

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker
Bob St. Clair
Ann Beaver
Tyler Rosenberry
Harrison Mummah & Haley Mummah

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

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

March 20, 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 voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, can be heard in the prophet Isaiah’s words and the pleading of the psalm. We are invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus’ passion. In the second reading, we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. Lent leads us to this holy moment. Embrace it.

* PROCESSION WITH PALMS

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

C Hosanna in the highest.

P Let us pray,

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

* PROCESSIONAL GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

After he had said this, [Jesus] went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴They said, "The Lord needs it." ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop."

⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

* THANKSGIVING (raise your palms)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

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

C Amen

* PROCESSIONAL

P Let us go forth in peace. **C In the name of Christ. Amen.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Ah, Holy Jesus"

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

C Hosanna in the highest.

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

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

WORD

This text, the third of the four Servant Songs in Isaiah, speaks of the servant's obedience in the midst of persecution. Though the servant has been variously understood as the prophet himself or a remnant of faithful Israel, Christians have often recognized the figure of Christ in these poems.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

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

THE LESSON READS:

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

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

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:9-16 (responsively)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paul quotes from an early Christian hymn that describes Jesus' humble obedience in his incarnation as a human being, even to death, and his exaltation and glory as Lord of all.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

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

THE LESSON READS:

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

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

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

LENTEN VERSE (remain seated)

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

Through the teachings and events of the passion story we see and hear the great contradictions that characterize the coming of God's reign. The leader serves, the empty disciples are able to fill others, proud Peter is revealed in his cowardice, and Jesus—the innocent bringer of life—is arrested, beaten, executed, and buried

GOSPEL READING: Luke 23:1-49

The Gospel Reading is from the 23rd chapter of Luke.

THE LESSON READS:

¹Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. ²They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." ³Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." ⁵But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

¹⁸Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" ¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²²A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

²⁶As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today

you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

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

* 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 Be with all who wave palm branches and walk the road to the cross. For the mission of the gospel where your church is forgotten, for disciples wrestling with betrayal, for all who seek the Lord, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Renew the waters of the earth and restore us to right relationship with all creation. For villages without access to clean water, for cities with an abundance, for flood lands and drought lands, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P End human trafficking in every nation. For children taken from their families, for men and women without hope, for governments and nonprofits seeking resolutions, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Comfort the afflicted. For those imprisoned, for those waiting on death row, for all overwhelmed by sorrow, and for all who live with disease, chronic pain, and anxiety in this world (especially for all of our shut-ins: Marian Gross, 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 & Wesley Kinzer, Jodi Fitzgerald, Virginia Waller, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, 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, Michal Gayer, Lois Crissman, Sarah Shellenberger, Julia Gross, Amy Stuter Reed, Marian Gross, and family of John Walters, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

P Enrich the children and youth of our congregation with an abundance of your Spirit. For each child in our community, for parents and guardians, for confirmation mentors and faith formation leaders, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Sustain the weary. For all who mourn, for all who yearn to be with you in paradise, for funeral home staff, for hospital chaplains and grief counselors, let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

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:

[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).

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)

* CLOSING HYMN “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor. **C Thanks be to God.**

* POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Ann Beaver (Cup Communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

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

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

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 today.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of our Sunday School teachers.

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

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

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

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

JUST A THOUGHT – Madame Jeanne Marie Guyon, French Mystic (1648 - 1717): God gives the cross, and the cross gives God.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>March 13, 2016 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other funds</u>
Attendance – 86	Attendance – 56	Benevolence - \$ 170.00
		World Hunger - \$ 65.00
Total Offering - \$4196.00		Sunday School - \$ 101.00
\$1734.00		Building Fund - \$ 765.00
General Fund - \$2462.00		Bibles for S.S. - \$ 350.00
		Camp Mt. Luther - \$ 283.00
		\$1734.00

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING will be held on March 28, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Please let Kay Varner know if you are unable to attend.

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.

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.

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 BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION offers most sincere thanks to those who recently made donations to buy each student in Sunday School a personal Bible. Because of your generosity, the funding for this project is now complete. To date, about \$775.00 has been received through the special offerings. The Bibles have been ordered – in fact, they are already delivered! Once they are personally monogrammed by Wayne Miller, they will be presented to the students. Further, Pastor Bill has located enough brand new Lutheran Study Bibles to be presented to the graduating catechism students on Confirmation Day. So, thanks to you, we are all set! Your response has been very uplifting.

MESSIAH YOUTH EASTER EGG HUNT will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, March 27th. Any candy donations can be taken to the nursery.

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.

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. **Please order by March, 21st.**

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. Please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor. Don’t forget that if you register before **April 1, 2016**, you receive a discount on your camp fee. Or, if you bring a friend to camp who’s never been there, you and the friend (or sibling or church buddy) can both get \$25 off your registration! Just check that option on the registration form and send the forms together. Each child must pay a \$50 registration fee when sending in the application, and the remaining costs are covered by Messiah/youth fundraising events. Kate Swailes is serving this year as our camperson, a liaison between Mount Luther and our congregation. Because we have a camperson, you can see her to get an additional discount in the camp store! For more information on summer camp programs, you can contact your camperson or visit the camp website at www.campmountluther.org.

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).

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:

-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 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.

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 1st 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.

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).

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:** -Palm Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting in Youth Area.
- 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:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -4 p.m., Newsletter deadline.
-7 p.m., Maundy Thursday Service at Trinity Methodist Church.
- Friday:** -12:00 noon, Good Friday Service at Aldersgate Methodist Church.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men’s Lenten Prayer Breakfast at JP Pancake House.
- Sunday:** -6:30 a.m., Easter Sunrise Service at Messiah.
-Food Pantry Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion /Jr. Church.