

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
Linda Leister
Linda Leister
Tai Kepler
Saints & Sinners of Messiah Lutheran Church

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Participating Readers

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

March 29, 2015 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

SHUT-INS: Marian G., Reba S., Kitty W., Flo B., Ethel B., Jean M., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Dottie S., Dorothy C.

OTHERS: Sarah S., Rick W., Avonel W., Jesse K., Jim W., Heidi W., Ed F., Allison S., Miriam B., Charlene A., Marti G., Brian A., John & Sheila S., Rick V., Carol & John M., John M., Bob & Jeanette S., Charlie R., Doug W., Bill C., Jamie & family., Allison G., Wally Z., Terry C., Andy K., Clara S., Roger W., Ryan M., Alan P., Betty A., family of Shirley B.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

“The Palms”

G. Faure

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The first and second readings and psalm are the same this Sunday every year: Christ emptying himself of divine power and protection, willingly becoming vulnerable to those who struck him and put him to death. With Christ we lament his suffering and all human suffering, but expect God's final vindication. Mark's passion story begins with an unnamed woman anointing his head, perhaps to proclaim him Messiah, and Jesus saying she has anointed him beforehand for burial. Mark's Easter story will begin with women going to anoint Jesus for burial, only to find that he has been raised, God's living Anointed One.

* PROCESSION WITH PALMS

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

P Let us pray,

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ.

Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king

by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

* PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-11

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it.

⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

* THANKSGIVING (raise your palms)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P We praise and thank you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was acclaimed Son of David and King of kings by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in His path. We ask that you bless these branches and those who bear them, and grant that we may ever hail him as our Lord and King and follow him with perfect confidence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

* PROCESSIONAL

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of Christ. Amen.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!"

P Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C Hosanna in the highest.

* 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."**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

WORD

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The First Reading is from the 50th chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16 (responsively)

L Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹I am the scorn of my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

¹²Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.

¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.

¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

ALL Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit.

Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

The Second Reading is from the 2nd chapter of Philippians.

THE LESSON READS:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

LENTEN VERSE (remain seated)

Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO MARK

* PASSION HYMN "Ah, Holy Jesus"

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P We pray for the church, that congregations be a home for the lost, a haven for the oppressed, and a source of healing for those broken by life's circumstances. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for new life springing forth from the earth; for those who groan in labor, those who are adopting children, and those who are unable to conceive. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for Christians who do not have the freedom to worship openly, for political prisoners, refugees, widows, and orphans. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for those who care for the weary and vulnerable: nurses, hospice workers, childcare providers, and social workers. We pray for those in any need (especially all of our shut-ins, both at home and in nursing homes, and for Dorothy Patterson, Sarah Shellenberger, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jesse Kint, Jim Woltman, Heidi Woltman, Ed Forney, Allison Saner, Miriam Sowers Bolton, Charlene Aughey, Marti Geise, Brian Arentz, John & Sheila Sprenkle, Rick Varner, Carol & John Mahlin, John Miller, Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Charlie Rush, Doug Wagner, Bill Corbin, Jamie & her family, Allison Garver, Wally Zook, Terry Coder, Andy Kinzer, Clara Shepps, Roger Whitesel, Ryan Marker, Alan Peoples, Betty Arbogast, and family of Shirley Beitz). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for this assembly as it enters this holy week. Sustain our pastor/s, musicians/s. staff, volunteers, and all those who will prepare for and lead worship this week, and bring us all to the joy of Easter. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We give thanks for the blessed saints who showed us how to live and taught us how to die (especially Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church). Lord, in your mercy.

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

“Religioso”

G. Goltermann

[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 Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

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.

TODAY OUR CHANCEL is decorated with palms as we observe Palm Sunday. We are also reliving the events of Holy Week that culminate with Christ's crucifixion. Therefore, our altar vases hold not only palms but also 5 red flowers reminding us of the five wounds of Christ (the nails in his hands and feet and the spear in his side) as he hung on the cross.

THE INDIVIDUAL PALMS are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Ira (Floss) Smith, who for many years donated the palm fronds on Palm Sunday.

THE PALM BRANCH ON THE WOODEN CROSS is given to the Glory of God by Pastor Esborn.

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 – David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Welsh Protestant Minister, Preacher, and Doctor (1899 – 1981): A man's God is that for which he lives, for which he is prepared to give his time, his energy, his money, that which stimulates him and rouses him, excites, and enthuses him.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net. If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

HOME COMMUNION – The Compassionate Services Committee is looking for people who would like to give Communion to our shut-ins. One hour of training will be available for those not already trained. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins will be used on a quarterly basis. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey (phone: 436-6433 or email: geedey@centurylink.net).

MOTHER/CHILD BANQUET will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in Messiah Fellowship Hall. You may purchase tickets from Parish Fellowship members: Barb Geedey, Edith Nipple, Linda Leister, Marylou Hazard, Debbie Meinsler, Mary Grimm, or Karen Goss. Entertainment will be the EJ Jazz Band. Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato, green beans, salad, coffee, tea, milk and cake for dessert. Cost will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids 4 to 12 years old, and kids 3 and under are FREE. **ALL tickets must be purchased and paid for by April 12th.** We need all available men of the church to help prepare, serve and clean up after the meal. Contact Sam Leister if you are able to help.

THE MESSIAH EASTER EGG HUNT will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, April 5th at Messiah. Any candy donations can be taken to the nursery at or before 9:30 a.m. next Sunday morning, which is when we will be filling the eggs. Any assistance is appreciated.

JUNIATA COUNTY THRIVENT BOARD – As of the February meeting of the Juniata County Thrivent Board, changes have been made to the allocation process for **Care Abounds In Community Funding**. Each application received will be allotted a maximum amount of \$125 with a \$50 “bonus” **IF** someone from the group/organization applies for **Action Team Funds**. Every Thrivent member is eligible to receive \$250 twice a year as “seed money” for a project. You can apply online at www.thrivent.com/actionteams or by contacting Sam Leister at 436-8589.

CHURCH TREASURER NEEDED – Messiah has a position opening for church treasurer. Requirements are: the position of church treasurer must be held by an adult member of the congregation. A knowledge in proper accounting procedures is preferred. The following are some but not all of the position duties of the church treasurer:

1. Recording the congregational receipts and disbursements.
2. Suggest improved methods and systems for financial record keeping.
3. Present a written financial report for Voters' Assembly meetings and PPC meetings.
4. Submit permanent financial records for an annual audit.
5. Pay salaries and bills as authorized by the congregation or Directors of Boards.
6. Coordinate the flow of monies from the treasury in a balanced manor.
7. Oversee the signing of all checks for payment of bills, salaries or other commitments of the congregation.

Any person interested in more information about this position may contact the church office in order to obtain a complete written job description. Further questions may be directed to PPC Executive Director, Kenneth Mummah or Pastor Esborn. Church office phone number is 436-6213, email address is messiahlutheran@pa.net.

“THE NEEDLERS” are in need of additional sewing machines. If you or someone you know has a working sewing machine at home that is no longer being used, please consider donating it to “The Needlers.”

ORGANIST NEEDED – If you, or anyone you know might be interested—Messiah has an immediate opening for Church Organist for weekly services. Also included Wednesday evening choir rehearsal, except for summer months. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should call Diana Wise at 717-436-6629 evenings for more information, including salary. Possibilities include either full-time or half-time employment. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcmissaint.org.

GET EXCITED FOR CAMP THIS SUMMER! – Campers of all ages are invited to come to Camp Mount Luther this summer and take advantage of all the programs they have to offer! There are traditional, specialty and trip camps for school-aged kids and Family Camp for kids and adults. Mount Luther is located five miles west of Mifflinburg, in Union County.

Don't forget that if you register before April 1, 2015, you receive a discount on your camp fee. Or, if you bring a friend to camp who's never been there, you and the friend (or sibling or church buddy) can both get \$25 off your registration! Just check that option on the registration form and send the forms together.

Kate Swailes is serving this year as our camperson, a liaison between Mount Luther and our congregation. Because we have a camperson, you can see her to get an additional discount! For more information on summer camp programs, you can contact your camperson or visit the camp website at www.campmountluther.org. Camping brochures and registration forms are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE for July 2015 through June 2016 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 are no longer able to help. 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, 2015 through June, 2016 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 for a plant with 4 to 6 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on June 19-20, 2015 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Esborn or the church office.

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael "Doc" Johnston at 436-9209.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4oz. to 5oz., 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 Adult Sunday School Room.

SEAFARERS PROJECT – Women of the ELCA are collecting items for the Seafarers Project. Items needed are: sweatshirts (preferably hooded sizes L-XL), thermal or white gym socks (no dress socks), casual pull-over T-shirts sizes M-L, and heavy knit winter caps. Please place items on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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).

THE MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE will be held on April 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Pastor Bill Esborn will be preaching on the theme: "One Tree of Life both sides of the river." Revelations 21:22-22:5, Ps 92:12.

THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will be held on April 3, 2015 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church.

THE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE will be held on Sunday, April 5, 2015 at Trinity United Methodist Church with Pastor Stephanie Rupert preaching. Service will begin at 6:15 a.m., gathering at the river, then processing to the church. (If the weather is inclement, service will be held at the church).

THE FINAL MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2015 at 7:00 a.m. at JP Restaurant. Cost will be \$5.75 per person. The speaker will be Bill Rohm and the prayer leader will be Pastor Bill Esborn. Music will be provided by Brent Stoner.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH

**ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS AND PAPER SUPPLIES
CASH AND GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL GROCERY AND
DISCOUNT STORES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

**NO MORE SHOPPING BAGS PLEASE! WE ARE GOING GREEN!
CUSTOMERS ARE NOW BRINGING THEIR OWN BAGS OR BOXES.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THE PAST!**

Address: P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone #: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tuesday 9-12 & 1-5, Saturday 9-12

***Remember, our vestibule is open to receive non-perishable
donations any hour, any day! Cash or gift card donations
may be deposited through the mail slot inside the vestibule.**

Contact person: Kathy Queitzsch

Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com

Visit our **Website:** www.jcfoodpantry.com

*Like us on **Face Book!***

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Palm Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., Maundy Thursday Service at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.
- Friday:** -CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED.
-Good Friday Service at Messiah Lutheran Church.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at JP Restaurant.
- Sunday:** -6:15 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service at Trinity Methodist Church (gathering at the river).
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10 a.m., Messiah Easter Egg Hunt.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.