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 Bob St. Clair Andrea Cameron Linda Clark Pastor Choir Director Organist Lector Altar Guild

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 3, 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., Susan M., Tammy W., Lura A., Pat and Joe F., Dan C., Betty K., Wilma P., Patty S., Destiny D., Margaret B., Lucy C., Martha S., Jim M., Audrey L., Joice W., Josh B., George and Lorraine H., Carl K., Morgan T., and Carl and Margaret G.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
INTRODUCTION

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the gound one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jim Bahorik

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 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"
- * 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 Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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: Isaiah 55:1-9

The First Reading is from the 55th chapter of Isaiah

THE LESSON READS:

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8 (responsively)

L O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

5My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

ALL O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

The Second Reading is from the 10th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

THE LESSON READS:

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in

the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON Jim Bahorik

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

* 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 Cultivate in the church a spirit of repentance, that we may bear the fruits of faith, mercy, and compassion. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Turn the nations from violence and bloodshed to genuine concerne for the common good, and care for the earth we inhabit. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Bless our Jewish sisters and brothers, fellow heirs of God's promises, even as we confess to them our sins and past failures. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Nurture the faith of those tested by illness, grief, addiction, or anxiety (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Jesse Kint, Susan Minick, Tammy Walton, Betty Karstetter, Lura Aughey, Wilma Pyles, Jo and Pat Forney, Dan Connor, Marian Gross, Patty Shearer, Destiny Devlin, Margaret Bryner, Lucy Cargill, Martha Stouffer, Dorothy Patterson, Jim McLaughlin [son of Steve and Christine McLaughlin], Audrey Landis, Joice Wilson, Josh Beitz, George and Lorraine Hazard, Carl Krow, Morgan Treaster, and Carl and Margaret Guss) and give them a spirit of endurance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Sustain us in your Lenten journey with spiritual food and drink, that we may bring forth the fruit of conversion. Hear us, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Gather us around the tree of life in the garden of paradise with all our holy ancestors who trusted in your covenant of mercy. 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 "Ho-Ho-Hosanna" "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 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 sol.

- 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
- * 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 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 (sung)
- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Remember the poor. C Thanks be to God!

CLOSING CHIMES

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Bob St. Clair NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman

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.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE by Jim Bahorik, Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leader persons have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the Bishop of the Synod to preside at the Lord's Table in specific situations. This is a ministry of the ELCA recognizing the mission need of the church for today and the future. We welcome Jim as our worship leader this morning and pray God's blessing on him as he ministers to us this morning.

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 – Eli Cass, Christian Thinker: The cross is the invincible sanctuary of the humble.

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 (2/24/13 was \$	эn
RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, February 24, 2013: \$ This brings the tota received to \$ of the total \$85,890 needed for the project. Balance needed to complete funding is \$	ı

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 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.

THE MARCH 2013 "MESSIAH HERALD" is now available in the church office, sanctuary, kitchenette, Fellowship Hall, and also online. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and are not already on the list, please send your email address to stclair@embargmail.com.

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 9, 2013, 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House with Pastor James Wooster as the speaker.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at Westminster Presbyterian 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 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Pastor Esborn will be preaching on the theme "By Faith: Moses."

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.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

-February 25—March 4, Pastor Esborn will be away. If you need a pastor

during that time, please call Pastor Anna Ritter at 436-9425.

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 Westminster Presbyterian Church.

-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

-8 p.m., Choir rehearsal.

Thursday: -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.

-6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.

Friday: -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday: -7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House.

-12:00 noon—3 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.

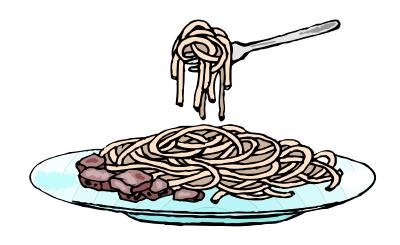
-Set time ahead 1 hour before bed (Daylight Saving Time begins).

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

-Music & Worship Committee meeting following worship service.

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