

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 20th, 2022

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

RADIO: AM 1700

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise
Julia Martin & Nick Reed
Paige Martin & Hannah Ehrisman
Bethanie Beward & Kim White

Vicar
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Offering Presenters
Altar Guild

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 20, 2022 – 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 In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

#771 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.

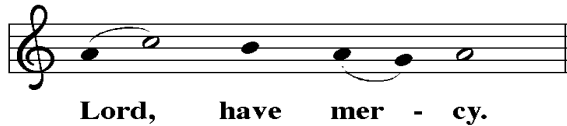
C And also with you.

* **KYRIE (Congregation sings responses)**

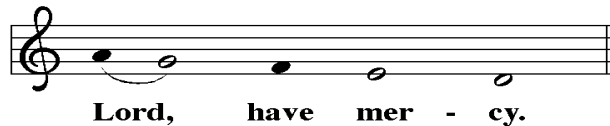
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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 Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

P: Here ends the reading.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 63:1-8 (*responsively*)

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

P: 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.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

* GOSPEL.....Luke 13:1-9

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

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

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Vicar Leister
Vicar Leister

- * HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus, Priceless Treasure" #457 Green Hymnal
- * 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 Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

- * 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 Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

* 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.

* 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 Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C Amen.

SENDING PRAYER

* BLESSING

P You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, + bless you this day and always.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING CHIMES

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Bahorik

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Evan Miller & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING PRESENTERS – Gabby Reed & Hope Miller

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Bethanie Beward & Kim White

WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – Jeremy Taylor, Anglican Cleric (1613 – 1667): If we refuse (to give) mercy here, we shall have justice in eternity.

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 offering plates are placed during the service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION - 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.

KATE SWAILES IS SERVING AS OUR CONGREGATION'S CAMPERSON with Camp Mount Luther again this year. She has information on programs for the summer. 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! Campers who attended camp at Mount Luther in the past should have already received the camp brochures in the mail. 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. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther. We ask that you submit your registration form and payment to Kate prior to April 12th so that we

receive the early registration discount.

*NEW THIS YEAR: If you bring a friend to camp who has never been there, you get 25% off your registration.

2022 LENTEN SERVICES AT MESSIAH

Wednesday, March 23 – 7:00 p.m.....“Fast from Darkness; Feast on Light”
 Wednesday, March 30 – 7:00 p.m.....“Fast from Despair; Feast on Hope”
 Wednesday, April 6 – 7:00 p.m.....“Fast from Hatred; Sow Love”
 Thursday, April 14 – 7:00 a.m.....Maundy Thursday Vesper and Breakfast
 Friday, April 15 – 7:30 p.m.....Good Friday Tenebrae Service

PORT ROYAL MEN’S LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFASTS

The Port Royal Men’s Lenten Prayer Breakfasts will be held each Saturday morning during Lent at 7:00 a.m. at the Port Royal Community Building on 4th street. There is a charge of \$5.00 per person for breakfast which will go to the Fire Company Auxiliary to cover the cost of the meal.

March 26	Rev. Nicholas Smith	Stoney Run Mission
April 2	Garrick Paden, Youth Pastor	Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church
April 9	Vicar Sam Leister	Messiah Lutheran Church
April 16	Rev. Don Walters	Thompsontown Methodist Church

MARK YOU CALENDAR for Sunday, May 22, 2022. Brothers In Grace Gospel Quartet will be joining us for Music Sunday at Messiah.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, March 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

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.

THE MARCH “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be Camp Mount Luther. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Camp Mount Luther to continue to assist in their children’s ministries. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building. Loose offering collected during Wednesday evening services during Lent will go to our local Meals-On-Wheels program.

JAM HOUSE NEED: We need a volunteer to perform the treasurer duties at JAM HOUSE. The position requires about one hour per week to pay bills and make other financial reports. The treasurer would also need to attend our quarterly board meeting. Please contact Larry Wise at 717-436-6629 if you have an interest or know someone who does. Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

March 13, 2022		Sunday School -- 0		
		Worship Attendance – (in person 42) (online 37)	<u>Other Funds</u>	
Total Offering	\$1,127.52		Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Other Funds	<u>246.52</u>		Memorial Fund	200.00
General Fund	\$ 881.00		Meals-On-Wheels	<u>26.52</u>
			Total	\$ 246.52
March 16, 2022		Worship Attendance – (in person 25) (online 3)	<u>Other Funds</u>	
Total Offering	\$ 62.00		Meals-On-Wheels	\$ 62.00

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.

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 MARCH:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS (ESPECIALLY CANNED BEETS AND MIXED VEGETABLES), TOILET PAPER, AND PAPER PRODUCTS. ALSO, DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-6:30 p.m., Lions Club meeting in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., AA in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Lenten Service – “Fast From Darkness; Feast on Light.”
- Friday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
- Saturday:** -7:00 a.m., Port Royal Men’s Prayer Breakfast at Port Royal Community Building.
-9:00 a.m., Marine Corps’ League in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik	Beth Harris	Ken Mummah
Donna Barton	Harry & Jennifer Heikes	Paul Ogden
Donna Bell	Terry Hess	Austin Parker
Andy Berrier	Sue Henderson	Noel Peachey
Michele Boniewicz	Nox Hepburn	Rick & Audrey Peters
Dan Brackbill	Jay Hockenbroch	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Don Bratton	Addison Holderman	Dave Phelan
Dan Brown	Erin Husler	Sandy Pines
Greg & Nicole Brunner	Brenda Imes	Mia Raish
Jim Burdge	Annie Ingle	Betty Ranck
Andrea Cameron	Doc Johnston	Keith Ranck
Karen Centini	Pam Kennedy	Mike Rhoades
Randy Clark	Guy Kerstetter	Claudette Satzler
Terry & April Coder	Kevin Kilmer	Mackenzie Shearer
Vincent Cramer	Denny King	Ron & Arlene Shearer
Leann Crimmel	Kevin Kint	Althea Smith
Will DeLancy	Pam Lawson	Mike Sparks
Fred & Dot Dowling	Michael Lozano	Andy Spigelmyer
Cathy Dysinger	Carol Lyter	Vicki Suoja
Renee Dzikowski	Zaden Mabey	Alice Swartz
Neil & Pat Fisher	Mike Maclay	Dorothy Towsey
Jane Fogleman	Ryan Marker	George Trego
Derek Fry	Anthony Martin	George & Kay Varner
Mindy Fryer	Mike Maugans	Sam Walters
Bentley Fulkroad	Carlen McClure	Jeff Whitesel
Joan Fulkroad	Alice McClure	Austin Willi
Terri Gayer	Messiah Mutual Ministry	Jim Woltman
Deb Geedey	Cecilia Miller	Mackenzie Wray
Eddi Kay Gill	Ellwood Miller	Phillip Zendt
Sam & Diane Goshorn	Larry Miller	George Zimmerman
Piper Hall	Shirley Miller	Linda Zimmerman
Amy Hart	Jim Minick	
Joyce Hart	Claire Mummah	

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Jane Marhefka – Brookline Retirement Village, 92 Village Drive, Mifflintown, PA 17059
Gail Henderson & Carol Simonton – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Mifflintown, PA 17059
Ruth Cisney & Ray Bramm – Honneman House, 58 Honneman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsettown, PA 17094
Minnie Minick – 187 JAM House Rd., Mifflin, PA 17058
Edith Nipple – 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059
Sieber & Ona Stoner – 23591 Rt. 35 North, Mifflintown, PA 17059
Ken Stuck – 66 Eighth St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

**EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Easter Sunday is April 17, 2022 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 8, 2022**. *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) \$10.00 # of plants _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____