

*“Proclaiming God’s Love
in Christ and His people”*



*THE SECOND SUNDAY OF
EASTER*

April 23rd, 2017

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

EMAIL:

messiahlutheran@pa.net

WEBSITE:

www.mlcmifflintown.org

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Sam Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Barbara S. Geedey
Kay Varner
Slone Smith & Tyler Rosenberry

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 23, 2017 – 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: “Christ, The Lord, Is Risen Today” R. W. Thygerson
[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

* RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

P These persons desire to make public affirmation of their Baptism as a sign of their renewed participation in the life and work of the Church of Christ.

Kyle and Christina Martin and their daughters Julia and Paige.

Dear friends, we rejoice that you have returned to the household of God to claim again the eternal inheritance which is your birthright in Holy Baptism.

Brothers and sister in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation.

You have been [nourished at his holy table and] called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

Response: I do.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

ALL 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

ALL 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.

P Let us pray for those who are affirming their Baptism, and for all the baptized everywhere: That they may be redeemed from all evil and rescued from the way of sin and death: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That the Holy Spirit may open their hearts to your grace and truth: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That they may be kept in the faith and communion of your holy Church: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That they may be sent into the world in witness to your love: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P That they may be brought to the fullness of your peace and glory: Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Response: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me

P Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made this man, woman and child your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

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

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #543 Green Book

* 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 Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

After the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God's plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

The First reading is from the 2nd chapter of Acts.

THE LESSON READS:

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ²²"You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. ²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. ²⁸You have made known to

me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence. ²⁹Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' ³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 16 (read responsively)

L – In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

⁸**I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

ALL – In your presence there is fullness of joy.

This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ's resurrection even in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

The Second reading is from the 1st chapter of 1 Peter.

THE LESSON READS:

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being

protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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 Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.

* **GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." ²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." ³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in

his name.

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

“Thine Is the Glory”

#145 Green Book

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Rejoicing in the risen life of Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P We pray for the church. Breathe your Spirit into us. Renew us with your power. Unite us in mission and send us into the world with your love. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the earth. For fields and forests, gardens and vineyards, and all newly planted crops. Sustain our world with clean water and favorable weather. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For the nations. Empower leaders to work for the well-being of all. Send peace into every place where people live in the shadow of violence and displacement. Free all who are isolated behind walls of fear. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For those in need. Look with compassion toward those who bear hidden wounds. Draw near to those who seek you. Comfort the dying, console the grieving, heal the sick (especially all of our shut-ins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, Betty Karstetter, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, Bob Cameron, Michal Gayer, Letha Swab, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Orville Graybill, Harold ‘Butch’ Oberholtzer, Randy Clark, Joyce Doyle, Pete Swab (Letha & Clark Swab’s daughter), Joan Fulkroad, Bill Holderman, Don Clark, Seth Arentz, Tom Lyter, Charlie Stouffer, Andrea Cameron, Tom Ernest, Teresa Kauffman, Margaret Lowery, Sandy Pines, Janet Fultz, Butch Pines, and Jeff Sanders. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For this assembly. Give us courage to welcome newcomers graciously. Walk with those who are inquiring, those who harbor doubts and questions, and those who are absent from us. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith. Inspire us by their witness. Bring us with them to the heavenly feast. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Joining our voices with your faithful ones in every time and place, we offer our prayers in the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amem.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

“Aria”

G. F. Handel

[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 Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world.

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 Now let us feast this Easter day on Christ, the bread of heaven. Hallelujah!

*** 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.

* FIRST COMMUNION is celebrated today by Julia and Paige Martin.

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

COMMUNION:

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

B. Glyncannon

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 Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of heaven to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

* BLESSING

P May God who has brought us from death to life fill you with great joy. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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

* CLOSING HYMN “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done” #135 Green Book

* DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!** You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Ron Yorks

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Haley Mummah & Hannah Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP LEADER – The Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Martin

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 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 yellow portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the Narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

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 WORSHIP by Sam Leister an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders 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 Eucharist in specific situations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church's pilgrimage, the church's inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop's responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Collins is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.

WE WELCOME into the fellowship of our congregation today, Kyle and Christina Martin and their daughters Julia and Paige. We are pleased to have them become a part of the Messiah family.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact Judy directly at the church office at 436-6213 or at messiahlutheran@pa.net. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

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

JUST A THOUGHT – Otto Zockler, German Theologian (1833 – 1906): The wise man is also the just, the pious, the upright, the man who walks in the way of truth.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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.

THE DEADLINE for all items to be included in the Sunday bulletin is **Thursday noon**.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or messiahlutheran@pa.net. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not "overbooked" in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email messiahlutheran@pa.net for any changes or requests.

SUMMER SERVICE UPDATE – Since Pentecost and Holy Trinity are so late this calendar year, the Board of Worship and Music has decided that summer services will begin on Sunday, June 4th and conclude on Sunday, September 3rd. Worship services during the summer will begin at 9:15 a.m. (The format/liturgy for Pentecost and Holy Trinity will remain the same with the summer service format/liturgy beginning on June 18th). Regular (10:30 a.m.) worship services will resume on Sunday, September 10th.

A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING will be held on Sunday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be taking a wild ride through God’s Word at the Avalanche Ranch this year for VBS. If you can’t attend the meeting and you are interested in assisting with VBS, please call Linda Clark at 717-348-8262 or send an email to lnclark13@embarqmail.com.

2017 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held from Monday, June 19th to Thursday, June 22nd from 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. with a pool party being scheduled for Friday, June 23rd. This year’s closing program will be held on Sunday, June 25th during the morning worship service.

MESSIAH’S DOORS will be unlocked at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Worship.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS – Any Messiah member who wishes to receive the monthly financial reports and the weekly tallies by email, please send Ann Beaver (annbeaver@embarqmail.com) your email address.

COPIES OF JANUARY PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT PACKETS (with PINK covers) are available in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, call Ann Beaver at 436-9382.

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.”

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>April 16, 2017 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	
Attendance – 122	Attendance – 13	Sunday School -	\$ 15.00
Total Offering - \$3351.00		Benevolence -	135.00
		Building Fund -	275.00
		Flowers -	125.00
		Summer Camp -	365.00
		Memorial Fund -	<u>40.00</u>
General Fund - \$ 2396.00			\$ 955.00

GET EXCITED FOR CAMP THIS SUMMER! Campers of all ages are invited to come to Mount Luther this summer and take advantage of all the programs they have to offer! There are traditional, specialty and trip camps for school-aged kids and Family Camp for kids and adults. Mount Luther is located five miles west of Mifflinburg in Union County. This year’s theme is “The Water of Life” giving campers a new awareness of how water and life are gifts from God. Don’t forget, 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.

KATE SWAILES is serving this year as our camp person, a liaison between Mount Luther and our congregation. Because we have a camp person, you can see her to get an additional discount in the camp store! For more information on summer camp programs, you can contact Kate or visit the camp website at www.campmountluther.org. Submit your registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. Kate will submit the forms to Mount Luther.

CAMP MT. LUTHER FUND RAISER – Ed Beaver has donated wood crafts as a fundraiser for Mt. Luther Camp costs. Please check out the birdhouses, three-legged stools, and tool boxes that are displayed at the rear of the Adult Sunday School Room. For a donation toward camp, you can select your favorite craft. Place your donation in the basket on the table. Thanks for supporting our youth! Thank you also to Ed for donating the items.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

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.

WEEKLY CHURCH 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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected 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.

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA Day of Learning will be held at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, Cogan Station, PA on April 29, 2017 from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. Theme will be Katie Luther – A Woman for Today presented by Sandy Grier and Peggy Bohart. Registration is 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. A light lunch will be provided. A \$5.00 fee will be collected at the door (make checks payable to USSWO). Call Barb Geedey at 436-6433 if you are interested in attending.

ITEMS FOR THE SEAFARERS BAGS will be collected through the summer. Items needed are:

- 1 sweatshirt, preferably hooded (sizes L-XL)
- 3 pairs of socks (thermal or white gym socks)
- 1 pull-over T-shirt (sizes M-L)
- 1 knit heavy winter cap

COMMUNITY

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is looking for volunteers to install smoke alarms in the Mifflintown/Port Royal boroughs on Saturday, April 29th. Volunteers will gather in the Courthouse overflow parking lot on N. 3rd Street (across from Aldersgate Methodist Church) in Mifflintown or at the Friendship Fire Dept. in Port Royal by 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, April 29th for detailed instructions. ALL tools and smoke alarms will be provided by the ARC. Teams of 3 or 4 people will be sent to pre-determined areas to install the smoke alarms. The project should be wrapped up by noon. Volunteer today by contacting Janel Gordner by email at janel.gordner@redcross.org or 570-524-0400 ext. 1602.

THE ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT AT LOCUST GROVE is looking for volunteers (individuals or groups) to spend time with our residents. Some of the ways you can volunteer are: assist with activities, read, bingo caller, religious activities, music, pet visits, crafts, nail painting, games, birthday parties, and visits with residents. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call Kathy Breon, Activity Director at 436-8921.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED:

Food Box Packer – Organized person who works well without supervision to pack supplemental food boxes for our elderly and children’s programs.

Summer Backpack Program – Help register eligible families and fill food boxes with lunch items for children throughout the summer months (June-August). Times available: Monday 9-12, Tuesday 9-12 and 1-5, and Saturday 9-12.

Cleaning Angel – Person with a God-given talent for cleaning and organizing. Approximately 4-6 hours per week.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
CLEANING SUPPLIES: LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP,
ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, &
DONATIONS OF CASH/GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitters 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 in Rearick Room.
- Thursday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Worship Leader: The Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Martin).