

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office / 717-436-6213

The Rev. Chris Mathiason  
Andrea Cameron  
Andrea Cameron  
June Bricker  
Kate Swailes  
Kay Varner  
Hannah Ehrisman & Julia Martin  
Linda Bahorik

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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 11, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to “Prayers of Intercession.”

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith, for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Merciful God,  
C **you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth. Have mercy on us and wash away our sin. Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
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 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" Green Hymnal #448

\* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit 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.**

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P Let us pray...

C **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

The First Reading is from the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Numbers.

## THE LESSON READS:

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (**responsively**)

L – You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

**All – You deliver your people from their distress.**

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

The Second Reading is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Ephesians.

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

**Cong: Thanks be to God.**

\* LENTEN VERSE (sung)

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

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

\* GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those

who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

Andrea Cameron

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Green Hymnal #479

\* 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.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick or injured and (especially for all of our shut-ins:

Kitty Walters, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Betty Karstetter, Jim Yetter, and Don Lewis). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Randy Clark, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Tom Lyter, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Dr. Laurie Cox, Bob Bell, Megan Hart, Austin Parker, Terry Coder, John Towsey, Barbara Wengerd, Audrey Peters, Rich Walters, Jim Gilson, Jane Cleck, Sieber Stoner, Mary Sanders, Jane Ann Baney, Leon Kramer, Paul Goss, and family of Rick Waller, Sr. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Gracious giving God, give us your help again, just as you have always done. Remind us of your care. Let there be gratitude in our congregation, for all that is needful has been sent and ordained for us already. As our Call Committee works to call a new pastor to our congregation, may we be strengthened for this task with the thought that your providing reaches to every need of your church. Our Call Committee and community of believers are your church, too. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

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

ANTHEM:

\* SUNG OFFERTORY (sung)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**MEAL**

\* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P With his Body and Blood, Jesus Christ delivers us from the power of darkness.

**C and leads us into the Kingdom of God.**

P Christ has humbled himself and become obedient unto death,

**C even to death on a cross.**

P He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities,

**C and on him was the chastisement that made us whole.**

P Here at his holy table he feeds us now with his Body and Blood.

**C Glory to you, our Lord and Savior; with your Body and Blood you redeem the World.**

\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**C We praise you, O God.**

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**C We bless you, O God.**

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**C We thank you, O God.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**C Amen.**

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] (all)

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive  
those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver  
us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** Return to God with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

(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** Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\* BLESSING**

**P** May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

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

**\* DISMISSAL**

**P** Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING CHIMES**

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2017 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.



NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Sam Leister  
NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Jean Compton  
NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Kay Varner  
NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Jade Britcher & Zeb Berry  
NEXT WEEK'S GREETER – Jean Berry

## **WELCOME**

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads but also in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR COMMUNION. Wine and wheat wafers are used and if you so desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel.

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the purple portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the Narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) 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.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Rick Waller, Sr., who died on March 1, 2018. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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.

JUST A THOUGHT – J. B. Phillips, Bible Translator (1906 – 1982): I sometimes wonder what hours of prayer and thought lie behind the apparently simple and spontaneous parables of the gospel.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:messiahlutheran@pa.net) for any changes or requests.

**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 worshipers (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.” Thanks for making this positive transition to your worship experience!**

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

THE 2018 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid a late fee. Kate Swales is serving as our camp person, a liaison between Mount Luther and our congregation. For more information on summer programs, you can contact Kate or visit the camp website at [www.campmountluther.org](http://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. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered through various fund raising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the forms to Mount Luther.

HOME COMMUNION NEEDS HELP – The Compassionate Services Committee is again looking for at least two people who would like to give communion to our shut-ins. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins will be used on a quarterly basis. Training is available. Complete Home Communion kits are also available, including all liturgy needed. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey at 717-436-6433 or [geedey@centurylink.net](mailto:geedey@centurylink.net).

CORRECTION – An important correction needs to be made for the minutes of the Board of Property Committee on January 22, 2018. On the item which currently reads “Tree trimming was done by home owner at no cost to church,” it should read “Tree trimming was done by **Ronald Shearer**, home owner, at no cost to church.” The Board of Property apologizes for this omission. Thank you.

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.”

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Sunday, April 8, 2018 after the morning worship service.

NEXT PPC MEETING will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

COPIES OF DECEMBER 2, 2018 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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

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 FOR MARCH 4, 2018

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Worship Service – 70		Benevolence –	\$ 90.00
Sunday School – 28		Building Fund –	\$ 350.00
Total Offering	\$4,521.00	Sunday School –	\$ 63.00
Other Funds	<u>\$ 720.00</u>	Flowers -	\$ 17.00
General Fund	\$3,801.00	Summer Camp -	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
		Total	\$ 720.00

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2018 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact Sam Leister or the church office.

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael “Doc” Johnston at 436-9209.

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.**

DEAR FRIENDS OF MESSIAH.....We want to thank you for all the love, prayers and support you have given to us over the past year. And, we thank you for all the cards you have sent to Randy. He really, really appreciates them! He tells us that he has “grown-up” over the past months. Well, we surely hope so, because on March 27 he will be 58 years old! So if you feel in your heart to send Randy a card, we know he really would appreciate it.

Randal S. Clark NB-5960  
SCI Chester  
500 E. Fourth St.  
Chester, PA 19013

The rules: No glitter, stickers, etc. Write your return address on the envelope and use white envelopes.

Thank you again for everything.

In Christian Love,  
Jerry, Linda, and Cade

**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.

WELCA WILL BE COLLECTING items for Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items needed are: 2 light-weight cotton T-shirts (NO ONESIES), 2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (WITHOUT FEET), 2 receiving blankets (medium-weight cotton or flannel, crocheted, or knitted with light-weight yarn up to 52 inches square), 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap, 2 pairs of socks, 1 hand towel (dark color), 2 diaper pins or large safety pins. Sizes are to be from 6 months to 24 months.

WELCA will be starting a fund to raise \$1000.00 toward a pair of oxen and a plow through ELCA Good Gifts. Watch bulletins for more details.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Cynthia Smith will provide the program and Barb Geedey will provide refreshments. All women are welcome to attend.

**COMMUNITY**

**2018 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Maundy Thursday Service.....March 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Worship leader, Rev. Nancy McClure

McClure

Good Friday Service.....March 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Aldersgate Methodist Church  
Worship leader, Rev. Dan Kerlin

Kerlin

The community is also invited to worship each Wednesday of Lent (February 21—March 21) at 7:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

**MIFFLINTOWN WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEAS**

All teas will begin with Fellowship at 9:30 a.m. and Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. The study is on the book "Embracing the Uncertain" by Magrey R. DeVega

Wednesday, March 14.....Aldersgate Methodist Church

Wednesday, March 21.....St. Jude's Catholic Church

**PORT ROYAL COMMUNITY LENTEN TEAS** will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Room of the Port Royal Lutheran Church each Tuesday beginning February 20<sup>th</sup> during Lent. This year's theme is "The Psalms Were Made For Lent." Please join us for inspiration and fellowship.

**MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFASTS**

All Prayer Breakfasts will begin at 7:00 a.m. at JP's Restaurant. Cost is \$6.00 per breakfast.

Saturday, March 17.....TBA

Saturday, March 24.....Dan Kerlin

Saturday, March 31.....Brent Stoner

**PORT ROYAL MEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFASTS**

All Prayer Breakfasts will begin at 7:00 a.m. at the Port Royal Community Building.

Saturday, March 17.....Zachary Bashore, Christian Retreat Center

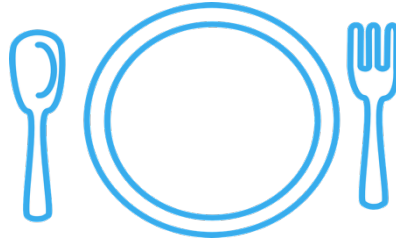
Saturday, March 24.....Rev. Terry Smith, Free Spring Church of the Brethren

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR MARCH:  
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND FLU MEDICINES,  
PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY DETERGENT,  
AND DIAPERS (SIZE 4, 5 & 6) DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS  
AND LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion. (Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron).
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church Room.  
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -9:30 a.m. Women’s Lenten Tea at Aldersgate Methodist Church.  
-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal.  
-7:00 p.m., Lenten Service at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church.  
-7:00 p.m., Juniata County 4-H Beef & Breeders Club in Youth Area.
- Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.  
-5:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40440 meeting in Jr. Church Room.
- Saturday:** -7:00 a.m., Men’s Lenten Prayer Breakfast at JP’s Restaurant.  
-9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).  
-Congregational Meal in Fellowship Hall following worship service.

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CONGREGATIONAL DINNER  
MARCH 18, 2018**



You are invited to attend a Congregational Dinner at Messiah on Sunday, March 18, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. The menu will consist of Chicken and Waffles with mashed potatoes provided by the Board of Parish Fellowship. We are asking for donations of desserts, applesauce, or vegetables for a veggie tray. **(A donation is not necessary to attend the meal).**

Reservations can be made by detaching the bottom portion of this sheet and placing it in the offering plate, or by calling the church office at 717-436-6213.

---

**MESSIAH CONGREGATIONAL DINNER  
March 18, 2018**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Donation you will be bringing \_\_\_\_\_