

THE MESSIAH HERALD



MARCH, 2012

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213
www.mlcmifflintown.org
mlcmifflintown@pa.net

THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

35 SCENIC VIEW DRIVE
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-9425
pastoresborn@pa.net

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The Messiah Herald



March 2012

As the political path to the presidency has picked up pace since last July religious questions have been increasingly raised in the midst of the political arena.

As Christians and as Lutheran Christians we boldly assert that salvation is a gift from God given freely by grace through no merit of our own.

However, that grace has its power and effect in our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit in us through faith. Believing in God's gift and trusting his Word we live day to day, moment to moment by faith. Salvation is accomplished but living moves forward into the world and life.

Our ability to fulfill our calling to share the Gospel does not rest in our ability to control government and Caesar but instead in our ability to live out and simply bear witness to our faith.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When asked by Jesus what about taxes Jesus asked to see the coin and then asked whose image was on the coin. When told that it was Caesar's he then said, "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's." In doing this Jesus defined for his followers the responsibility they had to the two kingdoms of this world, the ruling secular community and the family of God.

As the political path to the presidency has picked up pace since last July, religious questions have been increasingly raised in the midst of the political arena. They have included questions about Mitt Romney's Mormon faith and whether Evangelical Christians would vote for him and questions about what decisions concerning health care are the responsibility of employers to provide and what coverage should exist, how does public responsibility interface with personal faith, where lines of religious moral conscience and societal interests do not coincide, how and where the line is to be drawn, and most recently, how to decide who bears what limits of authority over women to decide issues regarding their individual choices in healthcare and in family planning. I suspect that much of this makes many and maybe most of us uncomfortable. I suspect the reason for that is because these are often such personal issues regarding our personal religious beliefs and affect how we struggle to live those out in the world. We might even think that it makes the question to Jesus about paying taxes a relatively easier one.

As Christians and as Lutheran Christians we boldly assert that salvation is a gift from God given freely by grace through no merit of our own. Jesus went to the cross without asking me to do it for me, he then poured out the power of this act of grace upon me in baptism claiming me from the power of death through no ability of mine own. We are saved by grace.

However, that grace has its power and effect on our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit in us through faith. Believing in God's gift and trusting his Word we live day to day, moment to moment by faith. Salvation is accomplished but living moves forward into the world and life.

It is this living in faith that becomes messy and hard. It becomes complicated and as all things involving human beings it is touched by our corrupting, sinful self-centeredness and yet we are called to act in saint like imitation of Christ. We are called to live in a way that reveals God's grace in the world in the work of Jesus Christ. In doing this we render unto God what is God's, our whole lives. But still we must ask ourselves how we are to live this life we receive from God in the midst of a world that is filled with so many different religious viewpoints, viewpoints with broad disagreements and divisions among those varying faiths. How indeed?

One way to see this quandry is to look backward in history to the early church. In no period of history has the world so paralleled our own for the diversity of faiths surrounding the church. Plus it was a time when Christians had little power in the realm of Caesar. Despite that and the inability to enforce their own viewpoint onto the ruling culture Christianity exploded and grew throughout the Middle East and even to the city of the Caesars. In other words our ability to fulfill our calling to share the Gospel does not rest in our ability to control government and Caesar but instead in our ability to live out and simply bear witness to our faith. We do not need to make laws in our own image so much as we need to live faithful in our own lives seeking only from government the right to do that without interference. The ability to live as a Christian has never depended on the support or opposition of government.

Luther in laying out his two kingdom ethic taught us that the only time we are called to outright resistance against government is when we are compelled against our conscience to perform sinful action. In this political season listen and hear but most certainly live like Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

March	1: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
March	2: Psalm 22:23-31
March	3: Romans 4:13-25
March	4: Mark 8:31-38
March	5: 1 Peter 2:4-10
March	6: Exodus 19:1-15
March	7: Exodus 19:16-25
March	8: Exodus 20:1-17
March	9: Psalm 19
March	10: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
March	11: John 2:13-22
March	12: Psalm 84
March	13: Daniel 12:5-13
March	14: Numbers 20:22-29
March	15: Numbers 21:4-9
March	16: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
March	17: Ephesians 2:1-10
March	18: John 3:14-21
March	19: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
March	20: Hebrews 4:1-13
March	21: John 12:1-11
March	22: Jeremiah 31:31-34
March	23: Psalm 51:1-12
March	24: Hebrews 5:5-10
March	25: John 12:20-33
March	26: Luke 1:26-38
March	27: Deuteronomy 16:1-8
March	28: Mark 11:1-11
March	29: Isaiah 50:4-9a
March	30: Psalm 31:9-16
March	31: Philippians 2:5-11



PRAYER REQUESTS

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.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

MARCH SCHEDULES

LECTORS

4: Barbara S. Geedey
11: Diana Wise
18: Cynthia Smith
25: Linda Bahorik

ALTAR GUILD

Feb. 27—Mar. 4 Linda Clark
Mar. 5—Mar. 11 Diana Wise
Mar. 12—Mar. 25 Michelle Stoner
Mar. 26—Apr. 1 Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

4: NO FLOWERS - LENT
11: NO FLOWERS - LENT
18: NO FLOWERS - LENT
25: NO FLOWERS - LENT



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, February 9, 2012 with Ann Beaver as devotional leader, using the remainder of the DVD "The Making of the St. James Bible." "The Hampton Court Conference," called by the King of England, James I, selected 54 Greek and Hebrew scholars as translators from the delegation of various religions. The chosen majority of translators were Puritans and Church of England, who were selected to bind together the central part of the delegation, excluding the extremists and all Catholics. The translators were divided into groups of three scholars. Each group was assigned sections to translate and each individual of the three would translate and then meet as a whole and interpret the

meaning and write it in the language of the day. Eighty-four percent of the King James Version of the Bible is based on William Tyndale's writing of the Bible in 1525. We listened to readings from the King James Version and noted that many parts of the translation we heard, we find in music and phrases.

Thank you Ann.

The business meeting was in charge of Barbara S. Geedey, Leader

Business discussed:

--Day of Learning, April 28, 2012, Pine St. Lutheran, 407 Pine St., Danville, PA, 9:30 AM. Registration is \$12.00, due April 20. Theme: God's Healing Hands. Registration forms available in church office.

--The only thing we know about the Women's Lenten Wednesday Gathering is that we are in charge on March 21 and the topic is "Words of Life from the Cross."

--We have not received any fabric for the Lutheran World Relief Fabric Project. The Project continues March and April.

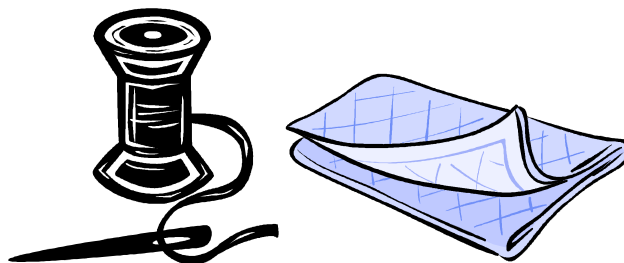
--Recipes are needed for the 25th Anniversary of the SWO convention in July. Recipes and history must be submitted by May 1.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area, with the History of the group being discussed.

The meeting adjourned with the reading of "The Purpose" of the Women of the ELCA.

REMINDER: Women of the ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST 2012 PROJECT FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BY THE MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA



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

--Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and should be cut into pieces measuring 2¼ yards or 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.

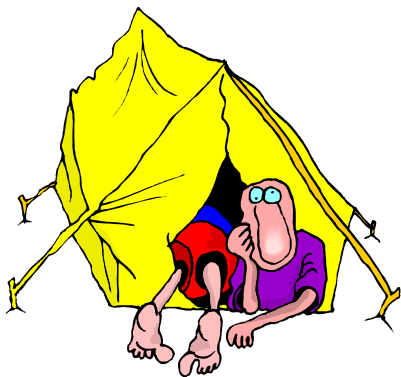
When choosing fabrics, consider bright colors and colorful prints. If you are not a shopper and want to participate in the project, we will be glad to do your shopping. Just give your donation to Cynthia Smith or Linda Leister.

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."

FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

Blanket Sunday 2011

Blankets	324
Quilts	2046
School Kits	699
Sewing Kits	21
Health Kits	584
Layettes	45
Soap	119
Lap Robes	43



CAMPING BROCHURES

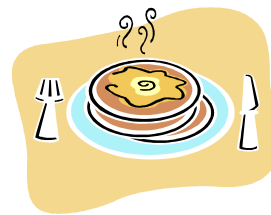
The 2012 camping brochures and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office.

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.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to make a contribution to the Meals-On-Wheels program, your continued support would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent to:

Juniata Meals-On-Wheels
P.O. Box 251
Mifflintown, PA 17059



2012 PORT ROYAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS

7:00 a.m. – Port Royal Community Building

March 3	Mr. Sam Leister, Messiah Lutheran Church
March 10	Mr. Russell Gobeille, Westminster Presbyterian Church
March 17	Mr. Don Musser, Faith Community Church
March 24	Rev. Tom Burris, Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church
March 31	Mr. Tom Getz, Juniata Mennonite School Principal
April 7	Rev. Charles Hershberger, Port Royal Lutheran Church

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.

EASTER LILIES

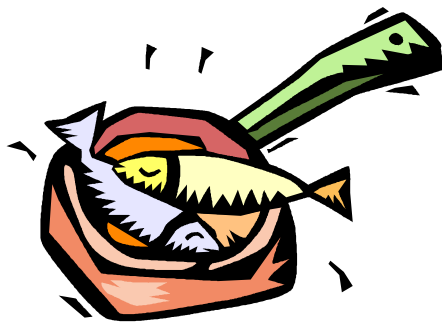
Easter Lilies to decorate the church on Easter Sunday, may be placed in memory or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God.

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.

FELLOWSHIP GAME DAY

A Fellowship Game Day will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

There will be a light lunch followed by games for all ages.



LENTEN FISH DINNER

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.

2012 WOMEN'S LENTEN TEAS

The Women's Community Lenten Teas will begin on February 22, 2012. 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:

- February 29, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
- 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

The 2012 Mifflintown Men's Prayer Breakfasts will begin on February 25th at 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House. Speakers are listed below:

- March 3, Pastor Terry Smith
- March 10, James Bahorik
- March 17, Pastor Ken Longfield
- March 24, Pastor Gary Krabill
- March 31, Pastor Edd Carlson
- April 7, Harold Oberholtzer

BISHOP'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

The seventh annual Bishop's Open Golf Tournament is set for May 14, 2012, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam.

The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp's annual fund. A flyer/bulletin insert containing information and registration form is available on the camp's website at www.campmountluther.org. The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, door prize sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can

help, please contact the camp office.

Congregations are also encouraged to become a hole sponsor this year. Get involved and help our synod's outdoor ministry!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES

The American Red Cross will be holding blood drives in the Mifflintown area at the following locations:

Tuesday, March 6, 2012
1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Juniata Mennonite School
289 Leonard Hill Road, McAlisterville

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Messiah Lutheran Church
3 S. Third Street, Mifflintown

Monday, March 19, 2012
1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
19 N. Mill Street, Thompsonstown

Friday, April 6, 2012
12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Fayette Community Building
School Street, McAlisterville

Saturday, April 14, 2012
Tuscarora Valley Elementary School
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
401 Eighth Street, Port Royal

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 may be eligible to donate blood every 56 days. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 Red Cross.

(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY **Health, Healing and Wholeness** **March 2012**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

What do garden gnomes, daffodils, robins and kids sneaking outdoors without wearing coats have in common? You guessed it – they're signs of spring! Add to the mix, a sore throat, runny nose, and frequent sneezing, and you know your child (who snuck outside without a coat) has a spring cold that he just can't seem to shake. Or is it? Could it be seasonal allergies? How do you determine the difference?

Here are several hints from doctors Paul Linder, of the Allergy and Asthma Center in Stamford, Connecticut, and William Anderson, MD of the Asthma and Allergy Center of Bellingham, Washington.

1. Does your child have a fever? Fever is never a symptom of seasonal or environmental allergies.
2. A runny nose, sneezing, itchy eyes are a symptom of both; but colds are accompanied by general body aches (the doctors point out that one exception would be chest soreness caused by prolonged coughing; this can be a sign of either cause).
3. Is your child coughing up phlegm that is cloudy/yellow/greenish? This is the sign of a cold. Clear or watery phlegm is a sign of allergies.

4. How long do your child's symptoms typically last? If the answer is a week to ten days, he probably has a cold. Allergic reactions usually occur as long as the child is exposed to the allergen; once away from it, the symptoms disappear.
5. Allergies tend to run in families. If both parents have allergies to a particular irritant, their child has a 70% chance of being allergic as well.
6. Does your child have dark circles under his eyes? Kids with itchy, watery eyes seem to rub them continuously. So much so, that they develop what's known as an "allergic shiner" – bruised areas underneath the eyes which are similar to your child having received a "black eye."
7. Colds typically develop over the course of a few days; allergies come on relatively fast.
8. The cold season typically hits its peak mid-winter; allergies are most common during spring, summer and fall.
9. How long do your child's symptoms last? Colds typically run their course in 5-14 days; allergies linger – depending on the allergen, sometimes for months.
10. How quickly does your child recover? Allergy symptoms seem to reoccur with symptoms lasting several weeks. In addition, it may appear that your child's symptoms improve much more slowly than other kids his age. Finally,
11. Your child may develop a small crease near the bottom of the bridge of his nose. This is caused by him constantly pushing upward when he rubs his itchy nose.

It is estimated that more than 50 million people in the US have some sort of allergic disease (American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology). If you suspect your child may have allergies, or has cold-like symptoms that don't seem to go away, consult with his physician. Testing can be done. Basic skin testing is still the gold standard for determining allergens in children over the age of two. Results are typically evident within 15 minutes. You and your physician can then begin to map out a plan of treatment, which, depending on the allergen, may include elimination of the offending irritant. For environmental causes such as dust or pollen, it may mean making some longer-term lifestyle changes such as using air filters, frequent cleaning, or limiting time spent outdoors when pollen counts are highest.

As always, consult your child's physician before symptomatic treatment with any medications – including those sold over-the-counter.

Spring Blessings!

Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

Juniata County Food Pantry March Update

Then the king will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you invited me into your home. I was naked and you gave me clothing. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison and you visited me."

Then these righteous ones will reply, "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?"

And the King will say, "I tell you the truth. When you did it for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it for me." (Matthew 26:34-40)

Praise the Lord and thank you for the outpouring of love and donations for this young mother and her children. The supplies that came pouring in not only met all the immediate needs of her family, but the abundance will continue to bless many other families in similar situations. And for the first time in over a year, our baby, personal care and cleaning shelves are filled to overflowing! In January 2012, the Food Pantry served 313 families in need – a total of 932 individuals. With that kind of need shelves empty quickly here at the Pantry, so please don't let your compassion cool for the hungry and homeless among us.

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 & GIFT CARDS.**

***OUR NEW VESTIBULE IS OPEN TO RECEIVE**

DONATIONS ANY HOUR, ANY DAY! CASH OR GIFT

CARD DONATIONS MAY BE DEPOSITED THROUGH THE MAIL SLOT.

PHONE #: 717-436-9718 -- CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH

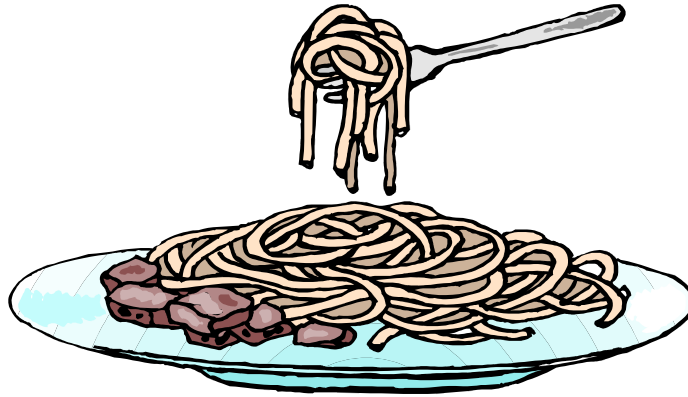
ADDRESS: PO BOX 44, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

LOCATION: 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA

HOURS: MON. 1--4 PM, TUES. & THURS. 3--6 PM, SAT. 10:00 AM-- 1:00 PM



All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner At Messiah Lutheran Church



SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012

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, & DESSERT

DONATIONS OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR MONETARY

DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE

ALZHEIMERS ASSOCIATION

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

2012 COMMUNITY LENTEN SCHEDULE

Lent 2, February 29, 7:00 PM at Aldersgate Methodist Church with Pastor Martha Carlson preaching. Theme – The Cross in Christmas.

Lent 3, March 7, 7:00 PM at St. Jude's Catholic Church with Pastor Gay Irwin preaching. Theme – The Cross in Epiphany.

Lent 4, March 14, 7:00 PM at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church with Father Fidelis preaching. Theme – The Cross in Lent.

Lent 5, March 21, 7:00 PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church with Pastor Chris Mathiason preaching. Theme – The Cross in Easter.

Lent 6, March 28, 7:00 PM at Trinity Methodist Church with Pastor William Esborn preaching. Theme – The Cross at Pentecost.

Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:00 PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church with Pastor Chris Mathiason preaching. Theme – The Cross in Holy Week.

Good Friday Service, April 6 from 12:00 noon—3:00 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church – Pastors of the Community. Theme – Seven Last Words.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 8, 6:30 AM at Trinity Methodist Church with Pastor William Esborn preaching.

Community Thanksgiving Service, November 18, 7:00 PM at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

2012 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH “SEVEN LAST WORDS”

Welcome and Opening, 12:00 noon – Pastor William Esborn
Father forgive them, 12:05-12:30 PM – Pastor William Esborn
My God, My God, 12:30-12:55 PM – Pastor Martha Carlson
Today you will be with me, 12:55-1:20 PM – Pastor James Wooster
Mother, behold thy Son, 1:20-1:45 PM – Pastor Edd Carlson
I thirst, 1:45-2:10 PM – Pastor Gay Irwin
It is finished, 2:10-2:35 PM – Pastor Chris Mathiason
Into thy hands, 2:35-3:00 PM – Father Weary
Closing and Sending – Pastor William Esborn