

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Malin Kint
Linda Clark
Harrison Mummah
Darin Kint

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Acolyte

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 6, 2015 – 9:15 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to [pg. 5](#) under “Prayers of Intercession.”

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings her or his need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

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

“Jesus Loves Me!”

* GREETING

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 (sung)

P Kyrie, eleison: **C Lord, have mercy.**

P Christe, eleison: **C Christ, have mercy.**

P Kyrie, eleison: **C Lord, have mercy.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the

Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you. **C And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen

WORD

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Chapter 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

FIRST READING

A reading from Isaiah 35:4-7a

THE LESSON READS:

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 146 (Responsively)

L – I will praise the LORD as long as I live. (Ps. 146:2)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

ALL – I will praise the LORD as long as I live.

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

SECOND READING

A reading from James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

THE LESSON READS:

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

[¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

*** GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.** (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

- * HYMN OF THE DAY “Earth and All Stars!”
- * APOSTLES’ CREED (‘new version’) (all)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

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

Amaris Wolfe

- * SUNG OFFERTORY (‘vineyards’)

Let the vineyards be fruitfull, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

- * OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

- * PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With confidence in God’s compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

P O God, we pray for the church. Give it the courage to translate faith into action. Guide the hands and feet of the faithful to answer the needs so abundant in this world. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for streams, pools, springs of water, oceans, lakes, and rivers. Protect all water sources that refresh and sustain the land, animals, and human beings. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the world’s leaders, that they act for the good of all. We pray for all workers, those who can find no work, those who work in unsafe conditions, and those whose labor is exploited. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for those who lack daily food, who are fearful, and who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (especially all of our shut-ins: Marian Gross, Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Ethel Bossinger, Jean McNaight, Helen Knox, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith and Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Evelyn Spriggle, Earl & Mona Lawson, Jim Yetter, and Craig Walker. And for Sarah Shellenberger, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jesse Kint, Jim Woltman, Ed Forney, Allison Saner, Charlene Aughey, Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Charlie Rush, Allison Garver, Clara Shepps, Andy & Wesley Kinzer, Gus Keiser, Kaiden Woods, Tina Hutchinson, John Miller, Leah Bridges, Michal Gayer, Judy Grimes, Jane Ann (Ziegler) Baney, Sara Ann Aurand, Carol Jan & John Mahlin, Betsy Aumiller, Jodi Fitzgerald, Virginia Waller, Dot Zeiders, Mindy Fryer, Mary Ann Bardell, Audrey Morral, Diane Layton, Gabby Baney, Josh Delancey, and Sandra Oliver). Come and save them. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for this assembly. Make it a place of equality, welcome, and full inclusion. Empower us to live out radical hospitality. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P O God, we remember all who have gone before us and give thanks for their faith and their works. Give us the fortitude to carry on in the work left for us. 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

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] **(all)**

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

* BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen, Amen, Amen (sung)

* CLOSING HYMN

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

(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 so].

* 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 Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

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

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Randy Clark

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green 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 worshipping 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) worshipping 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.

WE WELCOME Amaris Wolfe and thank her for providing the special music for our service today.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Denise Hower by family.

THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT on the piano is given in honor of Warren and Claire Mumma's 60th Wedding Anniversary by Mary, Glenn, Shane Todd and Claire Grimm.

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!

A SPECIAL THANKS to Max and Mary Ernest for their continued work in taking care of our shrubbery around the church and for recently trimming it and doing such a nice job!

JUST A THOUGHT – French Proverb: Steve Kamer, Announcer for the TV program, "Inside Edition:" for without the resurrection there will not be a Christianity.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

AUGUST 23, 2015 ATTENDANCE 62. TOTAL OFFERING \$2,394.00—GENERAL FUND \$2,264.00.

AUGUST 30, 2015 ATTENDANCE 77. TOTAL OFFERING \$1,942.00—GENERAL FUND \$1,767.00.

SPECIAL APPEAL ANNOUNCEMENT – The latest financial information available to your PPC has made it clearly evident to all that we need to make serious adjustments to our budget expenditures in order to overcome our income/expense deficit.

Until we can conduct a Voters' Assembly on September 13th, the PPC is making a **special appeal** to all Messiah members to examine and pray about their current monetary giving and if at all possible increase that level over the coming weeks. PPC has formulated a vote for guidance regarding the MLC 2016 Budget to be held at a special congregational meeting after church service, next Sunday, September 13, 2015. Your prayers for our church and the PPC are encouraged as we work through this difficult circumstance.

Thank you, PPC

WHAT IS THE GENERAL FUND? The General Fund pays the salary and benefits for our Pastor, our secretary's salary and annuity allowance, the salaries of our cleaner, our organists and our choir director. Also the General Fund pays electricity, fuel oil and propane, flowers (if not sponsored), insurance, pest control, phone and internet service, educational materials, taxes, office supplies, water, sewer and other miscellaneous bills. All furnace repair, furnace maintenance, building repair and maintenance comes out of the Building Fund. Total monies received for the General Fund for the last five years are as follows:

2010 - \$127,295.42
2011 - \$127,569.19
2012 - \$120,619.25
2013 - \$120,311.75
2014 - \$122,703.50
2015-to-Date (8/16/15) - \$67,367.12 (55% of last year)

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.

JUMP START BLOG: On Sunday August 30th the newly formed Sunday School Faculty met with the Board of Christian Education for orientation to our Jump Start Program. Among the items discussed was the two-teacher per class model, room assignments, rosters of students, and class time structure. Curriculum materials were distributed and explained. The teachers were also given instruction on the proper use of the laser copier. The roles of Linda Clark as Facilitator and Sandy Pines as Purchasing Agent were also discussed. The importance of the core values necessary for the spiritual growth of each child were stressed. The teachers now have two weeks to familiarize themselves with the curriculum and to bring any procedural questions to Linda Clark. The teachers visited their assigned rooms to assess the learning environment they will be teaching in. Sunday School will begin on September 13th.

The special opportunities and the role of the Young Adults Class were discussed. This class can be an entry level activity for further Church involvement and contribution. The members of this class will mainly be the parents of the children enrolled in our Sunday School. As these parents pursue their own spiritual growth, they will be seen by their children as modeling the importance of Christianity and the Church. The whole congregation will benefit from their ideas, energy, and involvement. They can be the spark of rejuvenation needed to revitalize our church. More on this later.

The generosity of anonymous donors from within our congregation cannot be overemphasized. We already reported that two donors combined to buy our laser copier. Now a third donor has come forward to purchase our teaching curriculum materials! We are so blessed to have such generous unsolicited gifts at this time when our church is in such a low financial ebb. Please accept our heartfelt thanks!

THE SEPTEMBER 2015 “MESSIAH HERALD” is available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette. 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.

BIBLE STUDY will begin on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library area (back door on Washington Avenue will be open to use). Study will be on Galatians (bring a Bible).

EARLY SUMMER SERVICES continues through today, September 6, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services will resume next Sunday, September 13, 2015 with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin on October 4, 2015 during the Sunday School hour.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. If you are unable to attend, please notify Kay Varner.

“THE NEEDLERS” will continue their sewing project on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who would like to help is welcome!

GIANT STORE GIFT CARDS are also now available to purchase from members of the Disciples Class.

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.

THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD DAY AT KNOEBELS will be on Sunday, September 20, 2015. The park will be open from 12-7 PM. You can arrive at Knoebels at your leisure, pick up your pre-ordered discount tickets at pavilion P-5 beginning at 12:30 and spend your afternoon at the park. From 5:00-5:45 gather at pavilion P-5 for refreshments and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ from congregations throughout the synod. From 5:45-6:15, Vespers service led by Bishop Driesen at pavilion P-5. Pre-ordering tickets is only necessary if you would like a 20% discount (\$20 book of tickets for \$16). Order by September 4, 2015. Hot dogs and buns will be provided. Congregations are asked to volunteer to provide other side dishes or desserts. Volunteers are also needed to provide hospitality at pavilion P-5 throughout the afternoon. To pre-order discount tickets, or volunteer for hospitality or refreshments, please contact Brenda Krouse at the synod office at 570-524-9778 or Brenda@uss-elca.org. For more information and pre-ordering tickets, see the information sheets on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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.

KNITTING CLASSES will begin on Monday, September 21st in the Jr. Church Room around 6:00 p.m. until everyone is ready to leave. We will be completing our scarves and starting a dishcloth. Knitters will need a skein of cotton yarn, worsted weight. Some brands are Lion Cotton, Lily Sugar and Cream, Lily Peaches and Cream, and Bernat Handicrafter. The pattern can be downloaded for free from www.joann.com/static/project/0706/P148439.pdf. If you are unable to get the pattern, don't worry we will have copies. The needle size that is recommended is a size 10, however, size 8's can be used and the book says you can stay with the 7's that were used for the scarf.

THE NEXT MESSIAH WELCA MEETING will be Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Jean Compton providing the devotions. Cynthia Smith will have refreshments.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA continue to collect items for School Kits. Items needed are: 4—70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper 8" X 10½". One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, one pencil sharpener, one blunt pair of scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 5 ballpoint pens, one box of 16 or 24 crayons, and one 2½" eraser. Items should be placed on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room. School Kit items will be sent along with the blankets in October.

COMMUNITY

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2015 at Walker Township Park RAIN OR SHINE! Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. – Walk begins at 1:00 p.m. Please bring all pledge money to be returned on Walk day! Donated items for the Food Pantry will be collected at the Walk. Twenty-five percent of pledge money goes to our local Food Pantry and Meals-On-Wheels program. The Short Walk is 3 laps and the Long Walk is 15 laps (directions to the Park will be provided with recruiter packets). Any questions, please call Graham Fowler at 463-3138 or Chris Mathiason at 463-2490. Donation envelopes and information are available in the Adult Sunday School Room. Needed items for the Food Pantry include:

Personal Hygiene Supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, etc.

Cleaning Supplies like all-purpose cleansers, bleach, trash bags, laundry detergent, dish detergent, etc.

Paper Products such as paper towels, toilet tissue, tissues.

Infant Needs like diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotions.

Non-Perishable Food Items.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:
ESPECIALLY DONATIONS OF CASH AND CHECKS!
ALSO FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE
FOODS, BABY CARE ITEMS: DIAPERS SIZES 4-6, WIPES,
DIAPER RASH OINTMENT, BABYWASH, LOTION AND POWDER

WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS GIFT CARDS
FOR LOCAL GROCERY AND DISCOUNT STORES

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

Phone #: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tuesday 9-12 & 2-6, Saturday 9-12

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to accept donations!

Contact person: Kathy Queitzsch

Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com

Visit our Website: www.jcfoodpantry.com

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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).

SYNOD GROW Team – Save the Dates

September 13, 2015: God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

September 20, 2015: Knoebel's Day for the Synod

October 31, 2015: Building Youth Groups at Camp Mount Luther

November 21, 2015: Family Advent Night at Messiah in Williamsport

February 19-20 or 26-27, 2016: GROW in the SNOW Retreat at Camp Mount Luther

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN UPCOMING BULLETINS CLOSER TO THE DATES!!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -**Last Summer Service.**
-9:15 a.m., Summer Worship/Communion
- Monday:** -CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED.
-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., WELCA meeting.
- Sunday:** -**Regular Worship Service begins.**
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Voters' Assembly following Worship Service.