

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SERVICE OF HEALING

March 31st, 2019

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

EMAIL:

mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

www.mlcmifflintown.org

The artwork is by Sharon Geiser. Permission to use this copyrighted graphic is limited to congregational use.
This bulletin cover provided by www.scholia.net and is made available without cost.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Church Office: 717-436-6213 Email: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
The Rev. Erin Bovendam
Chad Hershberger
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise
Hope Miller & Gabby Reed
Julia Martin & Haley Mummah

Interim Pastor
Worship Leader
Guest Speaker
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes
Offering Ushers

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT YOUTH SUNDAY SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR HEALING March 31, 2019 – 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 psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

TEMPLE TALK

Chad Hershberger

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C **Amen.**

P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God at the margins,

C We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of + Christ, leading you from death into 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 "Let All Things Now Living" #557 Green Hymnal

* 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 God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of 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

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

The First Reading is from the 5th chapter of Joshua.

THE LESSON READS:

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32 (responsively)

L – Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

ALL – Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD.

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The Second Reading is from the 5th chapter of 2 Corinthians.

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.

* **GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Rev. Erin Bovendam

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

#296 Green Hymnal

* 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 Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

P God of abundant grace, guide your church to look upon people as you look upon them, with compassion and as deserving of mercy. Shape us to be worthy ambassadors of Christ. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Bestow dignity on migrant and seasonal farm and factory workers. When the time comes for them to leave jobs, provide new ways for them to make a livelihood. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Inspire musicians and poets (like John Donne, whom we commemorate today) to point to your unfathomable beauty and creativity. Enhance our vision of your holiness through their works. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Protect and preserve all people who look to you to be their hiding place. Today we pray especially for our shut-ins, the sick, and those who may be grieving who are in our hearts and minds listed here: Kitty Walters, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Mona Lawson, and Jim Yetter. And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Austin Parker, Terry Coder, Rich Walters, Mary Sanders, Jane Ann Baney, Donna Barton, Carolina Rubio, Josh Hohol, Noel Peachey, Shirley Miller, Elienai Ramirez, Larry Miller, Ed Fraker, Ben & Dorothy Towsey, Tami Metz, Dottie Wilson, Sieber Stoner, Carol Lyter, Kay Stuck, Jasmine Vazquez, Jim Minick, Bob Bell, Curt & Judy Houtz, Pat Cook, Linda Zimmerman, Jean Zimmerman, Edith Nipple, Will Delancey, Fred Dowling, Avonel Waller, and family of Dorothy Smith. Be their respite from trouble, and give them hope. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Erase the pain of trauma and the shame and stigma of social contempt. Change the hearts of those who bully or mistreat others, and heal broken relationships. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P **Gracious calling God**, call on us with your grace again and again. Renew us daily in the peace, hope, and eternal life we have been promised and which we have been called to proclaim. As we work to call a pastor to our congregation, may we count on

the prayers of all members of this community of faith to uphold us, just as we trust your Spirit to guide us. We remember, God, you are the One who called us first. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Invite your whole company of saints into eternal, joyful feasting. When we question your abundant mercy, soften our hearts to receive the gifts of faith and love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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 Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

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 Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

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

COMMUNION 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 Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

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

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING CHIMES

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2018 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 – Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Harrison Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawny Mummah (Cup Communion, 4/14 – Clint & Jamie Miller)

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Braedon Walton & Nick Reed

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING USHERS – Slone Smith & Olivia Mummah

VISITORS INFORMATION

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) worshiping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Linda Leister and family and to Terry Smith and family on the passing of their mother, Dorothy Smith, who died on March 24, 2019 at North Ridge Personal Care Center, McAlisterville. Please keep Linda and Terry and their families in your prayers.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by The Rev. Erin Bovendam. We welcome her and pray God's blessing on her as she ministers to us this morning.

WE WELCOME Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mount Luther, to our worship service this morning. We thank him for bringing us information on the church camps that Mount Luther has to offer. Chad will be available to answer questions regarding the programs this year at Mount Luther.

JUST A THOUGHT – Francis August Scheaffer, Christian Thinker: Man still stands in the image of God – twisted, broken, abnormal, but still the image bearer of God.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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 mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. 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.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Sam Leister at sleister@gmail.com.

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 mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

THE APRIL 2019 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com and Bob St. Clair at stclairb@embarqmail.com prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at www.mlcmiffintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

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.”

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on June 14 and 15, 2019 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly on Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, McAlisterville. If you are interested in serving, please contact Sam Leister or the church office.

KATE SWAILES IS SERVING AS OUR CONGREGATION’S CAMPERSON with Camp Mount Luther again this year. She has information on programs for the summer, as well as other events throughout the year. If you have additional questions, you can contact her or the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. Since our congregation has a camperson, each camper from our church will receive Camel Bucks from Kate for use at the camp store this summer! Summer brochures are now available for Camp Mount Luther. Church camping is an important faith developer of our young people.

COPIES OF JANUARY 27, 2019 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAMP MOUNT LUTHER or to print the camp registration form, visit www.campmountluther.org. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. We ask that you submit your registration form and payment to Kate prior to April 15th so that we receive the early registration discount. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fund-raising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther. There is also a posting on the Youth bulletin board listing upcoming events at Camp Mount Luther.

BAKE SALE – The youth of Messiah will hold a bake sale following the church service today in order to raise funds for the cost of Camp Mount Luther this summer. We will be sending quite a few of our youth to camp this summer. Chad Hershberger will also be speaking during the service about the 2019 camping programs at Mount Luther. The congregation is welcome to donate funds over the next few months to supplement the cost of camp for our youth. Please include a note with your donation so that we can keep track of donations specifically for camp.

THE SUNDAY’S SOLDIERS want to thank Larry and Diana Wise for our archery event on March 24th. We had a great time and are truly appreciative! On Sunday, April 7, 2019, we will meet after church to have lunch and to fill the Easter eggs that will be used for our Easter egg hunt. Please bring your candy donations and any empty eggs on the 7th. Let Tawny Mummah know if you can join us!

MUSIC SUNDAY will be held this year on Mother’s Day, May 12, 2019. We are celebrating this year by having our own “homegrown” musicians perform for our service on Mom’s special day. This includes instrumentalists from Tuscarora Junior High School, our junior and senior choirs, our organist, as well as others from our congregation who have musical talents, including our very own Christina Martin! Come join us for a service celebrating Mom and celebrating the music of our church....and a surprise from the Fellowship Committee following the service!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is coming to Messiah August 5 through August 8. A splash party will be held on Friday, August 9, and the children's ending VBS program will be held in Messiah's Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning, August 11 during the church service. This year the boys and girls will be traveling with Paul on his dangerous journey to share the truth in Athens, Greece. Mark your calendars now for the week of August 5th.

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

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

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

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.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 24, 2019

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Worship Service – 58		Benevolence -	\$ 125.00
Sunday School - 34		Building Fund -	\$ 250.00
Total Offering	\$2,207.00	Sunday School -	\$ 70.00
Other Funds	<u>\$ 462.00</u>	Flowers -	<u>\$ 17.00</u>
General Fund	\$1,745.00	Total	\$ 462.00

THANK YOU to Messiah Lutheran Church for your generous gift to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts. Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you are equipping God's people – around the world and around the corner – with what they need to live abundant lives. Thank you for your partnership and your leadership in the vital ministries that we do together – and for your very good gift that will bring hope to others!

In God's abundant grace,
Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., 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 MESSIAH WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

WELCA WILL BE COLLECTING items for the Seafarers' Kits through Spring as this is the best time to get good sales of the needed items. Anyone who would like to contribute can bring items to the church and place them in the container provided for them. The items needed are: one sweatshirt (hooded or unhooded in sizes L-XL), 3 pairs of socks (thermal or white gym socks), one casual pull-over T-shirt in sizes M-L, and one heavy winter cap. The Seafarers enjoy sports teams and Nascar heroes.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, AND DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES are being held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church every Wednesday (through April 10) beginning at 7:00 p.m.

THE GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Mifflin on Friday, April 19, 2019 at 12:00 Noon. The service will begin at the church, which will be followed by a procession of the cross. Everyone is invited to attend this special Holy Week service.

PORT ROYAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS will be held on Saturdays during Lent at 7:00 a.m. at the Port Royal Community Building. Speakers are:

- April 6: Rev. Leroy Yoder, Shade Mt. Fellowship Church
- April 13: Rev. Dave Gingrich, Delaware Mennonite Church
- April 20: Rev. Ken Hepner, Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church

MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 7:00 a.m. at JP's Pancake House. All men are invited to attend.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA SCHEDULE:

- April 3 Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- April 10 Messiah Lutheran Church

Fellowship begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Bible Study titled "Final Words" at 10:00 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Food Pantry Sunday/Youth Sunday/Healing Service.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. (Worship Leader: The Rev. Erin Bovendam/Guest Speaker: Chad Hershberger).
-Youth Bake Sale following the Worship Service.
- 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:** -7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
-5:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40440 meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Children's Sermon/Jr. Church. (Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron).
-"Sunday's Soldiers" youth group meeting following Worship Service.

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



Easter Sunday is April 21, 2019 and in keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, Lilies you purchase will be “planted” around our altar to help us celebrate the special occasion.

Please complete the order form below and attach **a check**, made payable to “**Messiah Lutheran Church**” and print **Easter Lilies** in the memo line. Then, please attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office by **April 12, 2019**. PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!

FLOWERS MAY BE PICKED UP FOLLOWING THE EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM.

Thank you for helping to beautify our space and for supporting our church!

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS:

Please check one: In Honor Of () OR In Memory Of ()

I would like to order the following:

Easter Lilies (4 to 6 blooms) \$8.50 # of plants _____ X \$8.50 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____