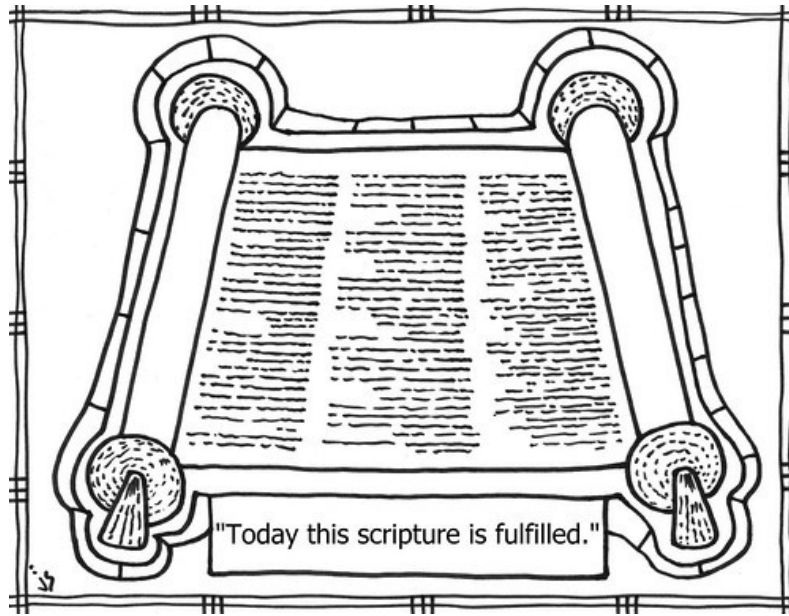


# “Growing God’s Kingdom”



## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024*

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

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

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

**TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** *As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Rev. Samuel Leister  
Bob St. Clair  
Slone Smith  
Andrea Cameron  
Diana Wise  
Gabby & Stella Reed  
Grace Miller, Nick & Sofia Reed  
Chris Martin & Missy Ehrisman  
Cynthia Smith

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

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 21, 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.**

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

\* ENTRANCE HYMN

*"Built on a Rock"*

#365 Green Hymnal

\* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God 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.**

\* HYMN OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” – In Unison)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

All  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

\* 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 **Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

FIRST READING.....Jonah 3:1-5, 10

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 62:5-12 (responsively)

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

**<sup>6</sup>God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

**<sup>8</sup>Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

**<sup>10</sup>Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

**<sup>12</sup>Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 7:29-31

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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.**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

\* GOSPEL.....Mark 1:14-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

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                    *“Just as I Am, without One Plea”*                    #296 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 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).

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 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

\* COMMUNION DIALOG

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.**

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

**C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.**

P Let us come to his table with joy.

**C for we come as God's invited guests.**

\* 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.

**C Amen.**

\* 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.**

\* 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

*"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"*

#383 Green Hymnal

\* DISMISSAL

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

C **Thanks be to God.**

\* POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Cynthia Smith

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Thea Beward & Zeb Berry

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

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp (1/22/24 – 2/11/24)

**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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Velma Suloff by Don and Barb Geedey.

JUST A THOUGHT – Bruce Kemper, College President: Each of us, as members of the Body of Christ, has been given at least one spiritual gift.



## **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](mailto: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](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 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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup>** – Tyson Hill OIP

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – 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.

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

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.

PPC WILL MEET on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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](mailto:msgoss@gmail.com).

### **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, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women of the church are invited to attend the meetings for devotions, socialization, retreats, and planning mission activities.

### *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.

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

## THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.  
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room.  
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.  
-5:00 to 9:00 p.m., Lions Club meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- 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.
- Friday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
- Saturday:** -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.  
-11:30 a.m., PPC meeting in Youth Area.

## 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	Family of 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., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Rich Smith – Artis Memory Care, 150 N. 12<sup>th</sup> 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