

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Louis Lynch
Sam Leister
Kay Varner

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY January 23, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Helen C., Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Arlene M., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Kevin R., Mary Martha G., Avonel and Rick W., Paul W., Bob C., JoAnna C., Fay M., Dorothy P., Pastor E., Ruth C., Arlene K., Helen K., and Steve W.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who spread out the heavens and the earth, who gives light and breath to the nations, who makes all things new.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Holy and healing God,

C we confess that we have fallen short of the life you desire for us. We choose our priorities over your commandments. We divide the body of Christ. The earth

**groans under our demands. Have mercy, O God. Restore us and all things to health, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.
Amen**

P Hear the voice from heaven: "You are my own, my beloved." You belong to Christ, and through the power of the cross + your sins are all forgiven. God is faithful and will strengthen you, that your light may shine before others, that you may be God's holy people in the world.

C Amen

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "Thy Strong Word"

* GREETING

P The grace of God in Christ Jesus, poured out in every gift of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (**C - sung**)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (sung)

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P *Let us pray...*

C **Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced defeat, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them. The people in the northern parts of Israel have experienced "gloom" and "darkness" because of the destruction wrought by Assyrian military forces. To these people, the prophet announces the shining of a great light of salvation.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 9:1-4

THE LESSON READS:

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.
²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness —on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (responsively)

L *The LORD is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)*

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the

sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

6Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

8My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

ALL The LORD is my light and my salvation.

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ who was crucified for us. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

- * THE VERSE (sung to the tune of "Rise, O Children of Salvation")
Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

- * GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23
P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles —¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." ¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* 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

[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 Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

C Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P As God's beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P For our communities of faith, that, turning from quarreling and division, we may find our unity in the cross of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the nations of the world, and for an end to oppression, hunger, and violence. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all who care for water, soil, plants, and animals, and that we may live with greater simplicity and love for creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all living with disease, grief, conflict, poverty, depression, or despair (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Kevin Reynolds, Mary Martha Gilbert, Avonel and Rick Waller, Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, JoAnna Cameron, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Pastor Esborn, Ruth Crist, Sue Collins, Helen Coder, Arlene Kint, Helen Knox and Steve Welshonse), that your healing may dawn on them. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For this congregation and its leaders, that our ministries of preaching, teaching, and healing may proclaim the good news of your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Gather us, with all the saints, into the wide net of your grace, that we may follow you with faith and courage. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive our prayers and hopes, God of mercy and justice, for we pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] **(all)**

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

* BLESSING

P God the Father, the Majestic Glory; God the Son, the Morning Star; and God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, bless you and + grant you peace.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. [**Amen.**] Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. [**Amen.**] Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. [**Amen.**]

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song,

you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Ever-faithful God, you have taken us again into your arms and nourished us as your dear children. Lead us and guide us, that we may share our bread and your healing light with those who hunger and thirst, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Dreibelbis

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of my mother, Velma Suloff, by Barb and Don Geedey.

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 – Red Jacket 1750 – 1830, Iroquois Chief: “Brother! You say there is but one way to worship the Great Spirit. If there is but one religion, why do you white people differ so much about it? Why do not all agree, as you can all read the Book?”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

FOLDING CHAIRS AVAILABLE – There are still about 20 folding chairs in the storage area beside the Fellowship Hall. If they are not wanted by members they will be given to the Richfield Nursing Home by the end of the month. Please pick up a.s.a.p. if you want any of these chairs. Call AB for assistance at 436-9382.

AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER, sponsored by the Disciples Class, will be held on Friday, February 11, 2011 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Messiah Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children (4-12), and children 3 and under FREE (take-out orders available). Dinner includes spaghetti (with plain or meat sauce), salad, bread, beverage, and dessert. Donations of sauce, spaghetti, etc., or monetary donations would be gratefully accepted. Tickets are available at the door.

THE 2011 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 15th for the early discount.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 6, 2011. 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 6th. Donations will be given to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

FOR UPCOMING VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY – Several years ago when Men of Messiah decided to disband, the group gave the church treasurer about \$950 that was in their treasury. The

treasurer put the funds into an interest bearing account in the event the group decided to be active at a later time. Recently it was mentioned to some of the former members that the funds were in this account and it was proposed that those funds be used towards the Stained Glass Fund debt. There will be an item in the Voters' Assembly to approve the transfer of these funds which now total \$1,027.46 to the Stained Glass Fund. If anyone has other suggestions for use of these funds, please attend the Voters' Assembly on Sunday, February 20, 2011 following the worship service.

THANK YOU to members of Messiah for the monetary Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated.

Judy Armstrong

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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Linda Leister as devotional leader.

LOVE PROJECT OF MESSIAH WOMEN – We are taught in Matthew 25:31-46 that we are to show our love by caring for those who are in need. We have chosen as our first project of 2011 to assemble Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. All we need to do is listen to the news about the upheavals in lives that people of the world experience from all sorts of disasters. For February we are asking for hand towels, in the size of 15" or 16" or 16" x 23" or 25" and wash cloths in dark colors. Please place your love gifts on the blue table in the Sunday School Room. We have not set a goal, but last year we were able to put together 141 kits.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for February: Any non-perishable foods; baby supplies (diapers [sizes 3-6], pull-ups [all sizes], baby shampoo, baby lotion, diaper rash ointment, and wipes.

NURSE'S NOTES – Dive into a good book! "Reading can have a tranquilizing effect," says Timothy Shanahan, Ph. D., a professor of urban education and reading at the University of Illinois at Chicago. "I usually read before going to bed – it stops my mind from racing and allows me to get away from myself for a few moments, which helps me relax and sleep well."

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

Monday: -6:30 p.m., Property Committee meeting in choir room.
-8 p.m., AA meeting.

Tuesday: -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday: -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
-7 p.m., 4-H Puppy Club in Fellowship Hall.

Friday: -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Healing Service/Jr. Church.
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.