

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street

Mifflintown, PA 17059

Church Office / 436-6213    Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn  
Stephen Rodgers  
Andrea Cameron  
Bob St. Clair  
Barbara S. Geedey  
Ann Beaver  
Emma Arentz & Livia Arentz

Pastor  
Lay Worship Leader  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild  
Acolytes

## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

February 28, 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:                    “Chorale Prelude On ‘Abide With Me’”                    W. H. Monk  
[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

**C Amen.**

P Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful Father,

**C We have sinned against heaven and before you. We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends. Forgive us and restore**

**us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you, and be at peace with one another. Amen.**

P We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of + Jesus Christ, forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation.

**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, Still Lead On”

**\* GREETING**

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

**C And also with you.**

**\* KYRIE (C - sung)**

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

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

P Let us pray...

**C Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

The First Reading is from the 55<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>1</sup>Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup>See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. <sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8 (**responsively**)

L – O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)

<sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

<sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

**ALL – O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.**

Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

The Second Reading is from the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

\* LENTEN VERSE (sung)

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

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

\* GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam

fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?  
<sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Stephen Rodgers

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

\* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

A brief silence.

P Incline our ears to you, faithful God. Open us to receive your word. Transform our thoughts into your thoughts and our ways into your ways for the glory of your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Send rain to dry and weary lands, faithful God. Quench the thirst of the earth and every living creature. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Make all governments thirst for your justice, faithful God. Bring citizens and elected officials together to create communities where all people may live in peace. Sustain us by your grace in this work. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Fill the cups of the thirsty, faithful God. Fill the plates of the hungry. Give peace to all who mourn and healing to all who live with mental illness. Be with all who suffer (especially for all of our shut-ins: Marian Gross, Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale,

Ethel Bossinger, Jean McNaight, 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 & Wesley Kinzer, Jodi Fitzgerald, Virginia Waller, Audrey Morral, Diane Layton, Gabby Baney, 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 and family of Steve Hohol. Make us instruments of your healing. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Gather the hungry around your table, faithful God. Satisfy and unite us with the body and blood of your Son. Send us out to share the bountiful feast you give to us. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Keep us in your steadfast love, faithful God. We give thanks for all who mentored each of us in the faith and now celebrate life eternal with you (*especially*). By their witness we know you more fully. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

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

**C Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

“Largo”

J. M. Rasley

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

ANTHEM

\* SUNG OFFERTORY (**sung**)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## MEAL

### \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P With his Body and Blood, Jesus Christ delivers us from the power of darkness.

**C and leads us into the Kingdom of God.**

P Christ has humbled himself and become obedient unto death,

**C even to death on a cross.**

P He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities,

**C and on him was the chastisement that made us whole.**

P Here at his holy table he feeds us now with his Body and Blood.

**C Glory to you, our Lord and Savior; with your Body and Blood you redeem the World.**

### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**C We praise you, O God.**

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**C We bless you, O God.**

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**C We thank you, O God.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**C Amen.**

### \* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

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

COMMUNION:

“Lenten Prayer”

R. Johnston

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 O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us as a mother hen embraces her young. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

\* BLESSING

P The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

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

\* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING CHIMES

NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Malin Kint

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Ann Beaver

**VISITORS INFORMATION**

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 worshiping 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 Stephen Rodgers, 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 Stephen as our worship leader this morning and pray God's blessing on him as he ministers to us.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Steve Hohol who died on February 22, 2016 at his home. Please keep the 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, please call the church office.

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

JUST A THOUGHT – John Calvin, French Reformer and Father of the Presbyterian Church (1509 – 1564): The world invents its own good works and persuades itself that they are good.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

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

### **WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:**

<u>February 21, 2016 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other funds</u>
Attendance – 75	Attendance – 36	Benevolence - \$160.00
Total Offering - \$2,587.00		World Hunger - \$ 25.00
		Sunday School - \$ 66.00
		Building Fund - <u>\$155.00</u>
		<u>\$406.00</u>
General Fund - \$2,181.00		

JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT: The Messiah financial report for January 2016 is available for members on the piano in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please take one and contact Ann Beaver with questions.

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

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.

MESSIAH'S CHILDREN'S SERVICE will be held on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 a.m. church service. Chad Hershberger, Executive Director of Camp Mt. Luther will be providing the children's sermon and temple talk (sermon) as well. The children will be serving as greeters, ushers, and lector, and the Junior Choir will be providing the anthem. If your children have visited Mt. Luther and they would like to talk about their camp experience on March 13<sup>th</sup>, please let Kate Swailes know. Chad will be available to answer any questions that you have regarding Camp Mt. Luther following the service. Please also let Kate know if your child would be interested in serving as a greeter, usher, or lector for the service so it can be included in the bulletin. We will also ask the children to take up a collection from the congregation at the end of the church service which will be donated to Mt. Luther.

2016 WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEAS will be held each Wednesday during Lent with fellowship time at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Lenten study at 10:00 a.m. This year's study will be from the book "The Gift of New Creation" by Thomas L. Ehrich. Locations are listed below:

- March 2: Trinity Methodist Church
- March 9: Westminster Presbyterian Church
- March 16: Aldersgate Methodist Church

2016 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES will be held each Wednesday during Lent, sponsored by the Twin Boro Ministerium. Date, time, location, pastor and topic are listed below:

- |                  |            |                                 |                         |                    |
|------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| -March 2:        | 7 p.m.     | Trinity Methodist Church        | Father Michael Opoki    | "About Hate"       |
| -March 9:        | 7 p.m.     | Westminster Presbyterian Church | (Chip Baumgardner)      | "About Vengeance"  |
| -March 16:       | 7 p.m.     | St. Stephen's Lutheran Church   | Pastor William Esborn   | "About Repentance" |
| -Maundy Thursday |            |                                 |                         |                    |
| March 24:        | 7 p.m.     | Trinity Methodist Church        | Pastor Stephanie Rupert | "About Grace"      |
| -Good Friday     |            |                                 |                         |                    |
| March 25:        | 12:00 p.m. | Aldersgate Methodist Church     | All                     | "Seven Last Words" |
| -Easter Sunrise  |            |                                 |                         |                    |
| March 27         | 6:30 a.m.  | Messiah Lutheran Church         | Pastor Dan Kerlin       | "About Hope"       |

THE 2016 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFASTS will be held on Saturday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at JP Pancake House. They will begin February 13 through March 26. Speakers will be announced.

EASTER LILIES to decorate the church on Easter Sunday may be placed in memory or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God. Cost will be \$10.00 for a plant with 4 to 6 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.

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](mailto:geedey@centurylink.net)).

A VOLUNTEER FROM MESSIAH'S CONGREGATION has stepped forward to assist in putting together our monthly church newsletter, so that our mission to continue spreading God's word continues as does our communication with our parishioners. We are asking that any/all announcements you wish placed into the monthly "Messiah Herald" be sent or emailed to **BOTH** the church office ([messiahlutheran@pa.net](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net)) and Bob St. Clair ([stclairb@embarqmail.com](mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com)). This also includes dates of items you want placed on the church calendar. Beginning in the month of March (for the April newsletter), the deadline will be the **FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 4 PM** (for example, the March deadline for April's newsletter will be Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>). Our goal is to have the newsletter done prior to the last day of each month. Any announcement that doesn't make the deadline will be posted into the bulletin until the next month's newsletter is assembled. We thank you for your continued support of Messiah and our church newsletter, as we will try hard to continue to make it a monthly staple of our church.

THE 2016 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or you may register online at [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org). Please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee.

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.**

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

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on June 17 and 18, 2016 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Esborn or the church office.

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

### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Young Adult Sunday School Classroom in the basement. All women are invited to attend. Program leader is yet to be determined. Refreshments will be provided by Jean Compton and Cynthia Smith.

## COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer cooks, drivers and people to help assemble meals. **Cooks are especially needed for the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday and 5<sup>th</sup> 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).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH  
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, DISH SOAP,  
AND ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS.  
ALSO, CASH/CHECK DONATIONS AND  
LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.  
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.  
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following Worship Service.
- 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.
- Wednesday:** -9:30 a.m., Women's Lenten Tea at St. Jude's Catholic Church.  
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at Trinity Methodist Church.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.  
-6 p.m., Thrivent meeting in Library.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men's Lenten Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.  
-1-4 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.