

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
Bill Dressler
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 10, 2011 – 9:15 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., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Jesse K., Audrey M., Conner L., George and Mary Lorraine H., Laurie F., Christy H., Mary W., Anne M., Kitty W., Mason B., and Beth S.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

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

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

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 "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" p. 11 in bulletin

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (sung)

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: **C** Lord, have mer-cy.

P Chri-ste, e-le-i-son: **C** Christ, have mer-cy.

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: **C** Lord, have mer-cy.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung)

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take
a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the
Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.
A-men.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth.**

* 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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 55:10-13

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13 (**Responsively**)

L – Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

[¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.

³Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.

⁷You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground

and bless its increase.

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

ALL – Your paths overflow with plenty.

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its slavery. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

SECOND READING

A reading from Romans 8:1-11

THE LESSON READS:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law — indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al-le-lu-ia. You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu—ia. Al-le-lu—ia.

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

p. 12 in bulletin

* APOSTLES' CREED ('new version') **(all)**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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].

SPECIAL MUSIC

Strung-out Dulcimer Band

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

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 now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Led by the Holy Spirit, and with the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Let us pray for the people of God, that as they sow seeds of love and mercy, the gospel may be received with joy and take root and grow. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for the oceans and the beaches of the earth, that pollution may be reversed and life again flourish underwater and on the shores. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for the leaders of all nations, that the seeds of justice may be planted where there is inequality and seeds of peace where there is disharmony (especially). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for all who suffer condemnation at the hands of others and for all who are sick or suffering in any way (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Jesse Kint, Audrey Morral, Connor Lauver, George Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family, Laurie Funk, Christy Hall, Ethel Bossinger, Mary Weiland, Anne McNaight, Kitty Walters, Mason Beward, and Beth Smith), that they may know freedom in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for this congregation, that we may be good soil, bearing the fruits of the spirit a hundredfold in service to Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Let us give thanks for the faithful departed, that they, having set their mind on the Spirit and having received their reward, may be models of faithfulness for us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

- * THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] **(all)**
 - P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:*
 - C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**
 - Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**
 - Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**
 - For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen**
- * BLESSING
 - P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*
 - C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)**
- * CLOSING HYMN "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" p. 12 in bulletin

MEAL

- * COMMUNION DIALOGUE (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 Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.*
 - In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.*
 - 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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.*
 - Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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 Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Sandy Pines

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.

WE WELCOME the Strung-out Dulcimer Band and thank them for providing our special music today. We also welcome Bill Dressler as our organist for today's service.

THE DULCIMER BAND practices twice each month in the Messiah Lutheran Church Social Room. Please receive our sincere thanks for affording us this privilege. Today's special music will be a dulcimer rendition of the following hymns:

Amazing Grace
Medley: Will The Circle Be Unbroken/The Unclouded Day
God Be With You Till We Meet Again

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 our parents and friends by Warren and Claire Mummah.

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 – D. L. Moody (1837 – 1899): "Some day you will read in the paper that D. L. Moody is dead. Don't believe a word of it. At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now."

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CHURCH ORGANIST for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at ebeaver41@yahoo.com or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcmifflintown.org.

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, July 9, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Pat Fisher as devotional leader.

THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE ingathering is completed and boxed ready to be delivered to the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Unit of the Women of the ELCA convention, July 25, 2011 at Camp Mt. Luther. Items collected were: 102 personal toiletries, 7 bottles of hand sanitizer, 43 pairs of socks, 2 slipper socks, 4 bars of Dove soap, 1 shampoo, 1 hand lotion, 6 laundry detergents, and 1 box of dryer sheets. Thank you to all who shared these items for the use of families who stay at the House while children are hospitalized.

HEALTH KIT PROJECT – The final ingathering of Health Kits is combs with large teeth and toothbrushes. Our goal is 70 kits and we have all the supplies needed except **31 combs** and **59 toothbrushes**. Please place these items on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

NEW PROJECT FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF – Messiah Women of the ELCA will be gathering School Kits for the October shipment of World Relief items collected on Blanket Sunday in October. A School Kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war. School Kits help parents continue their children's education, even while living in refugee camp, for example. A School Kit may also be used in adult literacy classes. (Reprinted with permission from Lutheran World Relief). July is a good time to collect school supplies as many stores have great sales. There will be plastic bags on the blue table in the Sunday School Room with a list of supplies needed. Take a bag and fill it with the items and return it to the table. It will send the message to those in need, around the world, that we care about them.

COMMUNITY

Food Pantry needs for July: canned fruit and all other non-perishable foods, toothbrushes, tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo, soap, razors, baby wash, diaper rash ointment, wipes, diapers (sizes 4-6), paper products, and plastic grocery bags. Donations of cash and Weis or Schlegel's gift cards will also be gladly accepted.

NURSE'S NOTES – Why do some medication labels tell you to avoid the sun when taking?

These 'photosensitizing drugs' can interact with sunlight to cause sunburn or rashes. These drugs are surprisingly common, and include Cipro, erythromycin-related antibiotics, some seizure medications, and diuretics used to control blood pressure, among others. When ultraviolet light touches your skin, it activates these drugs to make you more susceptible to sunburn and also cause skin cell damage, resulting in a rash identical to sunburn. To avoid the effects either avoid the sun, or use sunscreen with at least 30 SPF and limit time outside to under 30 minutes at a stretch. (Reinhold, J. June 2011. *Prevention Magazine* pg. 38).

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Early Worship Service/Communion.

Monday: -8 p.m., AA meeting.

Wednesday: -OFFICE CLOSED (July & August).

Thursday: -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Early Worship Service/Communion.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.