

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
Andrea Cameron
Michelle Stoner

Pastor
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Audrey M., Conner L., George and Mary Lorraine H., Laurie F., Christy H., Mary W., Kitty W., Mason B., Elwood M., Beth S., and Kay S.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

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

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you 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 "Where Charity and Love Prevail" p. 13 in bulletin

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE (sung)

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: **C** Lord, have mer-cy.

P Chri-ste, e-le-i-son: **C** Christ, have mer-cy.

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: **C** Lord, have mer-cy.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung)

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
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.**

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
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.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
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.**

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth.**

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (spoken in unison)

P *Let us pray...*

C **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

FIRST READING: A reading from Genesis 50:15-21

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13 (**Responsively**)

L – LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

[¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

ALL – LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

SECOND READING: A reading from Romans 14:1-12

THE LESSON READS:

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al-le-lu-ia. You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu—ia. Al-le-lu—ia.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Wade in the Water"

p. 13 in bulletin

* APOSTLES' CREED ('new version') **(all)**

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

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].

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Merciful God, bind the body of Christ with the Spirit of forgiveness. Shape us to be bearers of mercy and justice in this world, and teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us to exercise justice for your creation. Move us to be good stewards of all you have made, and make us examples of how to care for every living thing. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Deepen our commitment to economic justice among all peoples. Sustain all who live in poverty, and grant the gift of compassion to those who regulate banks, property, and economic systems. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Send your healing presence to the lonely, afflicted, and anxious. Surround those who suffer with caring people, and give peace to all who are troubled (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Audrey Morral, Connor Lauver, George Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family, Laurie Funk, Christy Hall, Mary Weiland, Kitty Walters, Mason Beward, Beth Smith, Jean McNaight, Ruth Cisney, Elwood Miller, Cassie Smith and Kay Stuck). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Reveal your mercy in times of crisis through the work of police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and all first responders. Give hope to those who have lost loved ones in emergencies. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P As we give thanks for all the saints, whose lives point to Christ crucified, turn our own eyes to the cross, where we find holy justice, mercy, compassion, and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] **(all)**

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

* BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

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

* CLOSING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

p. 14 in bulletin

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (from Isaiah 55)

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 Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen

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 Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Diana Wise

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green 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 worshiping 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Neil and Pat Fisher.

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 – Unknown: “Preach the gospel at all times; use words if necessary.”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CHURCH ORGANIST for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at ebeaver41@yahoo.com or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcmifflintown.org.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet September 26, 2011 (fourth Monday), in the choir room at 6:30 p.m. Please let the chairperson know if you cannot attend.

“THE NEEDLERS” will begin their sewing project on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in helping to make patch quilts for local and World Relief, please come and join us!

RELAY FOR LIFE SPAGHETTI DINNER – An all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by Joe’s OIP of Lewistown, will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. in Messiah’s Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children (4-12), and children 3 and under FREE (take-out orders available). Dinner includes spaghetti (with plain or meat sauce), salad, bread, beverage, and dessert. Monetary donations would be gratefully accepted. Tickets are available at the door.

THE NEXT VOTERS ASSEMBLY MEETING will be held on Sunday, September, 18 2011 following the morning worship service. Business: Quarterly reports of the boards. **NOTE:** PPC Board Directors are asked to submit their proposed 2012 budgets to Ken Eyler by the next PPC meeting (October 16, 2011). You may place them in Ken’s mailbox in the church office or by email to keyler@nmax.net.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES will be held on Sundays, September 18 and 25 during the Sunday School hour. If you wish to attend, please contact the church office at 436-6213.

BLANKET SUNDAY will be observed on Sunday, October 2, 2011. Along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelopes that are attached to the September newsletters throughout the church (envelopes will also be available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room). Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and take this opportunity to serve as Christ's helping hands in our world today!

CONGRATULATIONS to Colton Fogleman for his achievement in earning the Eagle Scout Award. Colton is the son of Don and Natalie (Miller) Fogleman.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, September 4, 2011: \$750.00. This brings the total received to \$62,507.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

THANK YOU - Our sincere thanks and appreciation for the generosity of the church women of Messiah who provided us with refreshments after our mother's funeral. The candles helped to brighten the day in more than one way!

Don & Cathy Bashore

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

AT THE JULY MEETING OF THE MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA, we joyfully packed 70 Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our goal was 70 kits and with the help of the congregation, we have been able to meet this goal. We are grateful for all the support that you, as a congregation, give to assist our projects to come to fruition. This enables us to help meet the needs of the suffering women, men and children of the world. Matthew 25:40 "And the King will say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.' "

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.

COMMUNITY

2011 NOMINATION(S) FOR FOOD PANTRY – September is the time to nominate new members to the Food Pantry Board of Directors. At the annual meeting on October 27, three seats will be filled on the 9-member board. Members agree to serve a 3-year term, and the board meets once a month on the first Tuesday. If you know someone in your church or community who has a heart for feeding the hungry, please consider nominating them for a position on the board. Nomination forms are available in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please return the form no later than **September 15, 2011.**

APARTMENT FOR RENT – A four-room apartment is available for rent to a Christian single or couple at the JAM House, 14 Cottage Road, Suite A, Mifflin, PA 17058 (phone 436-2163). Apartment includes living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bath in a quiet lovely location (NO PETS). Rooms are nice sized and just recently painted and are located across the street from Locust Grove Retirement Community. If you are interested in seeing the apartment or need more information, please call 717-320-3165.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR TALENTED PEOPLE! It takes a special person to be a Thrivent Financial representative. It takes confidence, commitment, honesty—qualities that make us proud of the professionals who serve our members. Who do you know with these qualities?

- High Level of Integrity
- Self Motivation
- Seek to Excell
- Desire to Help Others
- Demonstrate Confidence
- Highly Determined
- Focus on Results
- Assume Accountability
- Personable and Empathetic

As a Thrivent Financial representative, you'll help secure financial futures and make a difference in people's lives. Join our team and you'll find we offer more than work, we offer "Work with Purpose." For more information, to apply, or make a referral, visit www.thrivent.com/careers or Todd Beasley, Recruiting Manager at 717-813-7184 or at todd.beasley@thrivent.com.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at the Walker Township Park—RAIN OR SHINE! Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the Walk at 1:30 p.m. The Short Walk will be 3 laps and the Long Walk will be 15 laps. There will be drawings for prizes periodically during the walk time. Games and activities will be provided throughout the afternoon and possibly some entertainment (but nothing confirmed as of this time). Tee Shirts will be available for persons with pledges totaling \$100 or more. Tee Shirts will also be sold for \$10 each after registration time is over. Please bring all pledge money to turn in on walk day! If you have any questions, call Becky Zeigler at 463-2309 or Kathy Whitesel at 436-2401. Sign-up sheets and donation envelopes are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER - FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE, AND DEODORANT. We also gladly accept donations of cash and Weis or Schlegels's gift cards. Remember to eat at the Red Zone on Saturday, September 24, 2011 and present one of the coupons that are available in the Adult Sunday School Room, and a portion of your bill will be donated to the Food Pantry. Watch for two other local restaurants, Bread of Life and Tyson Hill OIP who will also be hosting a "Help Feed the Hungry" fund-raiser in October and November. The Weis Market is also holding a "Fight Hunger" Food Drive for the month of September with donations benefiting the Food Pantry, and don't forget Agway's 5% of sales fundraiser on September 16-17.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is holding blood drives in the Mifflintown area at the following locations:

Tuesday, September 13th

1:00 – 7:00 pm
Pine Grove Methodist Church
Cuba Mills Road, Mifflintown

Friday, October 7th

1:00 – 7:00 pm
Juniata Mennonite Church
289 Leonard Hill Road, McAlisterville

Saturday, October 1st

9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Heaven Bound Church
5246 West River Road, Mifflintown

Friday, October 21st

12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Messiah Lutheran Church
3 South Third Street, Mifflintown

Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older (16 in PA with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood every 56 days. The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of ID to the donor site. All presenting donors will be entered into a drawing for the Red Cross “Bleed Blue” Donor game package for the 2011 Alabama, Iowa, Purdue and Nebraska games! For information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800 Red Cross.

NURSE’S NOTES – Be a little catty. It’s been said that cats have nine lives, and new research shows they can help extend *your* life, too. Owning a cat could slash your risk of heart attack by almost a third. How? Your kitty may help relieve stress and anxiety – two heart disease risk factors. So help a cat’s life and your own: Now is the purr-fect time to adopt since shelters are overwhelmed with homeless cats. Visit petfinder.org or adoptapet.com for a list of rescue groups in your area. (Redbookmag.com)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
- Monday:** -7 p.m., Bible Study.
-8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/New Member Class?
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-Sacrament of Holy Baptism.
-Voters Assembly (following worship service).
-Noon—5p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.