

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT*

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

**RADIO:** AM 1700

**OFFICE EMAIL:** [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [mlcmifflintown.org](http://mlcmifflintown.org)

**TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** *The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister  
Bob St. Clair  
Andrea Cameron  
Cynthia Smith  
Linda Clark & Chris Martin  
Grace Miller  
Thea Beward

Vicar  
Organist  
Choir Director  
Lector  
Altar Guild  
Acolyte  
Offering Presenter

## THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT February 28, 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, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**C Amen.**

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Fountain of living water,

**C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

**C Amen.**

### GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN

“Beautiful Savior”

bulletin, pg. 13

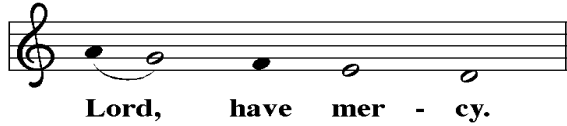
\* GREETING

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 (Congregation sings responses)

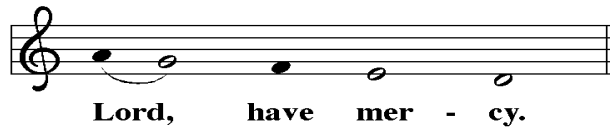
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



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



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



\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of 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

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

FIRST READING.....Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:..... Psalm 22:23-31 (*responsively*)

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**<sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

**<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"**

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\* LENTEN ACCLAMATION (In Unison)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

\* GOSPEL.....Mark 8:31-38

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Vicar Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lift High the Cross"

bulletin, pg. 14

\* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

\* 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

\* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

**SENDING PRAYER**

\* BLESSING

P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

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

\* HOLY COMMUNION

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal 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 God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

\* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING CHIMES

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

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**WELCOME TO ALL!**

JUST A THOUGHT – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop of Hippo (354 – 430): When God crowns our merits, it is nothing other than his own gifts that he crowns.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to George and Marylou Hazard and family on the passing of their father and grandfather, George Hazard, Sr. on February 19, 2021 in Florida. Sympathy is also extended to Edith Nipple on the passing of her brother, Franklin Davidheiser also on February 19, 2021 at Geisinger Lewistown Hospital. Please keep the Hazard family and Edith in your prayers.

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.



MARCH'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for the "Weather Disaster in Texas." In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This idea was born when budgeted funds were 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 JANUARY 13, 2021 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

February 14, 2021 Attendance – 23

Total Offering	\$4,670.00
Other Funds	<u>1,130.00</u>
General Fund	\$3,540.00

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 280.00
Memorial Fund	650.00
Building Fund	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,130.00

February 17, 2021 Attendance – 18

Total Offering	\$ 510.00
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February 21, 2021 Attendance – 38

Total Offering	\$5,227.00
Other Funds	<u>590.00</u>
General Fund	\$4,637.00

Benevolence	\$ 190.00
Memorial Fund	200.00
Building Fund	100.00
CJEMS	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$ 590.00

2021 LENTEN SERVICES – Vicar Leister will be conducting weekly Lenten services at Messiah this year, with the assistance of Lay Leader Andrea Cameron. The services will be held each Wednesday during Lent starting at 7:00 p.m. The sermon topics listed below for the Lenten services are selected from the document from Pope Francis titled, *“Do You Want to Fast this Lent?”*

- March 3 – Fast From Anger
- March 10 – Fast From Pessimism
- March 17 – Fast From Bitterness
- March 24 – Fast From Selfishness

As with our Sunday services, masks and social distancing will be required. More information will be forthcoming regarding Holy Week services, so stay tuned!

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.

A CARD SHOWER has been requested for Curt Houtz who has been on our prayer list and is fighting cancer. Please send greetings to him and continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers. His address is: 116 Maple Rd., Mifflintown, PA 17059.

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](mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com).

MESSIAH NEEDS YOU – We need two voting members to serve at this year’s Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 19, 2021 (Assembly will be all digital). You may check for information at <https://www.uss-elca.org/assembly/>. Two voting members are needed while others may attend as visitors – digitally. Our two voting attendees also need to attend the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly on Sunday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. At this point, we would attend this meeting digitally also. The intent is to use the conference meeting as a training/dry run for the Synod Assembly voting process. The registration fee of \$65.00 is paid by the church. Please email Vicar Leister at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com) or call at 717-436-8589 if you have any questions and would like to attend.

### **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.

### **COMMUNITY**

#### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:**

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, ANY CLEANING ITEM. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

## **PRAYER LIST**

Shirley Aumiller	Michal Gayer	Ellwood Miller
Tyson Aurand	Terri Gayer	Larry Miller
Carole Baker	Ken Geedey	Shirley Miller
Donna Barton	Eddi Kay Gill	Jim Minick
Lindsey Barton	Paul Goss	Claire Mummah
Gary Bechtold	Amy Hart	Landon Musser
Donna Bell	Beth Harris	Carole Nace
Julie Berryman	Family of George Hazard, Sr.	Darve Nace
Nick Beward	Harry & Jennifer Heikes	Austin Parker
Roxanne Boyer	Sue Henderson	Noel Peachey
Charlotte Burd	Ken Henry	Dave Phelan
Andrea Cameron	Nox Hepburn	Butch & Sandy Pines
Pam Campbell	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Betty Ranck
Dan Carlin	Curt & Judy Houtz	Keith Ranck
Ruth Cisney	Dean Hutchinson	Mackenzie Shearer
Cade Clark	Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson	Ronald Shearer
Curtis Clark	Brenda Imes	Bobby & Eva Sieber
Randy Clark	Annie Ingle	Mike Sparks
Terry Coder	Doc Johnston	Donald Speece
Jean Compton	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	Gwen Swisher Lewis	Rich Walters
Dixie Dressler	Carol Lyter	Dr. Glen Webb
Renee Dzikowski	Zaden Mabey	Erma Williamson
Neil Fisher	Anthony Martin	Jim Woltman
Janie Fogleman	Carlen McClure	Mackenzie Wray
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Alice McClure	George Zimmerman
Bentley Fulkroad	Isabel Meinsler	Linda Zimmerman
Joan Fulkroad	Messiah Mutual Ministry	
	Cecilia Miller	

## **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS**

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

# EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH



Easter Sunday is April 4, 2021 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 **March 25, 2021**. *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!

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## EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS:

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

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I would like to order the following:

Easter Lilies (4 to 6 blooms) \$9.00 # of plants \_\_\_\_\_ X \$9.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Beautiful Savior

518

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd  
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 pur - er, He makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## Lift High the Cross

377

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,  
 3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied  
 4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

*Refrain*

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
 Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 As thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
 Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*