

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Brent Snyder
Andrea Cameron
Linda Leister
Nate Swailes & Gavin Kint
Kay Varner (Clint & Jamie Miller – Cup Communion)

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director & Cantor
Lector
Acolytes
Altar Guild

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD January 12, 2014 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

SHUT-INS: Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., 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., Audrey L., Josh B., Karl and Margaret G., Darlene Y., Arielle D., Sarah S., Troy B., Riley C., Esther L., Rick V., Michael S., Trent P., Charlene A., Wendy S., Gretchen W., Jack S., Todd E., Kim S., Cindy V., Jo-Anne B., Connor L., Matt H., Luke, Amber & family, Chris A., Rick W., Avonel W., Clark S., Bob S., Jesse K., Billy H., Betty K., Dutch W., family of Sue C.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

* SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

P In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

P We welcome Brian and Eliza Arentz to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Brian Edward Arentz, do you desire to be baptized?

Response: I do.

P Eliza Anne Arentz, do you desire to be baptized?

Response: I do.

P Who do you present with you for baptism?

Parents: We present Livia Pauline Arentz and Emma Catherine Arentz to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P Marsha and Doug, who do you present?

Response: We present Lilly Grace Powell.

P Livia Pauline Arentz, Emma Catherine Arentz and Lilly Grace Powell do you desire to be baptized?

Response: I do.

P In Christian love you have come and also presented these children for Holy Baptism. You should therefore, faithfully care for them and help them in every way as God gives you opportunity, that you and they may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that, living in the covenant of your Baptism and in communion with the Church, all may lead godly lives until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

All Respond: Yes, by the help of God.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.

To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

Parents: Yes, by the help of God.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C 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

P Brian Edward Arentz, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Eliza Anne Arentz, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Livia Pauline Arentz, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Emma Catherine Arentz, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lilly Grace Powell, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon **(Brian, Eliza, Livia, Emma and Lilly)**: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C Amen

P **(Brian Edward Arentz, Eliza Anne Arentz, Livia Pauline Arentz, Emma Catherine Arentz and Lilly Grace Powell)** child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Parents: Amen

P Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon the fathers and mothers of these children. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their children the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

* P Through Baptism God has made these new sisters and brother members of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C We welcome Brian Edward Arentz, Eliza Anne Arentz, Livia Pauline Arentz, Emma Catherine Arentz and Lilly Grace Powell into the Lord's family. We receive them as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

* 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."**

* 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

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 **O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

WORD

God's servant Israel is endowed with the Spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever keep it from fulfilling its task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the new assignment of the servant is to bring light to the nations.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

The First Lesson is from the 42nd chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29 (intoned by Choir)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty 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 powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars 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.

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!"

10The 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.

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34—43

The Second Lesson is from the 10th chapter of Acts.

THE LESSON READS:

34Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, **35**but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. **36**You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. **37**That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39**We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; **40**but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41**not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43**All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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.

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "God, Whose Almighty Word"

* 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 For the community of the baptized throughout the world and its leaders, that justice and forgiveness be proclaimed to all, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For the beauty of creation, trees and animals, clean water, and favorable weather, that all creatures live abundantly on our fragile planet, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For all in authority at the local, state, national, and international levels, that they rule with equity and sincerity of heart; for relief workers and those who support them, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For the oppressed, the imprisoned, the sick, those living with HIV/AIDS, and all who call out for help (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Tammy Walton, Dorothy Patterson, Audrey Landis, Josh Beitz, Karl and Margaret Guss, Darlene Yutzy, Arielle Dougherty, Sarah Shellenberger, Troy Burd, Riley Cooper, Esther Long, Rick Varner, Michael Slagle, Trent Phillips, Charlene Aughey, Wendy Swartz, Gretchen Wray, Jack Stutts, Todd Eby, Kim Shearer, Cindy Van Gavree, Jo-Anne Brooks, Connor Lauver, Jean McNaught, Helen Knox, Matt Hutchinson, Marian Gross, Luke, Amber & family, Chris Albright, Rick Waller, Jr., Avonel Waller, Clark Shirk, Bob St. Clair, Sr., Jesse Kint, Billy Holderman, Betty Karstetter, Dutch Walters, and family of Sue Collins), that all who dwell on the earth find comfort, peace, and redemption through Christ, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For this congregation and all who have been washed in the waters of baptism (especially those who celebrate their baptisms today), for those inquiring about the gift of baptism and life in Christ, and for those who are absent from this gathering, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith (especially Sue Collins), that the grace of Christ in their lives guide us in our vocation as Christians throughout the world, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

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.

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 ('vineyards') **(sung)**

C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* 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

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 Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Blessed are all who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

* 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 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

SENDING

* 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

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

* 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 – 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 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.

GOD CREATES FIVE NEW SAINTS TODAY through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We welcome Brian and Eliza Arentz and their daughters, Livia and Emma and Lily Powell, daughter of Ken Powell and Abra (Wagner) Powell.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Sue Collins who died on Monday, January 6, 2014 at Locust Grove Retirement Village. Please keep her son Ken and family and daughter Lois and family in your prayers.

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 – Paul W. Harrison, Christian Thinker: Wherever God rules over the human heart as King, there is the Kingdom of God established.

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.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY – Sample copies of the new updated membership directory are on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Before final copies are made, members are asked to check their address, phone number and email address to be sure they are correct. Please make any corrections or additions to be included in the directory on the correction sheet provided or call the church office at 436-6213.

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.

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 PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Please notify Kay Varner if you are unable to attend.

PPC WILL MEET on Sunday, January 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

2014 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you have not yet picked up your envelopes in the Adult Sunday School Room, please do so as soon as possible. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2013 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 22, 2014 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 this winter. If you wish to attend, please let the church office know by January 17, 2014.

PATIENCE NEEDED – Our Messiah bulletin board is in a poor state of repair and has been for some time. We seriously need to consider a replacement as moisture continues to cause damage to the board and the letters. In the coming months the Property Committee will research various options. Meanwhile we will try to make sure the old bulletin board has the church's pertinent information until a change can be made. Please be patient as we resolve this ongoing issue. Your input is welcome. Stay tuned.....

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.

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).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER; OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES. WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS FOR LOCAL STORES.

NEW 2014 CROP COORDINATORS ARE NEEDED – The coordinators duties include securing a site to hold the walk, distribute materials to churches and walkers, advertise, prepare the site for the walk, organize volunteers to receive walker forms and count money, file reports with Church World Services, and thank the churches for their participation. A notebook is available with step by step instructions on how to run a successful CROP Walk and includes a thumb drive with files. One or more people are needed who have a passion for humber ministries (and the CROP Walk in particular), are self-starters, and are good at organizing and following through on projects. If you are interested in the job, or would like to suggest someone, please contact Graham Fowler at pastor.lostcreekpres@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Baptism of Our Lord.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-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:** -6 p.m., Square & Line Dancing in Fellowship Hall (caller: Mark Brosius).
Everyone welcome!
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.