

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Louis Lynch
Sam Leister
Linda Leister

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT March 13, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Helen C., Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Arlene M., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Avonel and Rick W., Paul W., Bob C., JoAnna C., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Helen K., Linda R., Jesse K., Steve B., Deb E., Tammy P., Joe T., Dave R., Mel L., George, & Mary Lorraine H. and family., family of Jane E., and the Treaster family.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the well of eternal life, the light of the world, the breath giving life to dry bones.

C Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P Gracious God,

C we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God strengthen us in all goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN

"Jesus, Still Lead On"

* GREETING

P The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (**C - spoken**)

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

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**spoken in unison**)

P Let us pray...

C Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:5-17

The First Reading is from the 1st chapter of Ecclesiastes.

THE LESSON READS:

⁵The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. ⁶The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. ⁷All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. ⁸All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. ⁹What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. ¹¹There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow.

¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! ¹⁴I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

¹⁵What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.

¹⁶I thought to myself, "Look, I have grown and increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32 (responsively)

L *Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart

ALL Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:12b-14

The Second Reading is from the 3rd chapter of Philippians.

THE LESSON READS:

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Lector: Here ends the reading.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

* LENTEN VERSE **(sung)**

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

THE GOSPEL READS:

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

* APOSTLES' CREED (all)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 As we return to the waters of baptism during this season of Lent, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Let us pray for the one, holy, Catholic church; for all preparing for baptism; for all hungering for grace. Give us your Word of Life, for we cannot live on bread alone. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the earth and all the fruits of your creation; for rain forests and deserts; for polar ice caps and wetlands; for wilderness lands and wild animals. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the nations, plagued by war and famine (especially); for those who govern and those who work for justice; for the most vulnerable, especially children. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for those in need of angels to wait on them; for the sick and those in prison (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Avonel and Rick Waller, Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, JoAnna Cameron, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Ruth Crist, Sue Collins, Helen Coder, Helen Knox, Linda Rhine, Jesse Kint, Steve Bahorik, Joe Tusing, Dave Rickenbaugh, Mel Love, Deb Esborn, Tammy Page, George and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family; the family of Jane Esborn, and the Treaster family); for the homeless and destitute; for all for whom we forget to pray. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for this assembly; for those who make music in our worship and those who serve on the altar guild; for church school teachers and those who care for our grounds. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Let us give thanks for the faithful witnesses who have gone before us, that together with them, we might seek to serve you alone. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, God of abundant grace, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

OFFERING
OFFERTORY

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

ANTHEM

* SUNG OFFERTORY (**sung**)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

MEAL

* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P With his Body and Blood, Jesus Christ delivers us from the power of darkness.

C and leads us into the Kingdom of God.

P Christ has humbled himself and become obedient unto death,

C even to death on a cross.

P He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities,

C and on him was the chastisement that made us whole.

P Here at his holy table he feeds us now with his Body and Blood.

C Glory to you, our Lord and Savior; with your Body and Blood you redeem the world.

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

P We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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. Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C Amen

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['trespasses'] **(all)**

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

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* 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 Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The blessed, holy Trinity keep you in grace, lead you in light, and + give you peace.

C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C Thanks be to God!

CLOSING CHIMES

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Cynthia Smith
NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Dreibelbis

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the purple portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also 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. We invite you to return. 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.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office. THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – Mary Rowlandson (1635 – 1678), Early American colonist: “I have learned to look beyond the present and smaller troubles, and to be quieted under them, as Moses said, Exodus 14:13, ‘Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.’ “

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Volunteers are needed to submit the weekly Messiah Herald article for the newspaper. There are currently four individuals who submit the article each week. Each person is responsible for 3 months of the year. It can be completed at home on a computer and submitted to The Times and Juniata Sentinel via email: thetimes@nmax.net and csmith@juniata-sentinel.com. Coverage is needed for the months of February, June and October. Anyone who is interested can call the church office at 436-6213.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, March 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

KITCHEN HOUSECLEANING – All of the church kitchen cupboards, refrigerator, stove etc.

were recently housecleaned with many hours of outside help at no cost to the church. The non-member workers were compensated for their hours by several Messiah members.

CHILDREN'S TABLE – A white homemade children's table was recently donated to the DeLauter Center. The table hadn't been used and has been in storage for many years. The Center was grateful for the donation and will put the table to good use.

THE 2011 CAMPING BROCHURES and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or on our church website under the "publications" tab. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 15th for the early discount.

A GOSPEL CONCERT to benefit Juniata Agape Ministries (JAM House) will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Messiah. Mark your calendars and watch upcoming bulletins for more details.

EASTER LILIES to decorate the church on Easter Sunday, may be placed in memory or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God. Cost will be \$10.00 for a plant with 4 to 6 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.

PHONE BOOK – If anyone has a recent (not current) Harrisburg phone directory they could donate to the church office, it would be greatly appreciated.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, March 6, 2011: \$85.00. This brings the total received to \$54,824.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

MESSIAH CHOIR meets each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. for one hour – anthem practice run-through at 10:15 a.m. Sunday morning prior to church service. We are happy to welcome new voices—anytime!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

LOVE PROJECTS FOR FAR AND NEAR – We are taught in Matthew 25:31-46 that we are to show our love by caring for those who are in need.

The "Far" project is Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

The in-gathering for March is nail clippers with attached nail file or metal nail files (no emery boards). We will also continue to collect hand towels 15 or 16 inches wide and 23 or 25 inches in length and wash cloths in dark colors. As of Sunday, we have 26 towels and 26 wash clothes. Please place your gifts of love on the blue table in the Sunday School room.

The "Near" project is items for the Ronald McDonald House at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

The Upper Susquehanna Women of the ELCA Convention is July 23, 2011 at Camp Mt.

Luther. There is always an opportunity for a love project in-gathering of material items. From the list of needs for the Ronald McDonald House, we have chosen to gather anti-bacterial hand soap, laundry detergent, socks of all sizes and **TRAVEL-SIZE (SMALL) PERSONAL CARE TOILETRIES**. Please place these gifts of love on the blue table in the Sunday School room.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY needs for March: Any non-perishable foods, toilet paper, facial tissues, and paper towels. Donations of cash and Weis or Schlegels's gift cards will also be gladly accepted.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday through April 15th, 2011 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Mifflintown. Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids 6—12 years old, and kids 5 and under FREE. Sponsored by St. Jude's Knights of Columbus.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEA will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at St. Jude's Catholic Church, beginning with tea at 9:30 p.m. and the lesson at 10:00 a.m. Bible Study is on the book "Uphill Faith."

COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE, sponsored by the Twin-Boro Ministerium, will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Messiah. Preacher will be Pastor Chris Mathiason. Theme: Forty Days of the Flood. (Genesis 7).

MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER MEETING AND BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. at The Stop. The speaker will be Pastor Chris Mathiason of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is holding a blood drive at the following location:

Monday, March 21st
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
1:00 to 7:00 p.m.
19 N. Mill Street, Thompsettown

The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older, and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood. Most people can safely donate every 56 days. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. Thank you for helping to save lives.

NURSE'S NOTES – Have you ever wondered why.....your eyelid begins to twitch? "Stress, fatigue, or having too much caffeine is probably the root of the problem, causing the muscle in your upper or lower eyelid to contract rapidly," says Dr. Ruth Williams of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. To stop the annoying twitch, she recommends, closing your eyes and taking a few deep breaths. "A spasm almost always resolves in a few minutes, but if you're under chronic stress, it can last longer." See your doctor if they happen regularly, or are accompanied by pain.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -First Sunday in Lent.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-2 p.m., Worship Service at Brookline.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -9:30 a.m., Women's Lenten Tea at St. Jude's Catholic Church.
-7 p.m., Community Lenten Service at Messiah.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -7 a.m., Men's Prayer Breakfast at The Stop.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Blessing of Seeing Eye Puppies.
-Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.