

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7th, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

PASTOR EMAIL: mlcsleister@gmail.com

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

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

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Harrison Mumma
Nick Reed & Hannah Ehrisman
Gabby, Stella & Sofia Reed
Tawny Mumma & Tammy Smith
Jenn Hutchinson

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild
Manna Bread Baker

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD January 7, 2024 – 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, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our rock and refuge,

C we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C Amen.

GATHERING

- * GATHERING HYMN *“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”* #87 Green Hymnal
- * 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.**

- * SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)
 - P The Lord be with you.
 - C **And also with you.**

- * 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)**

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Leister
Pastor Leister

* **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"How Great Thou Art"

#532 Green Hymnal

* **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 God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

*** PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

ANTHEM

OFFERING PRESENTATION

*** SUNG 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. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

*** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God.

C **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

* PREFACE (**C – sung**)

P It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

* 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.

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

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

* LAMB OF GOD (**sung**)

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

["At the Chancel Rail"] – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in their seat for communion).

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

* POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (sung)

C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN *"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"* #90 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C Thanks be to God.

* POSTLUDE

From *Words for Worship*, copyright 2023 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.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB154530

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barb Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Braedon Walton & Grace Miller

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Brea Beward, Haley & Olivia Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Chris Martin & Missy Ehrisman (1/8/24 – 1/21/24)

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. 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.

JUST A THOUGHT – C. S. Lewis, Oxford Professor, Christian Writer and self-made Theologian (1898 – 1963): Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because He said so. The other evidence about Him has convinced them that He was neither a lunatic nor a quack.

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 Pastor Leister at mlcsleister@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 Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

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 YOUTH OF BOTH MESSIAH AND ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES will be holding fundraisers in the coming months to support both work trips and the 2024 Youth Gathering in late July in New Orleans. Please see Christina Martin for cards to signify that you want to participate in the fundraisers at the Tyson Hill OIP and/or Harshbarger's Subs and Malts. Below are the dates and locations of the upcoming fundraisers:

February 7th – Tyson Hill OIP

March 12th – Harshbarger's Subs & Malts

Thank you for supporting the youth of our churches!!

JANUARY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for the local fire victims in McAlisterville and Mifflintown during the week prior to Christmas. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to funds aiding these community members who lost their belongings in these terrible fires. 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.

"THE KNITTERS" WILL BE MEETING will be meeting again on Monday January 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. Church Room.

BIBLE STUDY WILL CONTINUE on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will be studying the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Anyone is welcome to attend.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2024 is now available in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place flowers on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart.

THE 2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2023 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2024 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly (date to be announced). If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Leister or the church office. PPC will approve the 2 delegates at their January meeting.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLWS:

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.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

THANK YOU to members of Messiah and the Choir for your very generous gifts this Christmas season. Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Slone Smith

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Shelter Service, Inc. in Lewistown:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| --Laundry Detergent | --Shaving Cream |
| --Clorox | --Shampoo |
| --Dryer Sheets | --Deodorant |
| --Dish Soap | --Body Wash |

Please place items in the Adult Sunday School Room in the container provided.

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024 **at 7:30 p.m.** in the Youth Area. **All Messiah women are welcome to attend.**

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

BASIC FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER;
OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES;
VICKS; AND ANY HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY
HOURS: TUESDAY, 9-12 AND 1-5, AND SATURDAY 9-12

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Baptism of Our Lord.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-Undecorating the church following worship service.
- Monday:** -5:00 p.m., Lions Club meeting in Fellowship Hall.
-6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Library area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in the sanctuary.
- Thursday:** 7:30 p.m., WELCA Meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -Baptism of Our Lord.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-Worship & Music Committee Meeting following worship service.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik	Sylva Grimm	Betty Ranck
Jeremy Barnes	Fred Gross	Keith Ranck
Ryan Barr	Hannah Hart	Dave Reed
Donna Barton	Nox Hepburn	Diane Rowles
Gary Bechtold	Judy Hosler	Kelley Rusenko
Family of Bruce Bradley	Nancy Howell	Mandy Saint
Linda Brouse	Erin Husler	Ron & Arlene Shearer
Andrea Cameron	Terry Imes	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Terry Coder	Annie Ingle	Donna Stoner
Rob Davis	Guy Kerstetter	Barry Strawser
Fred & Dot Dowling	Jesse Kint	Vicki Suoja
Seth Dowling	Carlen McClure	Tonya Tabb
Kim Dumais	Alice McClure	Dorothy Towsey
Freda Durio	Andi McDanel	Molly Ulsh
Cathy Dysinger	Cecilia Miller	George Varner
Renee Dzikowski	Curt Miller	Doug Wagner
Kathie Eichenberger	Ellwood Miller	Roscoe Warner
Neil & Pat Fisher	Larry Miller	Mary Jane Williamson
Kevin Fetterhoof	Shirley Miller	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Bentley Fulkroad	Claire Mummah	Family of Terry Yetter
Terri Gayer	Carole Nace	Gary Zeiders
Deb Geedey	Donna Parks	Paul Zeiders
Bob & Eddi Kay Gill	Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks	George Zimmerman
Sheree Goss	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

--Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Mifflintown, PA 17059
--Rich Smith – Artis Memory Care, 150 N. 12th St., Lemoyne, PA 17043
--Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
--Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
--Edith Nipple – 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059
--Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044