

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



Baptism of our Lord *First Sunday after Epiphany*

January 10th, 2021

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Ron Yorks
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner

Vicar
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD January 10, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship]

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living our Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

bulletin, pg. 10

* GREETING

P The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (**C – sung responsively**)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (**In Unison**)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our god. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**In Unison**)

P Let us pray...

C Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters.

Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after

your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the

Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

FIRST READING.....Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then

God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:..... Psalm 29 (**responsively**)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;

give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

SECOND READING.....Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (**In Unison**)

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

Alleluia.

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

* GOSPEL.....Mark 1:4-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Vicar Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let All Things Now Living"

(vs. 1) bulletin, pg. 10

* NICENE CREED (In Unison)

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 let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

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

* OFFERING PRAYER

P O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN "Let All Things Now Living" (vs. 2) bulletin, pg. 10

* HOLY COMMUNION

P Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

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.

P 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.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

C AMEN.

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!

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WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – Phillip Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts in the Episcopal Church during the early 1890s: Prayer is not conquering God’s reluctance, but taking hold of God’s willingness.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

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

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.

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.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at sleister@gmail.com.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Ken Geedey and family on the passing of his sister, Margaret ‘Peg’ Moad, on December 30, 2020 at Ohesson Manor. Please keep Ken and family in your prayers.

JANUARY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will continue to be for our local missions, specifically Meals-On-Wheels and the Juniata County Food Pantry. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to both programs. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This money comes from budgeted funds that have been unused during the 2020 calendar year due to the shutdowns from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 25, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE 2021 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Please pick them up before or after Sunday morning services or contact the church office to make arrangements to pick yours up in the office. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2020 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

<u>January 3, 2021</u> Attendance - 17		Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$4,505.00	Benevolence	\$ 120.00
Other Funds	<u>845.00</u>	Meals-On-Wheels	100.00
General Fund	\$3,660.00	Building Fund	125.00
		Matthew 25 Fund	200.00
		Memorial Fund	250.00
		World Hunger	<u>50.00</u>
		Total	\$845.00

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.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or gramcynthia49@yahoo.com.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed for the annual Synod (Virtual Assembly) on June 19, 2021 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact Vicar Leister or the church office.

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.

PRAYER LIST

Shirley Aumiller	Ken Geede	Family of Margaret Moad
Tyson Aurand	Eddi Kay Gill	Landon Musser
Carole Baker	Paul Goss	Carole Nace
Jane Ann Baney	Amy Hart	Darve Nace
Donna Barton	Beth Harris	Austin Parker
Lindsey Barton	Harry & Jennifer Heikes	Noel Peachey
Gary Bechtold	Sue Henderson	Dave Phelan
Julie Berryman	Ken Henry	Butch & Sandy Pines
Nick Beward	Nox Hepburn	Betty Ranck
Roxanne Boyer	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Keith Ranck
Charlotte Burd	Curt & Judy Houtz	Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed
Andrea Cameron	Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson	Mackenzie Shearer
Pam Campbell	Brenda Imes	Ronald Shearer
Ruth Cisney	Peggy Inch	Bobby & Eva Sieber
Curtis Clark	Annie Ingle	Mike Sparks
Randy Clark	Doc Johnston	Donald Speece
Terry Coder	Guy Kerstetter	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Leann Crimmel	Denny King	Charles Stump
Will DeLancy	Darvin Krouse	Alice Swartz
Guy Dillman	Pam Lawson	Dorothy Towsey
Fred & Dot Dowling	Carol Lyter	Rich Walters
Renee Dzikowski	Family of Fred Marshall	Dr. Glen Webb
Neil Fisher	Anthony Martin	Todd Wert
Janie Fogleman	Carlen McClure	Erma Williamson
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler	Jim Woltman
Bentley Fulkroad	Messiah's TEEM	Mackenzie Wray
Joan Fulkroad	Cecilia Miller	Dorothy Zeiders
Michal Gayer	Ellwood Miller	George Zimmerman
Terri Gayer	Larry Miller	Linda Zimmerman
	Shirley Miller	
	Jim Minick	

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm	Minnie Minick
Ruth Cisney	Edith Nipple
Max Ernest	Esther Rhine
Margaret Guss	Carol Simonton
Gail Henderson	Sieber & Ona Stoner
Mona Lawson	Ken & Kay Stuck
Jane Marhefka	Kitty Walters

Hark, the Glad Sound!

35

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Tune: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

CHESTERFIELD
CM

Let All Things Now Living



1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and



God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;



who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the



still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.



God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -



fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise



till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To



for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"