

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
Mark Baylor
Bob St. Clair
Christie Holderman

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 10, 2013 – 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., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Jesse K., Tammy W., Pat and Joe F., Dan C., Wilma P., Destiny D., Lucy C., Martha S., Audrey L., Josh B., George and Lorraine H., Carl K., Morgan T., Karl and Margaret G., Alex D., and Nancy N.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away...the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

C Amen

P Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Merciful Father,

C we have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another. Amen

P We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of + Jesus Christ, forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation.

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 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion 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 God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

The First Reading is from the 5th chapter of Joshua.

THE LESSON READS:

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32 (responsively)

L *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

ALL Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The Second Reading is from the 5th chapter of 2 Corinthians.

THE LESSON READS:

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

has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father

came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

* 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 Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

A brief silence.

P For the church, that it may be a community of reconciliation, and welcome those lost, estranged, or alienated from their homes or communities. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For those preparing for baptism at Easter, that you clothe them in the garments of salvation and welcome them to your table of celebration. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For the governments of the world, that they not squander the resources of the earth, but use them for the good of creation and all its inhabitants. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For all who run away from home or hang on to resentment or guilt; and for those broken in mind, body, or spirit (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Jesse Kint, Tammy Walton, Wilma Pyles, Jo and Pat Forney, Dan Connor, Marian Gross, Destiny Devlin, Lucy Cargill, Martha Stouffer, Dorothy Patterson, Audrey Landis, Josh Beitz, George and Lorraine Hazard, Carl Krow, Morgan Treaster, Karl and Margaret Guss, Alex Demar, and Nancy Normen) that you embrace them with your compassion. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For the families and homes of this congregation, that they may be places of forgiveness, acceptance, and nurture. Hear us, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We give thanks for the saints (especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom we commemorate today). Bring us to your eternal home, that we may rejoice in the inheritance of your grace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

(In hospitality and attempting to meet the needs of individuals, Messiah now offers gluten free communion hosts. If you wish to receive gluten free hosts, please come to the side where Pastor Esborn is serving).

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 O God, in this holy meal you have embraced us and gathered us into your arms of compassion and protection. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God our Father bless you and shield you. Christ our Mother shelter you and carry you. God the Holy Spirit guide your journey + both now and forever.

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 – Barbara S. Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barbara S. Geedey

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!

JUST A THOUGHT – John Newton, Anglican Clergyman (1725 – 1807): I remember two things: that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2013 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES by Augsburg Fortress are available in the church office for anyone who would like one. Cost is \$24.00 each.

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING needed to fund 2013 expenses is \$3,277. Offering received on 3/3/13 was \$3,725.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, March 3, 2013: \$350. This brings the total received to \$80,326 of the total \$85,890 needed for the project. Balance needed to complete funding is \$5,564.00.

THE 2013 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or online at www.campmountluther.org (please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor). Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1st for the early discount.

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE for July, 2013 through June, 2014 will be completed by June 1st. We are currently in need of more people to serve on Altar Guild, as a few of our long-serving members have asked to have their names removed from the list. If you would like to serve, please either call the church office or contact Bob St. Clair. All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve!

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE for July, 2013 through June, 2014 will be completed by June 1st. If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.

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 7 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

THE MUSIC AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE will meet on Sunday, March 10, 2013 following the worship service.

THE NEXT PPC MEETING will be Sunday, March 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

THE BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY will meet on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

THE NEXT SERVICE OF HEALING will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2013 due to Easter (which will be on March 31st).

VOTERS ASSEMBLY REPORTS are available on the small table in the Adult Sunday School Room for anyone who would like one.

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 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

PERSONAL CARE KITS are the project for the Women of the ELCA for the beginning of 2013. Needed for the project are the following items:

- dark colored bath towels approximately (52 x 27),
- adult toothbrushes (can be large packages of more than 1)
- sturdy combs with wide teeth

Please donate as many items as you are able. You can share God's grace and love by providing simple comfort, starting with a bath! Soap is always needed too! (any brand in original wrapping).

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer drivers, cooks and people to help assemble meals. If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013, 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House with Edd Carlson as the speaker.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at Trinity United Methodist Church. This year's study will be from the book "Give Up Something BAD for Lent." Fellowship time is 9:30 a.m. followed by the program at 10:00 a.m.

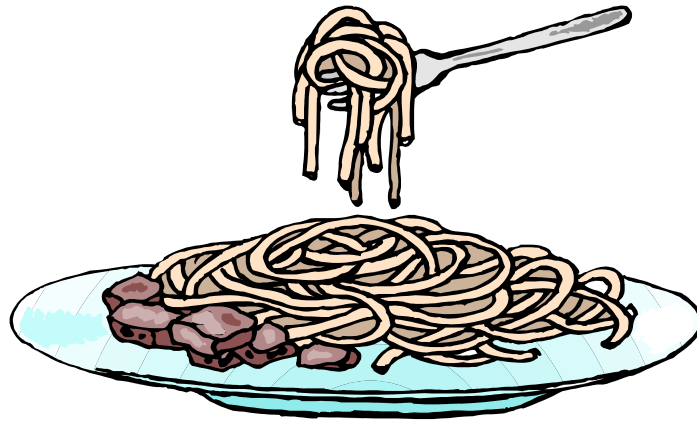
COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Pastor Chris Mathiason will be preaching on the theme "By Faith: The Israelites."

LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday beginning February 8th until March 22nd 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.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Cate. Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-Music & Worship Committee meeting following worship service.
- Monday:** -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 Trinity Methodist Church.
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at Trinity Methodist Church.
-8 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House.
-10 a.m., First Communion Class.
-4—7 p.m., Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.

**ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER
AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013
4:00 to 7:00 P.M.
IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**COST: \$7.00 FOR ADULTS
\$4.00 FOR CHILDREN 3 TO 12
CHILDREN UNDER 3 ARE FREE**

**DINNER INCLUDES:
SPAGHETTI, SALAD, BREAD, BEVERAGE, & DESSERT
(TAKE-OUT ORDERS ARE AVAILABLE)**

**DONATIONS OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE, DESSERT, OR MONETARY
DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
ALZHEIMERS ASSOCIATION**

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR