

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Ron Yorks
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner
Clint & Jamie Miller
Braedon Walton & Hannah Ehrisman
Don & Barb Geedey

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

REFORMATION SUNDAY SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING October 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: Now Thank We All Our God

J. S. Bach
Arr. By Lani Smith

MEDITATION AND PRAYER

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord’s table.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the + holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Source of all life,

C we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, + God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" #229 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (C - sung)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung) 1 & II – Cantor C – All

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 God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The First Lesson is from the 31st chapter of Jeremiah.

THE LESSON READS:

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

Ps. – Intoned by Cantor **R – Sung by Congregation**

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

³though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away. R

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought up on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. **R**

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and the other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

The Second Lesson is from the 3rd chapter of Romans.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* **THE VERSE (sung)**

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

* **GOSPEL: John 8:31-36**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.

³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Andrea Cameron

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" #230 Green Hymnal

* **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 Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P We pray for the unity of your church. Free us to be Christ's one body, graciously receiving his life and boldly offering it to a world in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the renewal of creation: for a shared, plentiful harvest, for lands unable to bear fruit, for what is neglected or destroyed by our hand, and for the earth's advocates. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for all nations of the world: for leaders of villages, cities, states, and nations, for lawmakers and judges, for teachers and students, and for all who work for peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for those who seek refuge and strength: refugees, the imprisoned, and those bound by addictions or burdened by guilt. We pray for all the ill or injured, and we pray especially for all of our shut-ins: (Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Jean McNaught, 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, Avonel & Rick Waller, Sr., Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Letha Swab, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Randy Clark, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Tom Lyter, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Ken Stuck, Paul Goss, Dr. Laurie Cox, Pat Forney, Bob Bell, Megan Hart, Austin Parker, and Kay Varner). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for continual reformation in this and every assembly. In new beginnings, impart wisdom. In established traditions, inspire creativity. In all ministries, revive our hope in the one who makes all things new. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Lord of the Church, we give thanks to you for your death and resurrection, and that you are the Good Shepherd. Hear our prayer for our Call Committee and its work of discernment, and hear our prayer for your sending to us a pastor who will be a strong partner with us in the joy and service of your Gospel for those within your Church and those beyond our walls in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We give thanks for your saints. United with them in the covenant of baptism, increase our faith in your promised life for all. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

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.

* 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:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

John B. Dykes

Arr. By David H. Hegarty

[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:

God Is Our Refuge

Hulda Hartung Gluck

* SUNG OFFERTORY (“vineyards”) (sung)

C 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 God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

C Amen

MEAL

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (sung responsively)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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:

(sung) **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 You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sung) C 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 Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.

* **LAMB OF GOD (sung)**

C 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

["AT THE CHANCEL RAIL" – come forward by the aisle on your right; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Stand around the chancel rail to partake and return by the aisle to the left of your seat].

* **COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord and Savior 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 everyone 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 Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C **Amen**

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen, Amen, Amen (sung)**

* CLOSING HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation” #369 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Sound the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Recessional March F. Mendelssohn

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2016 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



In “The Freedom of a Christian” (1520) Martin Luther famously wrote “A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.” The ELCA’s theme expresses this message of the Christian faith’s freedom and a renewed life of service to others in Jesus Christ.

NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Marina Holderman

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Clark (cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

NEXT WEEK’S WORSHIP LEADER – The Rev. James Rill

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Julia Martin & Harrison Mummah

NEXT WEEK’S GREETERS – Kevin & Kate Swailes

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 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) 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.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of the Wedding Anniversary of Dan and Michelle Stoner by Butch and Sandy Pines.

JUST A THOUGHT – C. S. Lewis, Oxford Professor, Christian Writer and self-made Theologian (1898 – 1963): There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, in the end, “Thy will be done.” All that are in Hell choose the second.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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.

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

REQUEST from the Board of Worship & Music: In light of our congregation’s recent acceptance of Messiah’s Mission Statement (including “....making disciples of Christ through Fellowship....”), we invite more of the congregation to sit in the main sanctuary during the worship service. Unifying everyone into one space will help make us more welcoming to all members and visitors as well as creating a sense of community, sharing and togetherness. Worship Leaders will be able to better “connect” and “communicate” to all worshippers (and you to them) during the service. Other benefits include better sound while singing hymns, listening to the sermons/anthems/special music and an easier time of “Sharing the Peace.” Also, give us your feedback regarding the removal of several rows of pews in the sanctuary and replacing them with soft chairs. Thanks for making this positive transition to your worship experience!

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

October 22, 2017

Worship Service

Attendance – 51

Sunday School – 24

Total Offering \$2,430.00

Other Funds \$ 625.00

General Fund \$1,805.00

Other Funds

Benevolence – \$ 155.00

Building Fund – \$ 140.00

Summer Camp – \$ 25.00

Sunday School - \$ 108.00

World Hunger - \$ 175.00

Flowers - \$ 22.00

Total \$ 625.00

NITTANY ENERGY (formerly Hilltop Oil) CHURCH PROGRAM – for every gallon of heating oil purchased by participating church members from September 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018, Nittany Energy will donate FOUR CENTS per gallon back to the church’s heating oil account at the end of each month. One parishioner purchasing 800 gallons of oil during the heating season will save the church \$32.00 per year on their heating oil. **From November to May of last heating season Messiah’s Nittany Energy church program saved the church \$207.53.** If you participated last year then you are already enrolled. Questions – ask any Property member.

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

COPIES OF JULY 5th AND JULY 29th 2017 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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.

THANK YOU for the nice fruit basket that was delivered to me by Messiah youth group. It was very much appreciated.

Jean McNaight

THANK YOU to the Messiah youth group for the fruit basket they brought to me. It was very thoughtful and I really appreciated it.

Kitty Walters

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.

ITEMS FOR THE SEAFARERS BAGS will be collected through September. 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 26th ANNUAL REFORMATION RECITAL will be presented today at 3:00 p.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 120 North Main St., Lewistown, PA.

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NOVEMBER UPDATE

Our stockpile of Thanksgiving and Christmas foods is growing steadily, but we are far behind where we need to be to pack 350 or more Thanksgiving boxes for local families by our distribution date of November 18. We would be so grateful for your help. And speaking of November 18th, don’t miss the 10th annual “Save Thanksgiving Benefit Concert” on that same day at 6:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS STILL NEEDED:

Turkeys (around 12 lbs.) or Turkey Beasts; Hams (3-5 lbs.); Stuffing; Canned Fruits; Instant Mashed Potatoes; Canned Sweet Potatoes; Cake Mix and Icing; or other Dessert Mix; **or a \$20 donation will purchase one complete meal!**

THE COMMONWEALTH BRASS QUINTET will be performing at the Upper Tuscarora Presbyterian Church, 589 Brick Church Road, East Waterford, PA today at 2:00 p.m. The Quintet has been the region’s premier brass quintet for over 35 years. The CBQ was formed in 1981 by faculty members from several schools in PA to promote the performance and teaching of brass chamber music. (See poster on bulletin board in Kitchenette).

A PORT ROYAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING TEA will be held in the Social Room of the Port Royal Lutheran Church at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2017. We will reflect on our many blessings and give thanks for them as well as enjoying a social time to start the Holiday Season. A Christmas Tea will also be held at the same place and time on December 14, 2017. This event will feature a Christmas Carol Sing-along with The Boyz, the popular men’s local singing group. Please join us as we celebrate this special time of year—all are welcome!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -REFORMATION SUNDAY.
-FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion/Jr. Church (Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron).
-2-4 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in the Jr. Church Room.
-8:00 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:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -ALL SAINTS SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion (Worship Leader: The Rev. James Rill).