

# 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  
Robert St. Clair  
Barbara S. Geedey  
Linda Clark

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT March 4, 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., and Dave P.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "In Memory, Lord, of Thee"

J. Southbridge

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

### \* 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

"Lift High the 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 O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

The First Reading is from the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis.

## THE LESSON READS:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31 (responsively)

L *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. (Ps. 22:27)*

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**<sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

**ALL All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

The Second Reading is from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

## THE LESSON READS:

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings

wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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: Mark 8:31-38

*P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

\* 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 Let us pray for the one holy catholic and apostolic church, for the church's leaders and all its people, and for every local community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for this planet we call home; for the oceans we have polluted with oil; for the land we have piled with garbage; and for the species we have endangered. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for the multitude of nations (especially); for Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and others of different faiths than our own; and for those without a community of faith. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for couples longing for children; for families that are separated; for children in foster care; for people with disabilities; and for all in need of healing (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 and Dave Phelan). Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Let us pray for this assembly; for those who read the lessons and lead music; for greeters and ushers; for Sunday school teachers and students; for longtime members and first-time visitors. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P Let us give thanks for those who have lost their lives for the sake of the gospel (especially). Encourage us also to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow you. 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

*[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      "From the Manger to the Cross"      "Six Weeks of Lent"      Junior Choir

\* 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.*

COMMUNION

"In The Hour of Trial"

J. Denton

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**

\* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

*P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

**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 – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Diana Wise

## **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 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.

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!

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Alan Swab and Deanna Cisney on the death of their mother and sister, Doreen Coder, who died on February 15, 2012 at Golden Living Care Center in Camp Hill. Please keep Alan and Deanna and their families in your prayers.



JUST A THOUGHT – Charles Colson, Evangelist, Special Counsel for President Nixon (b. 1931):  
The Church is an organism, not an organization – a movement, not a monument.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16, 2012 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

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 2/26/12 was \$2,142.

A FELLOWSHIP GAME DAY will be held today in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. There will be a light lunch followed by games for all ages.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area, with the History of the group being discussed.

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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."

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## **COMMUNITY**

THE NEXT COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will be on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church. Pastor Gay Irwin will be preaching on the theme "The Cross in Epiphany."

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 7, Trinity Methodist Church  
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 10, James Bahorik  
March 17, Pastor Ken Longfield  
March 24, Pastor Gary Krabill  
March 31, Pastor Edd Carlson  
April 7, Harold Oberholtzer

A SPAGHETTI SUPPER will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. The meal will include all-you-can-eat spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert. Cost will be \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 3-12, and children under 3 are FREE. Donations of spaghetti sauce or monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. Tickets will be available at the door.

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.

**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 – **Did you know** that daffodils can be toxic to dogs? It is not uncommon for dogs to eat grass, however, keep him away from all parts of this spring plant. After ingesting either the bulb, leaves or flower, he can develop signs of poisoning – diarrhea, vomiting, staggering, even death. Call your vet immediately if you suspect your pet may have ingested any part of a daffodil.

**THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.  
-11:30 a.m., Fellowship Game Day in Fellowship Hall.
- 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 Trinity United Methodist Church.  
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at St. Jude's Catholic Church.  
-8 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing group in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Mifflintown Men's Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House. Speaker, James Bahorik.  
-4—7 p.m., Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Alzheimer's Association in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.