

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Ron Yorks
Linda Clark
Jared Hutchinson
Tyler Rosenberry & Harrison Mummah

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director & Cantor
Lector
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Acolytes

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER May 3, 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., Charlene A., Marti G., Bob & Jeanette S., Charlie R., Allison G., Terry C., Clara S., Roger W., Ryan M., Alan P., Anna S., Andy K., Seamus C., Gus K., family of Libby G., family of Nicolas H.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

“Cantabile”

D. Eliot

[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' SERMON

Andrea Cameron

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN

“Jesus Loves Me!”

* 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)**

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

L For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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 (read responsively)

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:

[Jesus said:] ¹"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

Andrea Cameron

* HYMN OF DAY

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

* 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 Confident that the resurrection of Christ has defeated sin and death, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

P For the mission of the church throughout the world, that all be led by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news that God is love, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For plants and animals, for clean water and air, for favorable weather, and for the whole of creation, that you guide us to serve as good stewards of the earth, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For judges, lawyers, and all court officials, for the leaders of government, and for all who seek justice in this world, that all be treated with fairness and equity, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For those who are poor, hungry, bereaved, distressed, and sick (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, Charlene Aughey, Marti Geise, Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Charlie Rush, Allison Garver, Terry Coder, Clara Shepps, Roger Whitesel, Ryan Marker, Alan Peoples, Anna (Pontius) Sparks, Andy Kinzer, Seamus Cantwell, Gus Keiser, family of Libby Gaul, and family of Nicolas Hohol), and for those who provide care and comfort, that all find assurance of God's unending love for them, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P For those who yearn for meaning and community with others, that the Holy Spirit lead them to mentors in the faith; for those visiting this congregation; and for those who are away with family and friends, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P In thanksgiving for the confessors of the faith in past generations, especially those who have died in the Lord, that they inspire future generations to proclaim the gospel, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Holy God, by the death and resurrection of your Son, you have granted new life, abundant renewal, and salvation. Hear our prayers for the sake of the one who has set us free, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

"Aria On 'Jewels' "

D. Wood

[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: "Good Morning Lord" "The B-I-B-L-E" "This Is The Day" Junior Choir

* 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.

(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:

"An Irish Blessing"

B. Glyncannon

["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

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go forth 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 Almighty God, who raised our Lord Jesus from death, lift you up and restore you to wholeness. **Amen.***

*Jesus Christ, the Word of life, bless you and send you to be his witnesses. **Amen.**
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

“Let All Things Now Living”

* DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Randy Clark

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barb S. Geedey

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Harry 'Preach' Fairman by family.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Brenda Duncan and family on the death of her mother, Frances Elizabeth 'Libby' Gaul, who died on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at Ohesson Manor. Sympathy is also extended to Steve Hohol and family on the death of his brother, Nicolas 'Nick' Hohol who died on Monday, April 27, 2015 at Hershey Medical Center. Please keep the families in your prayers.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE by Andrea Cameron, 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 Andrea as our worship leader this morning and pray God's blessing on her as she 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 – Allister McGrath, Angelical Priest and Theologian (b. 1953): The means by which we are justified is faith. Faith is like a channel through which the benefits of Christ flow to us. We are not justified on account of our faith, it is the work of Christ not our faith which is the foundation of justification. Faith itself is a gift of God.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

THE MAY 2015 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the Church Office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and are not already on the list, please send your email address to stclairb@embarqmail.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - This year Messiah will be hosting VBS and St. Jude's Catholic Church will be joining us. We will be turning Messiah into a science lab for three evenings of VBS on Tuesday, June 23rd through Thursday, June 25th from 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. See you then!

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES will begin on June 7, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. and end on September 6. Regular worship services will begin on September 13.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

PPC MEETING will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

WEDNESDAY EVENING “INFORMAL COMMUNION” will be held during the summer months beginning June 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Junior Church Room for those who cannot make it to the services on Sunday mornings and still wish to partake of the Lord's Supper.

RECOGNITION SUNDAY FOR OUR GRADUATING SENIORS will be held on May 17, 2015. Refreshments will be served following the service.

THE CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC will be held on Sunday, July 12, 2015 beginning with the worship service at the Mifflintown Playground followed by the picnic lunch. Mark the date on your calendar. Details will be in upcoming bulletins.

MUSIC SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2015. Special music will be Jeremy Goodling.

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).

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. 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.”

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.

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.

THANK YOU – “Dear Members of Messiah.....Thank you for the beautiful flowers received on my Mother’s 96th birthday. They are greatly appreciated.”

Sincerely,
Cindy Van Gavree

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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Program leader will be Jean Compton.

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.

THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION annual Convention will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2015 at the Evergreen Center at Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg. Registration is from 7:30-8:30 a.m. The theme is "Love is an Open Door." Save the date now and bring your daughters to the Convention! See Barb Geedey for registration forms if you are interested in attending.

COMMUNITY

NEW – JUNIATA COUNTY LIBRARY LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM – The Lifelong Learning Program at the Juniata County Library will be offering to the public a course on the Anabaptists, five Fridays in May from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. There will be a non-refundable donation to the library for the course. Please call the library at [436-6378](tel:436-6378) or Ann Beaver at [436-9382](tel:436-9382) to sign-up or for details. Coming in June: Legendary Ladies in Pennsylvania.

LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY – Gettysburg Seminary is again offering its Lay School of Theology this summer at Gettysburg Seminary, July 26 – August 1. This year's theme is Traveling Grace: Land and Spiritual Geographies. Registrations for one day, several days or the whole week are available. Please see Ann Beaver if you are interested. Sign-up deadline is July 10, 2015.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer cooks, drivers and people to help assemble meals. **Cooks are especially needed for the 5th Tuesday and 5th Friday of the month.** If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY

ANY NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

BABY SUPPLIES: DIAPERS (SIZES 4-6), PULL-UPS (ALL SIZES)
BABY SHAMPOO, BABY LOTION, DIAPER RASH OINTMENT, AND WIPES
WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND
GIFT CARDS FOR GROCERY AND DISCOUNT STORES

NOTE: WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS OR EGG CARTONS! THANK YOU!

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:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Pastor Esborn away through Monday, May 4).
- 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:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.