

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Sam Leister
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Linda Bahorik
Tawny Mummah & Diana Wise
Haley Mummah
Caden Swailes & Nate Swailes

Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Acolytes

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 10, 2016 – 10:30 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 “Prayers of Intercession”

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The disciples make a big splash and breakfast with the risen Jesus in the gospel. Wading in the water (remembering our baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating the holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us, with Peter, again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him bringing the Easter life to others.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN “Blessing and Honor”

* 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 victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

II Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

I Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

II For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

C This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

* **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 Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Each of us has a story of meeting God's grace. Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation, beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

The First reading is from the 9th chapter of Acts.

THE LESSON READS:

¹Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 30 (read responsively)

L – You have turned my wailing into dancing. (Ps. 30:11)

¹I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

²O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.

³You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

⁴Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.

⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

⁶While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed.

⁷You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains." Then you hid your face, and I

was filled with fear.

⁸I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"

¹⁰Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper."

¹¹You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

¹²Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

ALL – You have turned my wailing into dancing.

The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship on the Lord's Day. At its center is "the Lamb who was slain."

SECOND READING: Revelation 5:11-14

The Second reading is from the 5th chapter of Revelation.

THE LESSON READS:

¹¹Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, ¹²singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

¹³Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

¹⁴And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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.

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

* GOSPEL: John 21:1-19

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 21st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

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

Sam Leister

* HYMN OF DAY “The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

* 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 Rooted in the abundant life and love of Christ Jesus, we pray for the life of the church, the lives of people in need, and the life of all creation.

A brief silence.

P Holy God, you supply everything we need, and more. Equip us to do the work you intend with the confidence that you will multiply the outcome. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Open our eyes to the promise of new life all around us. Make sprouting plants, awakening animals, and swimming fish all bear witness to your glorious abundance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Preserve the lives of those who are persecuted for their devotion to you. Use the faithfulness and insight you have given them to transform their persecutors. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Restore the well-being of people who cry out to you in suffering and in want (especially we pray for all of our shut-ins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Ethel Bossinger, Jean McNaught, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Earl & Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Andy Kinzer,

Jodi Fitzgerald, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, Audrey Morral, Diane Layton, Josh Delancey, Kay Stuck, Don Wert, Shirley Zeiders, Sue Crouse, Sandy Pines, Carol Jan Mahlin and sons, John Miller, Nancy Hannon, Tanner Johnson, Ed Forney, Clay Ianson, Emme Freed, Marylou Hazard, Michal Gayer, Lois Crissman, Sarah Shellenberger, Julia Gross, Amy Stuter Reed, Todd Bolger, John Price, and family of JoAnn Slutterback Pour out your mercy upon them, and turn their wailing into dancing. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Inspire the work of translators, authors, and composers who bring your word to others (as you inspired Mikael Agricola, whom we commemorate today). Reveal your life through their work. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Remembering the saints who praised you in life and in death, bring us also to the day when you will gather all people to sing hymns of praise in your presence. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We deliver all this into your care, O God, trusting in the work of your Holy Spirit to bring all things into the risen life of Christ our Lord.

C Amem.

* 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:

[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 vineyards be fruitful, 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, and give us a foretaste 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 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness 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.

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.

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.

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 unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. 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 The table of life is spread before you. Feast on the goodness and mercy of God.

* LAMB OF GOD **(sung)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel).

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'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

* **BLESSING**

P The blessing of the Lord God Almighty, the blessing of + Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and the blessing of the Holy Spirit of truth be among you and remain with you always.

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

* **CLOSING HYMN** "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"

* **DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE:

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Randy Clark

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawny Mummah & Diana Wise

WELCOME

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 or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. 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.

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.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR COMMUNION. Wine and wheat wafers are used and if you so desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel.

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the purple portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the Narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshiping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE by Sam Leister, 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 Sam as our worship leader this morning and pray God's blessing on him as he ministers to us this morning.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Pat Forney on the death of her sister, JoAn Slutterback, who died on March 31, 2016 at Locust Grove. Please keep Pat and family in your prayers.

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 or after one month, please call the church office!

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS **THURSDAY NOON**.

JUST A THOUGHT – J. I. Packer, Canadian Christian Theologian (b. 1926): There is nothing irrational about believing that God who made the world can still intrude creatively into it.

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.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>March 27, 2016 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other funds</u>	
Attendance – 51	Attendance – 42	Benevolence -	\$ 200.00
		Building Fund -	\$ 545.00
Total Offering - \$4073.00		Sunday School -	\$ 67.30
<u>\$ 875.00</u>		Memorial Fund -	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
General Fund - \$3198.00			\$ 875.00

DIAL-A-PRAYER: Due to the inconsistent reliability and the cost of almost \$700.00 a year, the Dial-A-Prayer number (436-2100) will no longer be in service.

2016 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held from Monday, June 20th to Thursday, June 23rd with a pool party being scheduled for Friday, June 24th. This year's closing program will be held on Sunday, June 26th during the morning worship service.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to press quilt tops for "The Needlers." Tops can be taken home and pressed

and brought back to the church. Anyone who is interested, please contact one of “The Needlers.”

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE for July, 2016 through June, 2017 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, 2016 through June, 2017 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.

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

NEED A VISIT WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL OR AT HOME FROM MESSIAH? With the Pastor’s part-time status, this may not happen unless volunteers handle this very important ministry. The Compassionate Services Committee is seeking to establish such a group of people so that no request for a visit goes unanswered. No training will be necessary. Those interested could do visits on a rotating basis as an individual or in pairs. If you would like to help with this vital part of Messiah, see Don Geedey. (Phone 436-6433 or e-mail to geedey@centurylink.net.)

THE SECRETARY’S WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA are now collecting items for Personal Care Kits for the next several months. Items needed are: 1 light-weight bath-size towel (52 x 27) (dark color recommended); 2 bath-size bars of soap (4 to 5 oz.) of any brand in original wrapping; 1 adult-size toothbrush; 1 sturdy comb; 1 pair of metal nail clippers with or without attached file. Items purchased may be placed on one of the tables in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE NEXT MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA meeting will be Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. A short program will be presented by Jean Compton followed by some kitchen clean-up of drawers and anything else that might need some attention.

COMMUNITY

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).

2nd ANNUAL CHARLIE STUMP'S OLDIES DANCE – Grab your dearie and your dancing shoes and celebrate spring by dancing to your favorite oldies with local favorite Charlie Stump as DJ on Friday, April 22, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the CJEMS Building in Mifflintown. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Full kitchen opens at 7:00 p.m. Benefits the Juniata County Library and the Food Pantry.

STUFF THE BUS – benefits the Food Pantry's 4th annual Summer Backpack Program. This program provides lunches throughout summer vacation to school students who normally receive free and reduced price lunches at school. Stuff the Bus will take place at the Weis Market in Mifflintown and at Schlegel's Store in Thompsontown (watch the newspapers and Facebook for dates and times). Needed donations are: single-serve, non-perishable lunch and snack items such as juice boxes, 15 oz. cans of pasta meals or ready-to-heat soup, microwaveable meals, fruit and pudding cups, and snack crackers/cookies. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Volunteers are needed to help with the Backpack Program. Call Pat Brown at 436-2592 to sign-up.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; DISH SOAP,
ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, PAPER TOWELS & TISSUES
ALSO, CASH/CHECK DONATIONS AND
LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!
NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS, PLEASE! ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY
ACCEPT CLEAN CLOTH BAGS.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting/Crocheting Class in Jr. Church Room.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., 4-H Beef Club in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.