

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



***THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER***

May 7th, 2017

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker & Bob St. Clair
Linda Clark
Andrea Cameron
Briley Holderman
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner
Garrett Berry & Caden Swailes

Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Organists
Junior Choir Director
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MUSIC SUNDAY MAY 7, 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

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Andrea Cameron

ANTHEM I Am A "C" & "Rise and Shine"

Junior Choir

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "This Is My Father's World" #554 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 O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was outpoured on God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

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

THE LESSON READS:

⁴²[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23 (read responsively)

L – The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

ALL – The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

The Second reading is from the 2nd chapter of 1 Peter.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²²"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian 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.

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through Jesus, but those who avoid Jesus are dangerous to the flock.

* GOSPEL: John 10:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] ¹"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

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.

* **HYMN OF DAY**

“Earth and All Stars!”

#558 Green Book

* **NICENE CREED (all)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

* **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P 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. Strengthen ministers of word, sacrament, and service who are called to shepherd your people. Renew your church and unite us through your Spirit. Send us out to serve our neighbors and to receive their care with gratitude. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the earth. For pastures and prairies, rivers and streams, oceans and mountains. For those who care for livestock and pets. For all animals, wild and domestic, with whom we share this world. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P For the nations. Guide leaders into the path of peace. Uphold all who govern. Bring an end to injustice, warfare, and violence. Protect those who risk their lives to shield others from danger. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For those in need. For those who lack safe housing and adequate food. For workers whose pay is insufficient to meet their daily needs. Comfort the grieving and 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., Avonell 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, Jeff Sanders and Tammy Metz. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For this assembly. For ushers, acolytes, and greeters. For those who clean and prepare this space for worship. Give wisdom to our councils, committees, and all who guide this congregation's ministry. 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. In your goodness and mercy, bring us to the fulfillment of your promise to dwell in your house forever. 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 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."**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

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

ANTHEM:

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P 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.

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

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C **Amen.**

* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (sung)

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

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.**

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
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 "Let All Things Now Living" #557 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 – Linda Bahorik
NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barbara S. Geedey
NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Jace White & Nathan Swailes
NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Sam Leister

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 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) worshipping 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents, Harry and Martha Mummah and Dale H. and Charlotte Henry, by Ken and Ruth Mummah.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Andrea Cameron, 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.

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

JUST A THOUGHT – Dave Veerman, Christian Thinker: Biblical application means allowing the truth of the scripture to penetrate our lives, to make a difference in how we live.

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.

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.

TODAY IS MUSIC SUNDAY and special music will be provided in place of the sermon by the Junior and Senior choirs, Organists Bob St. Clair and June Bricker (organ and piano duet), and everyone joining to sing a few favorite hymns.

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.

2017 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held from Monday, June 19th to Thursday, June 22nd from 6:15 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 MARCH 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.”

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.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

April 30, 2017 Worship Service

Attendance – 68
Total Offering - \$3175.00
910.00
General Fund - \$ 2265.00

Sunday School

Attendance – 28

Other Funds

Sunday School - \$ 65.00
Benevolence - 140.00
Building Fund - 435.00
Flowers - 22.00
Summer Camp - 206.00
Jr. Church - 42.00
\$ 910.00

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.

THANK YOU for purchasing the wood crafts donated by Ed Beaver in support of our Mt. Luther campers. We raised \$186. Thank you again Ed.

Kate Swailes

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.

THANK YOU to members of Messiah for all of the cards in remembrance of my birthday and to Kay and George Varner for delivering the beautiful altar flowers.

Jean McNaight

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.

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women of Messiah are invited to attend.

SEND A GIRL TO SCHOOL is the new project for the Women of the ELCA. We are setting a goal of \$1000.00 for this project. If you would like to contribute toward sending a girl to school you may do so by noting a donation on your church envelope marking it **WELCA project** or by placing your donation in the school box located on the piano by our chart which will track all of our donations. WELCA is beginning the donation with \$120.00. To send one girl to school the cost is \$40.00 but we will take any and all donations. If we go over our goal that would be wonderful. All money will be sent to the ELCA good gifts project. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Barb Geedey.

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

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE: Stuff the Buss benefits the Food Pantry's 5th annual Summer Backpack Program which provides lunches throughout summer vacation to school students who normally receive free and reduced price lunches at school. These students often face hunger in the summer months as their families struggle to provide extra meals. Stuff the Buss will take place at Weis Market in Mifflintown on Saturday, May 13th from 9-2, or donations may be dropped off at the Food Pantry anytime. Donations needed by the Backpack Program are: single-serve, non-perishable lunch and snack items such as juice boxes or pouches; 15 oz. cans of pasta meals or ready-to-heat soup; microwaveable meals; fruit cups; pudding cups; and snack crackers/cookies. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHURCH GROUPS, YOUTH AND/OR ADULTS TO HELP CARE FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY: Every month the Food Pantry carries food and supplies to a church on the outskirts of Juniata County to reach families who have trouble traveling to Mifflintown for food. Six months each year, every other month, we travel to Turkey Valley Methodist near Seven Stars, and the other six months is McCoysville Presbyterian near Honey Grove. Adult and youth groups from 2 additional churches help distribute food at each of these locations. These church groups have been faithfully doing this for almost 10 years now. Another church group to step forward to fill this vacancy is needed. We are looking for a group of 6-10 teens to adults who are willing to serve at the McCoysville Presbyterian Church, 9 a.m. to 12 noon the 3rd Saturday of every other month (February, April, June, August, October and December). Duties include unloading the Food Pantry truck, setting up the food and distributing the food to families, loading groceries, and inventorying supplies. Call the Food Pantry at 436-9718 if you can help.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -MUSIC SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion. (Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron).
- Monday:** -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:** -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).