

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
Brent Snyder
Ed Beaver
Ona Stoner

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 17, 2012 – 9:15 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Fannie K., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Bob C., George, Jamie and Luke D., Ed and Ann B., Don C., Sarah D., Sue K., Haylee Y., Ken A. M., Erin H., Tyler R., Elda Mae R., and George H. Jr.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

* 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** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

*** 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 O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into
yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those
in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from
Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on
Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

FIRST READING

A reading from Ezekiel 17:22-24

THE LESSON READS:

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it
out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a
high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs
and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade
of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I
make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD
have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (Responsively)

L – The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praise to your name, O Most High;

²to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night;

³on the psaltery, and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.

**⁴For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works
of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a cedar of
Lebanon.

¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God;

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be green and succulent;

¹⁵that they may show how upright the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is no injustice.

ALL – The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

SECOND READING

A reading from 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

THE LESSON READS:

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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.

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

* GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²⁶He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "We Walk by Faith"

* 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

* 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 With reverence for the earth, those in need, and the whole human family, let us offer our prayers to God.

A brief silence.

P For preachers, teachers, poets, writers, visual artists, and all who proclaim the mystery of the kingdom of God. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For social service agencies, relief organizations, shelters, food pantries, and all who care for those in need. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For the green earth and the gifts of seeds and crops, fruits and vegetables, trees of the field, and birds of the air. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For all who seek healing and relief (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Bob Cameron, Don Clark, Sarah Dressler, Luke Davis, Sue Kepner, Haylee Yocum, Ken A. Mummah, Erin Harris, Ray Bramm, Jane Marhefka, Tyler Rosenberry, Elda Mae Rickenbaugh, George Hazard, Jr., and Helen Knox and family), that they may flourish in the love of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For this assembly, that you teach us to walk by faith and not by sight, trusting that you make all things new. For fathers and those who provide fatherly care for others. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We give thanks for your holy people of all times and places. Send us forth to scatter seeds of mercy until we join all your saints in the harvest of eternal life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Receive our hopes and prayers, O God of mercy, for great is your faithfulness in Christ Jesus our 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 forever. 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"

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 – Ona Stoner

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.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Helen Knox on the death of her brother, William Ehrenzeller, who died on June 11, 2012 at Brookline. Please keep Helen and family in your prayers.

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 – A. W. Tozer, American Christian Pastor (1897 – 1963): Our great honor lies in being just what Jesus was and is.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING NEEDED to fund 2012 expenses is \$3,250. Offering received on 6/3/12 was \$2,671.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, June 3, 2012: \$1,220. This brings the total received to \$70,068 of the total \$85,890 needed for the project. Balance needed to complete funding is \$15,822.00.

A CHICKEN BBQ will be held on Saturday, July 7, 2012 to benefit Houses of Hope For Haiti. Cost is \$4.00 a half. Pick-up will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Centre Lutheran Church. For tickets, contact Linda Leister.

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.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE in a project in association with Seafarers International House – At the 25th Anniversary Convention of the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Unit of the Women of the WELCA, July 28, 2012, there will be an ingathering of items for “Christmas at Sea” sacks which will be given to seamen who cannot be with family for the holidays. These items will be gathered from May until Sunday, July 22, 2012. (Matthew 25:40; And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me.”)

Items needed: (No substitutes, please)

- Sweatshirt—hooded or unhooded in size L or XL
- Thermal or white gym socks, groups of three pairs
- Casual pull-over T-shirts, size M and L
- Knit heavy winter cap
- Cans of nuts or candy
- Christmas card signed by you

The sacks will be completed and filled at a board meeting of the WELCA Synodical Board before Thanksgiving. These gifts may be placed on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Claire Mummah as devotional leader and Ona Stoner as hostess.

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs a head cook and team for the fourth Tuesday of the month (beginning in November). Also needed, at least two people to help assemble the meals for delivery on the second Friday of the month (needed immediately). Drivers are also needed for several routes. If you can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JUNE:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE,
DEODORANT, SHAMPOO, SOAP, RAZORS, FIRST-AID SUPPLIES,
OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN MEDICINES, TOILET PAPER.
WE ALSO NEED CLOTH AND PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS.

WE GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS FROM LOCAL STORES.

NURSE'S NOTES – **The Claim:** Video Games can make you fit. **The Truth:** One creative way to get your daily dose of exercise is to play games on the Wii. One-third of the activities in the Wii sports video and fitness packages require enough energy expenditure to qualify them as moderate-intensity exercise. Golf and bowling involve only low-level exertion, but you can work up a real sweat on the Wii boxing and tennis. The benefits of Wii and similar systems may extend even beyond the heart. Recent studies show that games that require strategic thinking boost both heart rate and cognitive abilities and memory. So, no matter what your age, you can spice up your exercise routine by including action.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Voters' Assembly following worship service. Business: approval of previous minutes, quarterly reports, and voting on nominations of new PPC members for 2012—2014.
- Monday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
-8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.