

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
Ron Yorks
Andrea Cameron
Michelle Stoner

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Cantor
Altar Guild

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 6, 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., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Fannie K., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., Harry A., Ginny W., John S., Lon D., George, Jamie and Luke D., Ed and Ann B., Don C., Sarah D., Nick B., Sue K.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "Prelude Fantasia"

R. W. Thygerson

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding that we read of in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Esborn

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

* GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* **KYRIE (C - sung)**

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

* **HYMN OF PRAISE (I & II - Choir C – Congregation)**

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion:

Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

II For the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

* **SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (sung)**

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)**

P Let us pray...

C O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live.

Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, the Ethiopian is baptized by Philip.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

The First reading is from the 8th chapter of Acts.

THE LESSON READS:

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 22:25-31

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

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

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied. Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

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

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, 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.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They 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.

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

The Second reading is from the 4th chapter of 1 John.

THE LESSON READS:

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

* THE VERSE (**Congregation**)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love would bear fruit, for apart from him, they could do nothing

* GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

*** THE VERSE (Congregation)**

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, He that for three days in the grave had lain; Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; Love is come again like wheat arising green.

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

*** HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Let All Things Now Living"

*** NICENE CREED (all)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Enlivened in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray for the life of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Holy, abiding God, breathe your love into your people. By your Spirit shape us to share your love with one another, so that others see your love and come to know you. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Spread your sheltering presence over all new things in your creation: plants sprouting out of soil and young animals growing stronger. Protect all that is fragile. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Go forth with all missionaries in their work of serving others and sharing the good news of salvation we have in Christ. Make their work both welcomed and welcoming. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Abide with people who feel unloved, who deal with crisis, and who struggle with illness (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Harry Aurand, Ginny Waller, John Smullen, Lon Diffenderfer, Don Clark, Sarah Dressler, Luke Davis, Nick Beward, Sue Kepner). Surround them with people who will show compassion. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Be a steadfast presence for migrant workers, refugees, and all who do not have permanent homes. Guide them, care for them, and give them security. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Giving thanks for the saints who abide with you eternally, we ask you to open us to your presence in our midst until the day when you gather all people into your eternal presence. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray into your care, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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."**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Blest Be The Tie"

D. Wells

[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 ('vineyards')

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

MEAL

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (**sung responsively**)

P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

* PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faith-fulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Sung) Through him, with him, in him, in the u-ni-ty of the Ho-ly Spir-it, all hon-or and glo-ry is yours, al-might-y Fa-ther, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

* 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 Jesus said, "I am the true vine. Abide in me as I abide in you."

* LAMB OF GOD **(sung)**

Lamb of God, you take a – way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a – way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

"Chapel Windows"

R. Blake

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

* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (**sung**)

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord re – joice and proud-ly bear his name. He re-calls his prom-is – es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le – lu – ia. Al-le-lu – ia.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Life-giving God, we give you thanks for nourishing us with the bread of heaven and the wine of love, Jesus our risen Savior. As you send us into the world, guard us from the power of evil, keep us in unity with all your people, and by your Spirit move us to testify to your grace in our words and actions; through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

* 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

* BLESSING

P Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness. Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses. God the Holy Spirit, who renews the whole earth, refresh you in the gift of baptism this day and always.

C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)

* CLOSING HYMN “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

“The Light From On High”

D. Paxton

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Sam Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Ann Beaver

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the yellow 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 – Charlotte Perkins Gilman, American writer and Social Reformer (1860 - 1935): Eternity is not something that begins after you are dead. It is going on all the time. We are in it now.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES will begin on June 10, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. (Sunday School at 8:15 a.m. if classes are meeting) and end on September 2, 2012. Regular worship services will begin on September 9th.

PROPERTY MEETING – The Property Committee will meet Monday, May 21, 2012 in the choir room at 6:30 p.m. Please attend if possible, as we have two very important items to discuss. Check your email as property news is being sent periodically.

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING NEEDED to fund 2012 expenses is \$3,250. Offering received on 4/29/12 was \$2,325.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, April 29, 2012: \$300. This brings the total received to \$68,628 of the total \$85,890 needed for the project. Balance needed to complete funding is \$17,262.00,

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE from June, 2012 through June, 2013 will be completed soon. If you are not already on the Altar Guild and you would like to serve, please notify the church office. If you no longer wish to serve, again let the office know. All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in May. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE from June, 2012 through June, 2013 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a Lector (the lay person who reads the scripture lessons at the worship service) and you would like to do so, 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 May. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship services.

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, May 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE in a project in association with Seafarers International House – At the 25th Anniversary Convention of the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Unit of the Women of the WELCA, July 28, 2012, there will be an ingathering of items for “Christmas at Sea” sacks which will be given to seamen who cannot be with family for the holidays. These items will be gathered from May until Sunday, July 22, 2012. (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.”)

Items needed: (No substitutes, please)

- Sweatshirt—hooded or unhooded in size L or XL
- Thermal or white gym socks, groups of three pairs
- Casual pull-over T-shirts, size M and L
- Knit heavy winter cap
- Cans of nuts or candy
- Christmas card signed by you

The sacks will be completed and filled at a board meeting of the WELCA Synodical Board before Thanksgiving. These gifts may be placed on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs a head cook and team for the fourth Tuesday of the month (beginning in November). Also needed, at least two people to help assemble the meals for delivery on the second Friday of the month (needed immediately). Drivers are also needed for several routes. If you can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

THRIVENT EVENT – The Juniata County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will host a program entitled “Identity Theft: What You Need to Know” at Messiah Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 20, 2012 in the Fellowship Hall. The program will begin at 12:00 p.m. and lunch will be provided. The program and lunch are open to the public. Please contact Esther Bratton at 436-8856 or Francene Zimmerman at 436-5566 by Sunday, May 6th to register.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF THE BLIND, Carl Shoemaker Chapter, and Radio Reading Service (formally CARRS), will hold its annual Walk for Sight Walkathon on Saturday, May 19, 2012 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Walk will be a state-wide Walkathon again this year and will be a distance of approximately 6 miles. Registration will be from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Walk will begin and end at Messiah Lutheran Church. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be provided. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Your support for this annual event would be greatly appreciated. To obtain a sign-up sheet or for more information, call Geraldine Zeigler at 436-2746.

PURELY PRETTY EVENT – Locust Run United Methodist Church will be the scene of the first annual Purely Pretty event. Girls ages 9-16 and their mothers are invited to come and enjoy this mini-retreat. Purely Pretty will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 9 AM to 12 PM. The morning will include social time for visiting and breakfast, speaker Danyle Shea, who will share about what God has to say in His word concerning remaining pure in dress and appearance and why this is important, manicures and pedicures, and a fun fashion show to showcase trendy outfits available to girls today while still honoring the Lord in every area. The event is FREE and open to the community. The church is located just west of Thompsettown on the corner of William Penn Highway and Locust Run Road and is handicapped accessible. Please call Lyndsay at 535-0070 as registration is required or if you need more information.

NURSE'S NOTES – The Hidden Dangers of Button Batteries – They power your remotes and watches, make musical greeting cards sing and keep your calculators running. They also can be highly dangerous to your children. Lithium batteries, those button-shaped discs that fuel many household items and electronics, are becoming more and more common. Small children often have easy access to some of these devices, and many parents are not aware of the risk. Young children put so many objects in their mouths—the most common object being the penny—but if your child should swallow a lithium battery, it can get stuck in the esophagus. The saliva triggers an electric current which causes a chemical reaction that can severely burn the esophagus in as little as two hours. By the numbers:

- In 2010, more than 3,400 kids swallowed button batteries.
- More than 80 children nationwide have suffered permanent damage from injuries caused by button batteries.
- Eleven of the 15 total fatalities have occurred in the last six years.
- Most of the incidents occurred in children younger than 4 years.

Symptoms of swallowing a button battery – Many parents witness their child swallowing the battery, but there are many cases when no one witnesses the child ingest the object. Here are some symptoms to look out for:

- Airway obstruction or wheezing
- Drooling (there may be black flecks in the saliva)

- Vomiting
- Chest discomfort
- Difficulty swallowing
- Decreased appetite or refusal to eat
- Coughing, choking or gagging while eating or drinking
- Some kids might have no symptoms at all
- You can protect your child from the dangers of button batteries by: Knowing where the batteries are in the home; securing them out of reach of children; informing your friends and relatives about the risk

(The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania's Safe Kids Network)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Cate. Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

Monday: -8 p.m., AA meeting.

Tuesday: -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday: -7 p.m., NA group in Youth Area.
-7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.

Thursday: -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.

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

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Cate. Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

