

# 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

Brent Snyder

Ron Yorks

Ann Beaver

Pastor

Choir Director

Organist

Lector

Altar Guild

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 26, 2012 – 9:15 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., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Fannie K., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Ryan K., George, Jamie and Luke D., Ed and Ann B., Don C., Sarah D., Sue K., Haylee Y., Erin H., Elda Mae R., George H. Jr., Julie B., Gene R., Joyce K., Ken A., Jr., Jason B.

### PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

*[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]*

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

*In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.*

### \* 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**

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

**\* 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 Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

**WORD**

*In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

**FIRST READING**

A reading from Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

**THE LESSON READS:**

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)**

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22 (**Responsively**)

*L – The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)*

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

**<sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

**<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

**<sup>20</sup>God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

**ALL – The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous.**

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

SECOND READING

A reading from Ephesians 6:10-20

THE LESSON READS:

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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.**

*The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples in his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”*

\* GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

*P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

<sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

*P The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)**

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "When Morning Guilds the Skies"

\* 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].*

SPECIAL MUSIC

\* 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 With reverence for the earth, those in need, and the whole human family, let us offer our prayers to God.*

*A brief silence.*

*P That you nourish the church with words of eternal life and the food and drink of the Lord's supper. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P That public leaders and officials serve with faithfulness and humility. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P That forests and streams, hills and meadows, trees and flowers will reveal to us the beauty of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P That all who are hungry or downtrodden, anxious or alone, depressed or ill may be strong in the Lord (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Don Clark, Sarah Dressler, Luke Davis, Sue Kepner, Haylee Yocum, Erin Harris, Elda Mae Rickenbaugh, George Hazard, Jr., Julie Berryman, Gene Rhine, Joyce Kilmer, Ken Arbogast, Jr., and Jason Beward). Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P That this community turn from false gods to serve the Lord, praying with boldness and proclaiming the gospel of peace. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*P That you unite us with all your holy ones who served you with reverence and faith in your promises. Lord, in your mercy,*

**C hear our prayer.**

*P Receive our hopes and prayers, O God of mercy, for great is your faithfulness in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**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

"Blessed Assurance"

**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 – Linda Bahorik

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman

#### **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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Angie Stayer and Steve Benner.

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 – Oswald Chambers, Scottish Minister and Teacher (1784-1917): Happiness depends on what happens, joy does not.

### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

EARLY SUMMER SERVICES will continue through September 2, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services will resume on September 9, 2012 with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

"THE NEEDLERS" will begin their sewing project on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 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!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES will be held this Fall for anyone who wishes to attend. Please contact Pastor Esborn or the church office at 436-6213 if you are interested.

FALL BIBLE STUDY – Anyone who would like to attend a Fall Bible Study should notify the church office at 436-6213 or Pastor Esborn so materials can be ordered.

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING NEEDED to fund 2012 expenses is \$3,250. Offering received on 8/12/12 was \$2,883.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, August 12, 2012: \$1,220. This brings the total received to \$72,208 of the total \$85,890 needed for the project. Balance needed to complete funding is \$13,682.00.

THE NEXT VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING will be held on Sunday, September 16, 2012 following the morning worship service. Business: Quarterly reports of the boards. **NOTE:** PPC Board Directors are asked to submit their proposed 2013 budgets to Ken Eyler by October 14, 2012. You may place them in Ken's mailbox in the church office or by email to [keyler@nmax.net](mailto:keyler@nmax.net).

THANK YOU – “Dear Messiah.....thank you for giving me a chance to go to church camp. I had lots of fun. I met lots of friends. My favorite part was when we went to art and I built Legos. I also played lots of cool games and a fun game where we listed animals on Noah's ark.”

Sincerely,  
Garrett Berry

### **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.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Dorothy Smith as devotional leader and Barbara S. Geedey and Velma Suloff as hostesses.

SALES FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES BEGIN IN JULY!!!! The last Messiah Women of the ELCA project for the year is collection of items to fill 60 back packs for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. We have some supplies but need the congregation to help to add needed items. Collection will continue until September 9, 2012.

- Ballpoint Pens (5 needed for each kit)
- Pencil Sharpener
- Blunt Scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Unsharpened #2** pencils with erasers (5 needed for each kit)
- A box of 24 crayons
- 2½ inch erasers

Please place the items on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

### **COMMUNITY**

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs a head cook and team for the fourth Tuesday of the month (beginning in November). Also needed, at least two people to help assemble the meals for delivery on the second Friday of the month (needed immediately). Drivers are also needed for several routes. If you can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

#### **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:**

FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,  
PERSONAL CARE SUPPLIES, BABY CARE SUPPLIES, CLEANING SUPPLIES,  
TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTH PASTE, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO, SOAP, RAZORS,  
FIRST-AID SUPPLIES, AND OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN AND COLD MEDICINES.  
WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND  
LOCAL GROCERY AND DISCOUNT STORE GIFT CARDS.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY FAIR COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE will be held on Sunday evening, September 2, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at Frankhouse Field (Port Royal Little League Field), adjacent to Tuscarora Valley Elementary School. Bring a lawn chair and (bug spray). Important suggestion – arrive at 5:00 p.m. to secure a parking space and your lawn chair seating positions. In the event of wet weather conditions, the worship service will be held in the Port Royal Lutheran Church at 4<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. A free-will offering will be collected.

NURSE'S NOTES – **Stop puffing around Fluffy!** Secondhand smoke is a double threat for pets, according to research from Oklahoma State University. Besides being inhaled, smoke settles on their fur and is ingested when they lick themselves. Cats and dogs whose owners light up are more likely to get a variety of cancers. If you can't quit for yourself, do it for your pet! (July 2012 issue of *Prevention Magazine*, pg. 125).

### **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Early Summer Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -OFFICE CLOSED (July & August).  
-7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Early Summer Worship/Communion.