

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
Diana Wise
Diana Wise

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 11, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Norm and Mary E., Al S., Gary B., Eddie Kay G., Fay M., Dorothy S., Emery K., Dave P., and Mary W.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The Ten Commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

C Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P Gracious God,

C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us 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** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

*** GREETING**

P The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*** KYRIE (C - spoken)**

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

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)**

P Let us pray...

C Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 20:1-17

The First Reading is from the 20th chapter of Exodus.

THE LESSON READS:

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 19 (responsively)

L *The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)*

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

ALL The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians.

THE LESSON READS:

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. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* LENTEN VERSE **(sung)**

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

* GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2nd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the

scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Built on a Rock"

* 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

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

A brief silence.

P For the body of Christ, that we might trust in the foolishness of God. For houses of worship everywhere, that we might not make your sanctuaries into marketplaces. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For wisdom to carefully steward all your creation; for cattle, sheep, doves, donkeys, and animals of every kind; for veterinarians and zookeepers; for biologists and ranchers. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the nations of the world and their leaders (especially); for legislatures and judges; for merchants and money changers; for police and military personnel; for the civilians or war-torn countries (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all those captive to addictions; for victims of crime; for survivors of sexual or domestic abuse; for those sick with malaria, HIV/AIDS, or cancer; for those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers; for all in any need (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], also Ryan Keresey, Norm and Mary Esborn, Al Smith, Gary Beward, Eddie Kay Gill, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Smith, Emery Kirk, Dave Phelan, and Mary Weiland). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For this faith community, whenever we make idols, misuse your name, break the Sabbath, dishonor our parents, murder, commit adultery, bear false witness, and covet what is not our own. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We lift up the names of loved ones who have died in the faith (especially), trusting that in the crucified and risen Christ we are bound to them in death as in life. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name.

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 **(sung)**

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 God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

MEAL

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P With his Body and Blood, Jesus Christ delivers us from the power of darkness.

C and leads us into the Kingdom of God.

P Christ has humbled himself and become obedient unto death,

C even to death on a cross.

P He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities,

C and on him was the chastisement that made us whole.

P Here at his holy table he feeds us now with his Body and Blood.

C Glory to you, our Lord and Savior; with your Body and Blood you redeem the World.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

P 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 love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

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

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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 Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

*** BLESSING**

P The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom of power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

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

*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

CLOSING CHIMES

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Cynthia Smith

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Michelle Stoner

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the purple 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 worshipping 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) worshipping 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.

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 – Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Theologian & Martyr (1906 – 1945): The responsible person seeks to make his or her whole life a response to the question and call of God.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PROPERTY MEETING – The Property Committee will meet on Monday evening, March 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. Please let the chair person know if you can't attend.

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING needed to fund 2012 expenses is \$3,250. Offering received on 3/4/12 was \$_____.

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

EASTER LILIES to decorate the church on Easter Sunday, may be placed in memory or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God. Cost will be \$10.00 for a plant with 4 to 6 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.

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 the first 2012 project for Lutheran World Relief by the Messiah Women of the ELCA – FABRIC KITS – Sewing is a valuable skill, one that leads to a reliable income for many women and men. Fabric Kits supply vocational training programs with fabric for teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses. Include the following items in each Fabric Kit:

--Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and should be cut into pieces measuring 2¼ yards of 60" wide fabric, or 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or 4 yards of 36" wide fabric.

--Two spools of matching or neutral-colored general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each. The following is an example of how the Fabric Kits are used by Lutheran World Relief – BUNDLES OF HOPE – Young women in West Africa face many challenges as they enter early adulthood. Learning marketable skills to support themselves and contribute to their families can often keep them from being married off at a young age. At the House of Hope for Disadvantaged Girls in Bamako, Mali, Fabric Kits are distributed to the 40 young women who live at the school and learn a number of skills—including tailoring—as a means of earning an income.

When choosing fabrics, consider bright colors and colorful prints. If you are not a shopper and want to participate in the project, we will be glad to do your shopping. Just give your donation to Cynthia Smith or Linda Leister.

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."

COMMUNITY

THE NEXT COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Father Fidelis will be preaching on the theme "The Cross in Lent."

2012 WOMEN'S LENTEN TEAS – The Women's Community Lenten Teas will be held each Wednesday during Lent. This year's study will be from the book "Words of Life from the Cross." Fellowship time is 9:30 a.m. followed by the program at 10:00 a.m. Locations are listed below:

March 14, St. Jude's Catholic Church
March 21, Messiah Lutheran Church
March 28, Westminster Presbyterian Church

2012 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS will be held each Saturday during Lent at 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House. Speakers are listed below:

March 17, Pastor Ken Longfield
March 24, Pastor Gary Krabill
March 31, Pastor Edd Carlson
April 7, Harold Oberholtzer

LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday from February 17 until March 30, 2012 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church. Cost is \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids 6-12 years old, and kids 5 and under FREE. Sponsored by St. Jude's Knights of Columbus.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY FRIENDSHIP CLUB is a non-profit organization located in Mexico. We serve all of Juniata County as a drop-in center for those that have been diagnosed and treated for a mental illness. We have a peer counselor available as well as access to mental health counseling. We provide a family-like place to come and socialize, and share problems. We are open Monday—Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Our members can come every day, all day, or just a few days or a few hours. We provide a free lunch, snacks, crafts, activities and outings. We are in need of donations of stuffed, comfortable chairs in good condition (no recliners please). If anyone is interested in donating furniture, please contact Cheri Peck, Director, at 436-2077.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

PAPER PRODUCTS: TOILET PAPER, FACIAL TISSUES & PAPER TOWELS

SHAMPOO, DEODORANT & FIRST-AID SUPPLIES

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS

NURSE'S NOTES – This is the time of year to sign your child up for indoor swim lessons. By the time warm weather rolls around, and pools are opened for the summer, he/she should have developed some basic swimming skills. Drowning is the leading cause of accidents and death in children. Never allow children (even those who can swim) to be unaccompanied near a pool.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:30 a.m., Women's Community Lenten Tea at St. Jude's Catholic Church.
-11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.
-7 p.m., NA meeting in Youth Area.
-8 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing group in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Mifflintown Men's Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House. Speaker, Pastor Ken Longfield.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-11:30 a.m., Relay for Life Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.