

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Louis Lynch
Cynthia Smith
Linda Dreibelbis

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT March 20, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Helen C., Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Arlene M., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Avonel and Rick W., Paul W., Bob C., JoAnna C., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Helen K., Linda R., Jesse K., Steve B., Deb E., Tammy P., Joe T., Dave R., Mel L., Rick B., and Ernie S.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

MEMORY VERSE: Mark 12:30 NIV

³⁰Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your Mind and with all your strength. ^[a]

BLESSING OF SEEING EYE PUPPIES

P These people from our community give their time, energy and love to help prepare these animals for a life's work as seeing eye puppies.

We now ask a 4-H representative to tell us a little information about this program and to introduce these animals and their families.

(Introductions by representative of 4-H).

Thank you.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray....

Lord of creation, you have formed the multitude of animals with whom we share this world. We remember the guardianship of oversight you gave to Adam when you gave him dominion over all creation. We are humbled by the amazing gifts you give to all your creatures. Grant these dogs with good homes and much love. Bless them that they may be the eyes of those who cannot see. Help them to guide their owners through the dangers of this world and to keep them safe.

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, we pray for the families that will raise these dogs. Give to these families boundless energy, compassion and love. Help them to teach these dogs trust and obedience, and give them the joy of knowing that they have helped someone to walk freely.

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, we remember St. Francis and the respect and care he has taught us to have for all your creatures. We give you thanks for the reminder you provide in these animals and their trainers and owners of the importance of Christ's call to serve.

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer. Amen

P A blessing will now be offered for each dog that they serve our Lord well.

(Hands are laid upon each dog).

May the Lord bless you and keep you as you live according to the gifts and purpose he gives to all his creatures. Amen

(The families are greeted).

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the well of eternal life, the light of the world, the breath giving life to dry bones.

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 "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

* GREETING

P The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace 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 O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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: Jeremiah 29:11 (New Living Translation)

The First Reading is from the 29th chapter of Jeremiah.

THE LESSON READS:

¹¹"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121 (responsively)

L I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

ALL I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2

The Second Reading is from the 12th chapter of Romans.

THE LESSON READS:

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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.

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

* GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lift High the Cross"

* 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 As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P You call us to faith again and again. Bind together all those born of water and the Spirit, that your church might be one in Jesus' name. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You gave your only-begotten Son so that the world might be saved through him. Save the polluted waters, the devastated forests, and the species in danger of extinction. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You promised, in Abraham, to bless all the nations of the world. Bestow wisdom on world leaders; bring an end to international conflicts; and grant safety to all who live in fear. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You are a light to those who live in darkness (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Avonel and Rick Waller, Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, JoAnna Cameron, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Ruth Crist, Sue Collins, Helen Coder, Helen Knox, Linda Rhine, Jesse Kint, Steve Bahorik, Joe Tusing, Dave Rickenbaugh, Mel Love, Deb Esborn, Tammy Page, Rick Baney, and Ernie Switzer). Be present with all who work or watch or worry through the night, especially hospice volunteers, night nurses, and security guards. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You give strength to the weary. Breathe new life into the ministries of this congregation, that we might share your word of hope with the strangers outside our doors. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P You inspire us with the stories of our ancestors in the faith. Keep us in communion with all the saints, until at last we find our rest in you. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through 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 (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 blessed, holy Trinity keep you in grace, lead you in light, and + give you peace.

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 – Andrea Cameron

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.

TODAY WE WELCOME the Seeing Eye Puppies, in training from the 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Project. The group meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Messiah. During the service, a commissioning blessing will be given to these puppies recognizing the important service they will perform for their owners and thanking God for the amazing gifts he places in his creatures. A prayer of thanks will also be offered for those who are helping to train these animals and the hard work they do.

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 – Jonathan Edwards (1703 – 1758), Evangelist: “I felt a burning desire to be in every thing a complete Christian; and conform to the blessed image of Christ.”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Volunteers are needed to submit the weekly Messiah Herald article for the newspaper. There are currently four individuals who submit the article each week. Each person is responsible for 3 months of the year. It can be completed at home on a computer and submitted to The Times and Juniata Sentinel via email: thetimes@nmax.net and csmith@juniata-sentinel.com. Coverage is needed for the months of February, June and October. Anyone who is interested can call the church office at 436-6213.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, March 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

NEW STORM WINDOWS – Westfall Vinyl installed the new storm windows on Tuesday, March 8. The stained glass window beside the grand piano and the arch of the stained glass window beside the double main doors are now covered with protective storm windows. The cost of the project was \$700.00. The Building Fund will cover this cost. Thanks to all who

faithfully contribute to the Building Fund so we can pay for the demanding upkeep of our aging buildings.

THE 2011 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or on our church website under the "publications" tab. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 15th for the early discount.

A GOSPEL CONCERT to benefit Juniata Agape Ministries (JAM House) will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah. Mark your calendars and watch upcoming bulletins for more details.

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.

PHONE BOOK – If anyone has a recent (not current) Harrisburg phone directory they could donate to the church office, it would be greatly appreciated.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, March 13, 2011: \$210.00. This brings the total received to \$55,034.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

MESSIAH CHOIR meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. for one hour – anthem practice run-through at 10:15 a.m. Sunday morning prior to church service. We are happy to welcome new voices—anytime!

A CONGREGATIONAL MEAL will be held following the worship service on Pentecost, June 12, 2011 honoring confirmands and graduating seniors. Please mark this date on your calendar.

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.

LOVE PROJECTS FOR FAR AND NEAR – We are taught in Matthew 25:31-46 that we are to show our love by caring for those who are in need.

The "Far" project is Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The in-gathering items are:

- nail clippers with attached nail file or metal nail files (no emery boards)
- hand towels 15 or 16 inches wide and 23 or 25 inches in length
- wash cloths in dark colors

The "Near" project is items for the Ronald McDonald House at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville. The list of needs are:

- anti-bacterial hand soap.
- laundry detergent
- socks of all sizes

--**TRAVEL-SIZE (SMALL) PERSONAL CARE TOILETRIES**

As of today, March 20, items collected for the:

- “Far Project” - Health Kits: we have 55 towel and wash cloth sets, 5 wash cloths that need towels, six nail clippers with file, and 2 toothbrushes.
- “Near Project” - Ronald McDonald House, Danville: 62 personal-size toiletries, 19 pairs of socks, 6 laundry detergents, and 1 fabric softener.

There is a recent appeal from Lutheran World Relief that **the need is great for Health Kits.**

Please place your love gifts on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for March: Any non-perishable foods, toilet paper, facial tissues, and paper towels. Donations of cash and Weis or Schlegels’s gift cards will also be gladly accepted.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday through April 15th, 2011 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude’s Catholic Church, Mifflintown. Cost will be \$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.

WOMEN’S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA will be held on Wednesday, March 23 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, beginning with tea at 9:30 p.m. and the lesson at 10:00 a.m. Bible Study is on the book “Uphill Faith.”

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church. Preacher will be Pastor Gay Irwin. Theme: Forty Days on the Mountain. (Exodus 24:12-18).

MIFFLINTOWN MEN’S PRAYER MEETING AND BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. at The Stop. The speaker will be Pastor Ed D’Agostino of Pine Grove United Methodist Church.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is holding a blood drive at the following location:

Monday, March 21st
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
1:00 to 7:00 p.m.
19 N. Mill Street, Thompsontown

The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older, and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood. Most people can safely donate every 56 days. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. Thank you for helping to save lives.

NURSE'S NOTES – Have you ever wondered why.....your body sometimes jerks as you are falling asleep? According to Dr. Clete Kushida, medical director of the Stanford Sleep Medicine Center of Redwood City, California, these “hypnic jerks, or sleep starts, probably stem from nerves misfiring, as your brain and body downshift into sleep.” Don’t worry, they are harmless. However, if they happen frequently or disturb your sleep, tell your doctor; they could be signs of sleep apnea or periodic limb movement disorder.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Blessing of Seeing Eye Puppies.
-Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.
- Monday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
-7 p.m., Purpose Driven Life Lenten Study in Library area, (Washington Avenue entrance).
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -9:30 a.m., Women’s Lenten Tea at Aldersgate Methodist Church.
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men’s Prayer Breakfast at The Stop.
- Sunday:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.