron, Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leader persons have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the Bishop of the Synod to preside at the Lord's Table in specific situations. This is a ministry of the ELCA recognizing the mission need of the church for today and the future. We welcome Andrea as our worship leader this morning and pray God's blessing on her as she ministers to us this morning.

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 – Thomas a’Kempis (1380 – 1471), Priest, Monk, and Writer: “Never be completely idle; but rather be reading, or praying, or meditating, or endeavoring something for the public good.”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

THE 2012 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes, please do so as soon as possible. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2011 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

MESSIAH SPAGHETTI DINNER – There will be an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, February 10, 2012 from 4:00--7:00 p.m. This year several members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church will be helping and we need helpers from Messiah also. If you can't help then perhaps you could donate spaghetti sauce, a dessert, or make a monetary donation. All proceeds will benefit the Central Juniata Swimming Pool. Please contact Linda Leister or a Disciples Class member if you have a donation or a question. Prices will remain the same: Adults \$6.00, Children 5-12 \$3.00, and children under 5 are free. Please attend and bring friends and family. We need your support.

PROPERTY MEETING – The January Property Committee meeting will be Monday, January 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. Please let the chairperson know if you cannot attend. Thank you.

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

THE NEXT VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING will be held on Sunday, February 19, 2012 following the worship service. Business: quarterly reports of the boards and the 2011 audit.

SOUPE BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2012. 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 on February 5th.

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

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY – DISH SOAP, ALL-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT

NURSE'S NOTES – To counter corn syrup's bad rap, food marketers are touting fancy soft drinks and snack foods made with "real cane sugar." But are they any better than their shelf-mates? No, says Christine Gerbstadt, MD, a spokesperson for the American Dietetic Association. "Extensive research shows there's no difference among the common sweeteners when it comes to increasing obesity, hunger, or metabolic syndrome (obesity + high cholesterol + high blood sugar) she says. So limit those sweet treats no matter what gives them a sugary kick.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Property Committee meeting in choir room.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., N/A meeting in Youth Area.
-7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Sq. Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion/Jr. Church.
-11:30 a.m., Worship & Music Committee meeting.