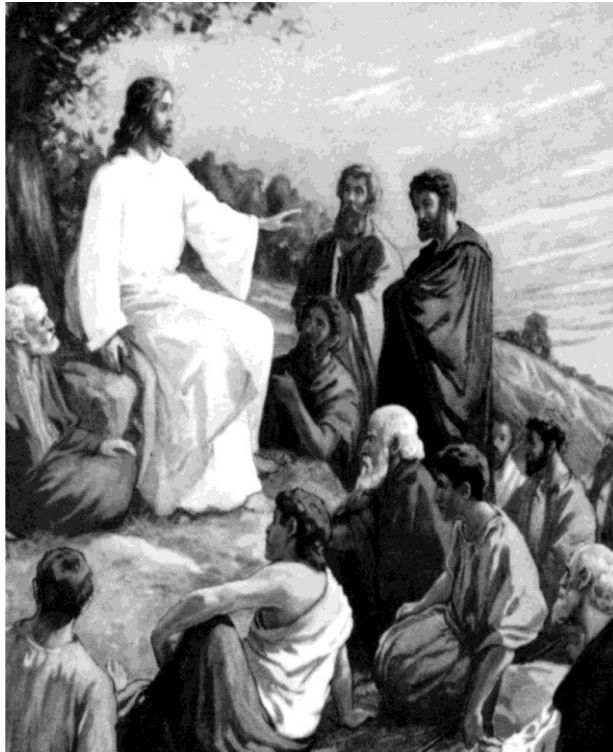


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28th, 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: *In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

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

Cynthia Smith

Thea Beward & Zeb Berry

Brea Beward, Haley & Olivia Mummah

Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp

Pastor

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Choir Director

Lector

Acolytes

Communion/Offering Presenters

Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 28, 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

"God, Whose Almighty Word"

#400 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 **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

FIRST READING.....Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 111 (responsively)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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.**

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

* GOSPEL.....Mark 1:21-28

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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 "Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak" #403 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 *"God of Grace and God of Glory"* #415 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 – Hannah Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Brea Beward & Paige Martin

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Silas Smith, Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton

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.

JUST A THOUGHT – Stephen Charnock, Presbyterian Clergyman (1628 – 1680): We often learn more of God under the rod that strikes us, than under the staff that comforts us.

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.

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 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 Harshbargers'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!!

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.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11, 2024. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "help our neighbors" by dropping a dollar in the soup pots and also by donating a can of soup on February 11th. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

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 today in the Youth Area following the worship service.

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024 following the worship service. Business: minutes of the boards and approval of the audit for 2023.

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.

2024 MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP: THE WOUNDS OF CHRIST

Date	Topic	Time	Location	Preaching
2/14 Ash Wed.	Ash Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Messiah	Bishop Craig Miller
2/21	Introduction	7:00 p.m.	Aldersgate	Pastor Rick Adams
2/28	Scourging	7:00 p.m.	St. Stephen's	Pastor Sam Leister
3/6	Crown of Thorns	7:00 p.m.	Messiah	Pastor Mindy Petrovcic
3/13	Hands	7:00 p.m.	Aldersgate	Pastor Sam Leister
3/20	Feet	7:00 p.m.	St. Stephen's	Pastor Mindy Petrovcic
3/27	Side	7:00 p.m.	Messiah	Pastor Rick Adams
3/28 Maundy Thurs.	Breakfast	7:00 a.m.	Messiah	Pastor Sam Leister
3/28 Maundy Thurs.	Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Aldersgate	Pastor Mindy Petrovcic
3/29 Good Fri.	Good Friday	7:00 p.m.	St. Stephen's	Pastor Rick Adams

HOLY WEEK: STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Monday	3/25		Noon	4:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	3/26		1:00 p.m.		7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	3/27	10:30 a.m.	Noon	2:00 p.m.	
Thursday	3/28	10:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	
Friday	3/29	11:00 a.m.	Noon	1:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.

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 8th 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 FEBRUARY:

CANNED BEETS, CEREAL, TOILET PAPER, OVER-THE-COUNTER
COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, DISH DETERGENT,
LAUNDRY DETERGENT, ANY CLEANING ITEM

DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-PPC meeting following worship service.
- Monday:** -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.
- Sunday:** -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	Marylou Hazard	Diane Rowles
Gary Bechtold	Nox Hepburn	Kelley Rusenko
Harry Boyer	Judy Hosler	Mandy Saint
Linda Brouse	Nancy Howell	Ron & Arlene Shearer
Andrea Cameron	Erin Husler	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Terry Coder	Terry Imes	Donna Stoner
Rob Davis	Annie Ingle	Barry Strawser
Fred & Dot Dowling	Guy Kerstetter	Vicki Suoja
Seth Dowling	Jesse Kint	Tonya Tabb
Kim Dumais	Carlen McClure	Dorothy Towsey
Freda Durio	Alice McClure	Molly Ulsh
Cathy Dysinger	Andi McDanel	George Varner
Renee Dzikowski	Cecilia Miller	Doug Wagner
Kathie Eichenberger	Curt Miller	Roscoe Warner
Neil & Pat Fisher	Larry Miller	Mary Jane Williamson
Kevin Fetterhoof	Shirley Miller	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Bentley Fulkroad	Claire Mummah	Gary Zeiders
Terri Gayer	Carole Nace	Paul Zeiders
Deb Geedey	Donna Parks	George Zimmerman
Bob & Eddi Kay Gill	Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks	Linda Zimmerman
Sheree Goss	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, 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