# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason Richard Beck Andrea Cameron June Bricker Andrea Cameron Garrett Berry & Caden Swailes Kay Varner Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Acolytes
Altar Guild

# FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING January 29, 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:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

INTRODUCTION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Loving God,

- C we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.
- P Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior.
- 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

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

#383 LBW

- \* GREETING
  - P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.
  - C And also with you.
- \* KYRIE (spoken responsively)
  - 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

- \* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung to the tune of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")
  - 1 Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good will to all the earth.

    Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

    we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

    Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
  - 2 Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
  - 3 Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!
- \* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)
  - P The Lord be with you

- C And also with you.
- \* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)
  - P Let us pray...
  - C Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### WORD

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

#### FIRST READING

A reading from Micah 6:1-8

#### THE LESSON READS:

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the

saving acts of the LORD." <sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Lector: Here ends the reading. Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 15 (responsively)

L - LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart; <sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

# ALL -LORD, who may abide upon your holy hill?

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

#### SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

#### THE LESSON READS:

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were

wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Lector: Here ends the reading. Cong: Thanks be to God.

\* THE VERSE (sung to the tune of "Rise, O Children of Salvation")
Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

- \* GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12
  - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.
  - C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

#### THE GOSPEL READS:

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. 8"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹0"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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

SERMON Richard Beck

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus, the Very Thought of You" #316 LBW

## \* 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.

#### **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 ('Create in Me')

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 Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### C Amen

#### \* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing. A brief silence.
- P We pray for wholeness in the body of Christ. Bind up fractures within the church. Humble the proud and lift up the lowly. Make us one at your table. Hear us, O God.

# C Your mercy is great.

P We praise you for the beauty of the universe. For the light of the stars, for the majesty of the mountains, we thank you. Mold us into stewards of your creation. Hear us, O God.

# C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for peacemakers around the world. End violence. Restore communities. Stop bribery within political systems. Reign with justice and peace and commit us to this act of discipleship. Hear us, O God.

## C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for our neighbors who mourn, who have no clean water, who hunger. Provide their daily bread. Heal the forgotten, the lost, and our enemies, family, and friends (especially all of our shut-ins Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, 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, Brady Mingle, Belva Fulton, Joan Foltz, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Orville Graybill, Ellen Calhoun, Harold 'Butch' Oberholtzer, Randy Clark, Joyce Doyle, Steve Bahorik, Gary Bechtold, Claire Mummah, Pete Swab (Letha & Clark Swab's daughter), Joan Fulkroad, and Bill Holderman. Hear us, O God.

# C Your mercy is great.

P We praise you for this congregation. Bless the work and play of young and old. Deepen our faith. Expand our discipleship. Equip us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Hear us, O God.

# C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We praise you for all the saints who died proclaiming the gospel. Strengthen us through their witness. Hear us, O God.

# C Your mercy is great.

P Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

# THE RITE OF HEALING THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

- P Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands as a commitment to God's power to heal may come down the center aisle in two lines to the right and left of the altar. This may include those in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. It may include those in need of reconciliation in their relationship to God or neighbor. It may include those who wish to commit their ministry of healing into the hands of God: as a doctor, nurse or health care worker.
- P Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. We give you thanks for this oil, for the fruit of the trees, nurtured in the warmth of the sun, watered from the rain of the heavens, the olives harvested, and oil pressed from the fruit of the trees. With oil, you anointed your chosen people Israel, and fed them with choice flour, oil, and honey. You anointed Aaron and made oil a sign of blessing for your chosen ones. You promised to anoint with oil those who walk through the valley of the shadow of death. You have anointed your own Son with the oil of gladness. The Good Samaritan tended a stranger, bound up his wounds, and poured oil on them. You gave the disciples power to heal, to cure, and to anoint with oil many who were sick. Your own body was anointed for burial by the woman who poured expensive

ointment on his feet and wiped them with her hair. The virgins met the bridegroom and trimmed their oil lamps to burn brightly for the celebration, the feast to come.

(Then for each individual the following is said with the laying on of hands):

P I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.

#### C Amen.

P (Name), I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

#### C Amen.

# \* PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (for all)

P The almighty Lord a stronger tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### C Amen.

#### \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### 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.

#### \* BLESSING

P The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

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

#### **MEAL**

- \* COMMUNION DIALOG (from Isaiah 55)
  - P Let us give thanks to the Lord.
  - C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.
  - P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.
  - C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.
  - P Let us come to his table with joy,
  - C for we come as God's invited guests!

#### \* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 death, we cry out Amen. [Amen.] Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. [Amen.] Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. [Amen.]

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

C Amen.

#### \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

(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 Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day—that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

#### C Amen.

#### \* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. C Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

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NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER - Sam Leister

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Bob St. Clair

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD - Barbara S. Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Jace White & Tai Kepler

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

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 Richard Beck, 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.

JUST A THOUGHT – Harry Lathrop Reed, Christian Thinker: Rightness is not easy of definition, but everybody knows what it is.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at <a href="mailto:dskint@nmax.net">dskint@nmax.net</a>. 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 <u>one month</u>. 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 <u>messiahlutheran@pa.net</u>. 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. At this time of the year, in particular, 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 <a href="messiahlutheran@pa.net">messiahlutheran@pa.net</a> for any changes or requests.

#### WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

| January 15, 2017 Worship Service | <u>Sunday School</u> | Other Funds     |              |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Attendance – 50                  | Attendance – 21      | Sunday School - | 46.00        |
| Total Offering - \$1851.00       |                      | Benevolence -   | \$<br>110.00 |
| 456.00                           |                      | Building Fund - | <br>300.00   |
| General Fund - \$ 1395.00        |                      |                 | \$<br>456.00 |

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

MESSIAH WILL BE HOSTING Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mt. Luther, on Sunday, March 5, 2017. This will also be Messiah Youth Sunday for 2017. The youth will be helping throughout the service and will also provide the anthem that day.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2017. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "help our neighbors" by dropping a dollar in the soup pot and also by donating a can of soup on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

MESSIAH DONATED 115 cans of food this year to Bethesda Mission and a \$500.00 cash donation as well? Thanks to all who donated to this project!

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

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

A FIRST COMMUNION CLASS will be held for any youth who are interested. Parents may contact the church office at 436-6213 or Sam Leister at 436-8589. A date and time will be set based on those who wish to attend.

2017 CAMPING BROCHURES AND REGISTRATION FORMS for Camp Mt. Luther are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room or you may register online at <a href="www.campmountluther.org">www.campmountluther.org</a>. 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 1st to avoid a late fee.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held for those who are interested. If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to attend the New Member Class, please call the church office at 436-6213.

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT PACKETS (with red 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."

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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2017 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 the church office.

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.

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.

THANK YOU to members of Messiah for the flowers that were given to me. They are beautiful and appreciated.

Sincerely, Mona Lawson

#### **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.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS – In 2016 Messiah gave the following in two special offerings: Blanket Sunday \$515.00 in donations and Thankoffering Sunday \$441.00 was collected. Both offerings support the projects of Women of the ELCA. THANK YOU!

ITEMS FOR THE SEAFARERS BAGS will be collected through next summer, that way everyone will get to take advantage of any holiday saving and after Christmas sales for the winter items. 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**

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER;

OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES;

COUGH DROPS, VICKS. WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT

DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS TO PURCHASE THESE SUPPLIES

#### THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

**Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church/Service of Healing. (Lay Worship Leader:

Richard Beck).

**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.

**Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.

**Sunday:** -Souper Bowl Sunday.

-9:15 a.m., Sunday School.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion. (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).