

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 12th, 2025



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

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*Teach God's Grace through Fellowship,
Study, Service & Witness*

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Andrea Cameron
Nick & Gabby Reed
Ella Harris, Stella & Sofia Reed
Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman
Cynthia Smith

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

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD January 12, 2025 – 10:00 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C Amen.

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C Amen.

GATHERING

- * GATHERING HYMN *“How Firm a Foundation”* #507 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 Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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.

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

SECOND READING.....Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord

Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

*** GOSPEL.....Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And 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)

SERMON

Pastor Leister

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Leister

*** HYMN OF THE DAY** *"Children of the Heavenly Father"* #474 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 **hear 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 (“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 God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

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.

(sung) C Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. 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 The joy of our Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

* 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 Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

#488 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live in hope.

C Thanks be to God.

* POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barb Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Thea Beward & Olivia Mummah

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

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Chris Martin & Missy Ehrisman (12/23/24 – 1/19/25)

JANUARY OFFERING COUNTERS:

Today: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss

19: Ron & Christie Yorks

26: Tammy Brackbill & Nick Beward

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 – Walter Elliott, American Catholic Priest (1842 – 1928): Perseverance is not a long race, it is many short races one after another.

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 go to the Juniata County Library. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Library so they may continue to serve those in our community. 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.

REMINDER: Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter to Bob at stclairb@embarqmail.com or the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com by the deadlines which are listed monthly in the newsletter.

THE JANUARY 2025 "MESSIAH HERALD" is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com and Bob St. Clair at stclairb@embarqmail.com prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at mlcmifflintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING will be February 16th following the worship service.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2025 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.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, 2025. 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 pot and also by donating a can of soup on February 9th. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

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

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.

THE 2025 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2024 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2025 is in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place flowers on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart.

A BIG THANK YOU to my church family at Messiah and to the choir for the very generous gifts this past Christmas. They were greatly appreciated. Wishing you all a very Blessed and Happy New Year!

Andrea Cameron

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.

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

FOOD PANTRY BASIC 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 and gift cards to purchase these supplies.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Baptism of Our Lord.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Library
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary.
- Thursday:** -8:30 a.m., JCPASR Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Quilters Guild in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold
Linda Bahorik
Melissa Bargo
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Donna Barton
Tony Beward
Bill Book
Linda Brouse
Jim Burdge
Andrea Cameron
Evitt Campbell
Terry Coder
Kenton Cohenour
Heather Compton
Fred & Dot Dowling
Seth Dowling
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Rev. Jodi Ellis
Kevin Fetterhoof
Neil & Pat Fisher
Bentley Fulkroad
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey

Sheree Goss
Amanda Gregg
Fred Gross
Hannah Hart
Mark Harvey
Bill Heck
John (Pat) Henry
Nox Hepburn
Nancy Howell
Terry Imes
Annie Ingle
Guy Kerstetter
Jesse Kint
Carlen McClure
Andi McDanel
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Marlin Milliken
Claire Mummah
Carole Nace
Linda (Kerchner) Parks
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Cheryl Pinkerton
Donna Pontius
Betty Ranck

Keith Ranck
Dave Reed
Jan Reisinger
Diane Rowles
Greysley Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Arlene Shearer
Jennifer Smith
Judy Smith
Joyce & Todd Spangler
Donna Stoner
Barry Strawser
Vicki Suoja
Molly Ulsh
George Varner
Kristy Wagner & family
Heather Walton
Roscoe Warner
Kathy Whitesel
Mary Jane Williamson
Jim & Heidi Woltman
Gary Zeiders
Paul Zeiders
George Zimmerman
Jean Zimmerman
Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
- 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
- Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044