

Third Sunday in Lent – March 14 & 15, 2020
Office Hours - Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
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Mobile Giving – text to 610.609.7116

* Congregational responses are in ***bold italics***.

Prayers of the People

Lord as we pray, we kneel alongside Messiah Jesus, in Your presence, with the help of the Spirit. Lord God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, our congregations, our workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, with concern, and acts of service, trusting that You abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. We remember before You all whom it is easy to forget: those who are homeless, destitute, isolated, and all who have no one to care for them. We pray for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response. Show us Your ways O Lord, ***teach us Your paths!***

Lord Christ, You came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that You are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from You; and that Your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. Help us carry Your light into the dark shadows of our community! Help us to trust You more. Show us Your ways O Lord, ***teach us Your paths!***

Healing Spirit, no sickness nor sorrow, not even death itself, is stronger than Your love. Into Your hands we commend all suffering beings. We pray for those imprisoned and those captive to addictions; for victims of crime; for survivors of abuse; for those with ALS and cancer; for those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. We pray for all the children in treatment at Gemma Services and Devereux Foundation. We pray for Your calm and peace to rest within children who are fearful from all they hear and see around them and patience in times of school closures. We pray for guidance for school administrators as they make decisions. Show us Your ways O Lord, ***teach us Your paths!***

Lord, today we especially pray for Andy (Allewelt), Julia (Pollock), Doug (Russell), Barbara (Yorke), Claudia (Pohl), Matthew (Mortimore), Vivian (Close), Christopher (Kohan), Marsenna (Rentel), Carol Jean (Bruner), Maddie (Hendricks), Tina (Breslin), Arlene (Greenwald), Mike (Ebling), Erin (Selcher), Phyllis (Serfass), Roberta (Kissinger). Receive Daphne into Your kingdom, Lord. Rest eternal grant her and let light perpetual shine upon her. We pray for the freedom from suffering of all living creatures everywhere. We pray for all to whom death draws near this very day. We pray for those dear to us whom we now name in our hearts before You ... (*a moment of silence*). Faithful God deliver us from a sudden and unprepared for death and receive our prayers, as we watch and wait for Your coming. All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

For Prayer or Card

Marsenna Rentel returned to Simpson Meadows on Saturday. Simpson Meadows is now on lock-down. (101 Plaza Drive, Apt. 204, Downingtown, PA 19335)

Prayers are requested for the family of Daphne Day Smith, 9-week old baby who passed away on Sunday due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Please keep her parents Elijah & Madeline and her brothers Walker & Dawson in your prayers. (64 Garfield Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940)

Lenten Small Group Session, The Enneagram – A look at how uniquely we approach the world and where our motivations come from., Sundays during our Education Hour 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This will be led by Denise Stearns and Sharon Williams. We will present a video series by Enneagram God Mother, Suzanne Stabile. All are welcome! Why the enneagram? Knowing the unique way you approach the world and how that reflects God’s DNA gives you the freedom to feel His love poured into you and His generous grace poured out for you. ALL ARE WELCOME!

There are 2 FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES opportunities coming up:

- 1) CANCELLED - Pizza and a Movie, Sunday, March 29 CANCELLED
- 2) Reading Phillis Game: Saturday, July 18 at 6:45 at the First Energy Stadium. Just like last year, we will have the pool deck picnic area, all you can eat buffet, and access to the pool. Tickets will be \$32 a person, but that is all inclusive. Keep an eye out for more details.

Easter Flower orders are now being taken. Forms are located on the ministry table. Final order date is March 29th. Easter is April 12th.

Mobile/Text Giving is available through the GivePlus app on Apple or Android phones as well as online through your web browser (the link is on our website MessiahLutherans.com). Text giving is another option by texting to 610-609-7116. You’ll need to use the link that is shared to register with your credit card. However, you’ll be able to just text your gift quickly in the future once registered.

Thank you, Messiah family, for the outpouring of love and expressions of sympathy at the loss of my mother. The cards, messages and conversations mean a lot. Monica and Pastor Tim and family. Thank you. Monica Knauss

Coatesville Kids to College – CKC had a packed auditorium over the holidays with parents and relatives supporting these young learners in CKC’s preschool and after-school programs. Dedicated staff work with parents and the school district to provide students the academic, social and spiritual empowerment they need to succeed throughout their academic years and beyond. One volunteer commented, *“it is consistently obvious that academic needs are being met in a most loving, positive, and encouraging environment.”*

This week and beyond at Messiah

- **Today – Worship Services** – 8:30 & 11:00,
 - **GGW Educational Hour** – 9:45-10:45
 - **Safe Harbor**
- **Messiah Community Preschool – CLOSED till Downingtown School District resumes.**
- **Monday**
 - **VAMOS** – Cancelled
 - **Confirmation** – Cancelled
 - **NA Step** – 8:00 p.m. STILL MEETING
- **Tuesday**
 - **Anna Circle** – Cancelled
 - **MOMS Meeting** – Cancelled.
 - **Treasures Small Group** – Cancelled
 - **103Alive Rehearsal** – Cancelled
- **Wednesday**
 - **Soup Supper** – Cancelled
 - **Mid-Week Service** – Cancelled
- **Thursday**
 - **Choir Rehearsal** – Cancelled.
- **Friday**

*Save
the
Date*

- **Jonathan's Men Breakfast Group** – Cancelled. But Pastor Tim will be there yet.
- **MOPS Meeting** – Cancelled
- **NA** – 8:00 p.m. STILL MEEtiNG
- **Saturday**
 - **First Communion Instruction** – 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall STILL ON!
 - **Evening Light Service** – Cancelled

Today's Readings

Exodus 17:1-7 (MSG) ¹ Directed by GOD, the whole company of Israel moved on by stages from the Wilderness of Sin. They set camp at Rephidim. And there wasn't a drop of water for the people to drink. ² The people took Moses to task: "Give us water to drink." But Moses said, "Why pester me? Why are you testing GOD?" ³ But the people were thirsty for water there. They complained to Moses, "Why did you take us from Egypt and drag us out here with our children and animals to die of thirst?" ⁴ Moses cried out in prayer to GOD, "What can I do with these people? Any minute now they'll kill me!" ⁵ GOD said to Moses, "Go on out ahead of the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel. Take the staff you used to strike the Nile. And go. ⁶ I'm going to be present before you there on the rock at Horeb. You are to strike the rock. Water will gush out of it and the people will drink." Moses did what he said, with the elders of Israel right there watching. ⁷ He named the place Massah (Testing-Place) and Meribah (Quarreling) because of the quarreling of the Israelites and because of their testing of GOD when they said, "Is GOD here with us, or not?"

Romans 5:1-11 (NLT2) ¹ Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. ⁶ When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

John 4:5-42 (NRSV) ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will

become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." ²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him. ³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." ³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

Lenten and Easter Schedule

Wednesdays, March 18 - April 1st, 6:30 p.m. Soup Suppers 7:30 p.m. Worship

Saturday, March 21 9:30 a.m. – noon First Communion Instruction

Thursday, April 09, 7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship

Saturday, April 11th NO WORSHIP

Easter Sunday, Worship with Holy Communion 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

March Newsletter now available on Literature Rack.

SERVING GOD AND US

Messiah's people are our ministers beyond the doors

Altar Guild – Jaylene Miller, Cyndi Winner, Sandy Hengst, Carol Jean Bruner, Beth Rossi, Cindy Middlestead, Barbara Sinn, Jennifer Shelley, Betsy Hinebaugh, Beth Sitlinger, Bonnie Flinchbaugh, Carmela Byrne; **Liturgical Assistant** – Denise Stearns; **Communion Assistants** – 5:00 Cynthia Winner, 8:30 James Young, Jeannette Eslinger, 11:00 Sharon Williams, Tammy Zegac; **Lay Readers** – 5:00 Greg Rossi, Joseph Ryan, 8:30 Dawn DeAncona, Ray DeAncona, 11:00 Mim Madden, Mary

Noel; **Greeters** – 5:00 Karen Prusak, 8:30 Deborah & Ronald Green, 11:00 Dave Zegac; **Ushers** – 5:00 Dan Burgess, Ryan Hieb, 8:30 Kent Stueve, Kevin Sudall, David Womer, John Finkbinder; 11:00 Rosalie Gordon, AJ Groff, Sue Groff, Claudia Macias; **Acolyte** – 8:30 Alyssa Schmoyer; **Flower Delivery** – Tammy Russell-Fidler

Serving God and Us NEXT Week –March 21 & 22 –Communion Assistants – 5:00 Denise Stearns, 8:30 Brenda McDade, William Simmons, 11:00 Andy Gordon, Anna Marie Liotta; **Lay Readers** – 5:00 Susan Wanner, Leah Waldeyer, 8:30 Ashley Finkbinder, John Finkbinder, 11:00 Carol Reiner, Olivia Reiner; **Greeters** – 5:00 Holly Russell, 8:30 Jane & Michael Koch, 11:00 Martha Broomall, Paul Eaton; **Ushers** – 5:00 Thomas & Tom Prusak, 8:30 Amy & Paige Beaudoin, Michael Bernath, Beth Sitlinger; 11:00 Paul Maggiore, Charlie Selcher, David Zegac; **Acolyte** – 8:30 Makenzie DiVito, 11:00 Ella Groff; **Flower Delivery** – Nina O'Connor

Attendance – 5:00 – 33, 8:30 – 50, 11:00 – 105 Total - 188

Midweek Lunchtime Worship – 95; Midweek Worship – 63

Birthdays – March 15-Thomas Ernst, March 16-Brandon Gamble, March 19-Jaclyn Brown, Holly Bernath, Addison Bell, March 20-Barbara Myer, Patrick Schneider, Linda Morris, Laura Bedway, March 21-Nicholas Dinacci, Scott Allewelt, Katie Maule, Brody Mendel

The Flowers in the chancel are dedicated by Carol Witman in loving memory of Dorothy H. James in celebration her life by daughter Carol and Dorothy's grandchildren Connie & Brian. **AND** Martha Mushala in loving memory of brothers Joash, Zacchaeus, Joshua, & Ezekiel Mushala.

Holy Communion instruction – Saturday, March 21, 9:30 a.m. – noon This class is for anyone in 2nd grade or older. Please let Pastor Tim or Denise Stearns know that you or your child will attend.

Anna Circle, Messiah's Women's Bible Study Group, will meet on Tuesday, March 17th at 10:00 a.m. We will continue our discussion of our book, "Women of God," Ch 2 "Content." This is based on Philippians 4, and led by Betsy Hinebaugh. All women of Messiah are welcome. For more information, contact Elaine Burgess at 610.613.2456.

Save the Date! Sunday April 19th, 2020 from 6-8 PM. Money Matters and Stewardship for Teens. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial and VAMOS. Come learn about making wise financial decisions regarding banking, credit, credit scores, college debt, and use of personal time and resources. It will be a 1-hour presentation followed by a pizza fellowship. Open to all teens and parents. For more information contact Bob McGonigle at 610-942-4993 or at bobmcgonigle167@gmail.com

The Bulletin Sign-up Sheet for 2020 is now available. Members may donate toward the purchase of our bulletins in honor or in memory of loved ones or any other designation that they wish. The cost is \$20. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Lambs Easter Gift Bags - Starting March 21 we will have the Easter gift bags sitting out in the library to collect Easter gifts for our LAMBS (Loved and missed brothers and sisters). They will be in the library until April 5th. Some suggestions for gifts are small packs of crackers or cookies, Easter candy, Lifesaver candy, notecards, stamps, or any other gifts would be very much appreciated. If you have any questions or would like to deliver a bag please call me at 610-380-8468 or tshumate24@gmail.com. Thank you. Tanja Shumate

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church – We would like to thank you for your generosity for letting Chester County Camera Club use your hall for our photo demonstration. It was the perfect setting for our event. A special thanks to April, Sheila & Darin Yamasaki for their gracious help in getting his event off the ground. Please accept the enclosed check as a thank you for everyone's time and use of the building! Kind Regards – Virginia Apostolacus, Jim Wilson and all the Chester County Camera Club

Mid-week Lenten Services

“got Faith?” The text from Hebrews 11:1 defines faith in this way:
“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Our Lenten series focuses on the book of



Hebrews, especially the eleventh chapter. The first four weeks provide a journey through the faith of the Old Testament figures, especially Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites. The fifth week brings us to Jesus, “the perfecter of our faith,” and his path to the cross.

Our liturgy this year is “Holden Evening Prayer” composed by Marty Haugen. We have sung several his songs for worship throughout this past year.

Week of Lent 3: The Faith of Moses *By faith, Moses chose the hard path to follow God’s call. How does our faith affect the choices we must make?*

Week of Lent 4: The Faith of the Israelites *By faith, generations of Israelites wandered the wilderness, entered the promised land, heard the words of the prophets, and suffered persecution. Amid life’s joys and difficulties, how do we persevere in our faith?*

Week of Lent 5: Jesus, the Perfecter of Our Faith *Enduring the cross, Jesus became “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” How does the way of the cross define our faith?*