

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
Carole Nace
Linda Bahorik
Michelle Stoner

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 25, 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., Helen K., Sis S., Fannie K., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Norm and Mary E., Al S., Emery K., Dave P., Harry A., Bill W., George, Jamie and Luke D. and Ed and Ann B., and family of Mary W.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's light and truth into our hearts. We see God's heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony both the John and Hebrews readings describe.

On March 25 the church remembers the Annunciation of Our Lord. This lesser festival may be observed this year on March 26.

* 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 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

* 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 O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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 31:31-34

The First Reading is from the 31st chapter of Jeremiah.

THE LESSON READS:

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt — a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12 (responsively)

L *Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)*

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

ALL Create in me a clean heart, O God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

The Second Reading is from the 5th chapter of Hebrews.

THE LESSON READS:

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

* 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 You write a new covenant on our hearts. We pray for those who will be washed in the waters of baptism this Easter, and also their families and sponsors. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You make creation bear fruit. We pray for farmers and ranchers; for animals coming out of hibernation; for deserts and tundra, where living conditions are harsh. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You draw all people to yourself. We pray for nations preparing for elections; for countries suffering from fires, floods, storms, or famines (especially); for those living in refugee camps. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You know the troubles of our souls. We pray for those waiting for answers to prayers; for those whose lives are full of tears; for those sick in body or spirit (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], also Ryan Keresey, Norm and Mary Esborn, Al Smith, Emery Kirk, Dave Phelan, Harry Aurand, Bill Walters, and family of Mary Weiland). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You renew a right spirit within us. We pray for this assembly, for our pastor/s, members, and visitors, that we might see Jesus in one another and in the stranger. Lord, in your mercy,

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P You are the source of eternal salvation. We remember before you the faithful witnesses who have gone before us (especially Mary, on this festival of the Annunciation of Our Lord), and now rest forever in your peace. 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 – Ed Beaver

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Clark

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.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO Robert and James Pannebaker and Ona Stoner and Jane Miller and families on the death of their mother and sister, Mary Weiland, who died on March 18, 2012 at her home. Please keep the 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 – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop of Hippo (354 – 430): The confession of evil works is the first step of good works.

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 3/18/12 was \$2,405.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, March 18, 2012: \$100. This brings the total received to \$66,788 of the total \$85,890 needed for the project.

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.

THANK YOU to Messiah Lutheran Church for letting our Alzheimer's group have our fund raising Spaghetti Dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Marylou Hazard

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, April 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader and Linda Leister and Cynthia Smith as hostesses.

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 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church. Pastor Esborn will be preaching on the theme "The Cross at Pentecost."

THE FINAL 2012 WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. This year's study is 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.

2012 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS are held each Saturday during Lent at 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House. The final two speakers will be Pastor Edd Carlson on March 31 and Harold Oberholtzer on April 7.

THE FINAL TWO LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held on Friday, March 23 and Friday, 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 AMERICAN RED CROSS will be holding the following 2012 local blood drives:

- Friday, April 6 – Fayette Community Building, McAlisterville, 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Community Building.
- Thursday, April 12 – Tuscarora Grange, East Waterford, 1:00-7:00 p.m. Sponsored by Blairs Mills Lions Club.
- Saturday, April 14 – Tuscarora Valley Elementary School, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the school.

The need for all blood types is constant and ongoing. Appointment are encouraged. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

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).

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

SHAMPOO, DEODORANT & FIRST-AID SUPPLIES

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS

HELP NEEDED! Two volunteers are needed to work Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Food Pantry. Duties would include answering the phone, setting up appointments, interviewing clients, completing forms and helping with other office work as needed. Applicants must be very strong in the following fruits of the spirit: patience, kindness, goodness and self-control – even under pressure. Additional abilities such as peaceful coexistence with computers and speaking Spanish are appreciated, but **NOT REQUIRED**. Pay for this position is not in Money, but in storing up many treasures in heaven!

NOTE: Beginning April 1, 2012 the Food Pantry **new hours** of operation will be: **Monday and Wednesday, 2:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** The Food Pantry will be closed on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Donations may be left anytime in the vestibule on the ramp side of the building.

NURSE'S NOTES – Accidental poisonings from prescription drugs are on the rise in children under age 6 – and are happening in homes like yours, according to research from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. The probable cause behind the 22% increase? More meds in the home; 55% of adults now take at least one prescribed medication (mainly heart drugs, pain medications, and sleep aids), and many are careless about storage. "Put drugs out of reach, preferably in a locked cabinet," says study author G. Randall Bond, MD. (*Prevention Magazine, February 2012, pg. 13*)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Property Committee meeting in choir room.
-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 Westminster Presbyterian Church.
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at Trinity Methodist Church.
-7 p.m., NA meeting in Youth Area.
-8 p.m., Choir 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 Edd Carlson.
- Sunday:** -Palm Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.