

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

Bob St. Clair

Linda Leister

Pastor

Choir Director

Organist

Lector

Altar Guild

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 15, 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., Bob C., George, Jamie and Luke D., Ed and Ann B., Don C., Sarah D., Sue K., Haylee Y., Ken A. M., Erin H., Tyler R., Elda Mae R., George H. Jr., the family of Ralph L., Amy R., Julie B., Gene R., and Joyce K.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel—that the poor were being trampled—he was a threat to the power of priests and king. John the Baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: that all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them.

* 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**

"Morning Has Broken"

p. 12 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 God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works.
Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our
hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being
defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

Amos was not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he was an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicted with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encountered at Bethel.

FIRST READING

A reading from Amos 7:7-15

THE LESSON READS:

⁷This is what he showed me: the LORD was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the LORD said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

¹²And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13 **(Responsively)**

L – I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

ALL – I will listen to what the LORD God is saying.

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

SECOND READING

A reading from Ephesians 1:3-14

THE LESSON READS:

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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.

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

* GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 6th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."

¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Faith of Our Fathers"

p. 12 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].

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 For the church, for leaders to proclaim your grace and prophets to call us to your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For judges and magistrates, political and civic leaders, fire fighters and police officers, arbitrators and mediators, farmers and laborers. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For the earth, that the land will yield its increase and all creation flourish with your prosperity. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For all who work for cures for cancer and other diseases, and for all who work to prevent and treat malaria. For all living with suffering, sickness, or despair (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Bob Cameron, Don Clark, Sarah Dressler, Luke Davis, Sue Kepner, Haylee Yocum, Ken A. Mummah, Erin Harris, Ray Bamm, Jane Marhefka, Tyler Rosenberry, Elda Mae Rickenbaugh, George Hazard, Jr., the family of Ralph Lauver, Amy (Stuter) Reed, Julie Berryman, Gene Rhine, and Joyce K.). For ministries of compassion and care in our community. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P For members of this assembly who give generously of their time, abilities, and gifts. For the grace to see your presence in the loved ones and strangers we will meet this day. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

*P We give thanks for all the faithful who were marked with the seal of the Spirit.
May we too receive the pledge of our inheritance, to the praise of your glory.
Hear us, O God.*

C Your mercy is great.

*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

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

p. 13 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 – Barbara S. Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barbara S. Geedey

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) worshiping 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 my dad and mom, Mortimer and Mary Yocum, by daughter Nancy Yocum Kreiner.

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.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to Pat, Andy and Chuck Lauver and families on the death of their husband and father, Ralph Lauver, who died on July 11, 2012 at Brookline. Please keep Pat, Andy, and Chuck and families in your prayers.

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 – Thomas Watson, English Theologian (1515 – 1584): He called them that they might be holy, and holiness is the beauty produced by his workmanship in them.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PPC REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All members are asked to attend.

MANY THANKS for the lovely flowers that were delivered to me. I enjoyed and appreciated them.

Jane Marhefka

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.

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.

AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE in a project in association with Seafarers International House – At the 25th Anniversary Convention of the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Unit of the Women of the WELCA, July 28, 2012, there will be an ingathering of items for “Christmas at Sea” sacks which will be given to seamen who cannot be with family for the holidays. These items will be gathered from May until Sunday, July 22, 2012. (Matthew 25:40; And the King will answer and 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.”)

Items needed: (No substitutes, please)

- Sweatshirt—hooded or unhooded in size L or XL
- Thermal or white gym socks, groups of three pairs
- Casual pull-over T-shirts, size M and L
- Knit heavy winter cap
- Cans of nuts or candy
- Christmas card signed by you

The sacks will be completed and filled at a board meeting of the WELCA Synodical Board before Thanksgiving. These gifts may be placed 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).

THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT – July and August is always a lean time for food and monetary donations, and this summer the squeeze has hit particularly hard. With children home from school, as well as the weak economy, the number of people needing food is high. About 300 families a month are being served at the Food Pantry. Monetary donations are especially appreciated as they can be used by the Food Pantry to purchase food at wholesale prices. As always, your support in any way is gratefully appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JULY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL CARE AND PAPER PRODUCTS.
AND VEGETABLES AND FRUITS FROM GARDENS WOULD BE GLADLY ACCEPTED.
WE ALSO ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS FROM LOCAL STORES.

NURSE'S NOTES – The ability to empathize with humans may be hardwired into canine DNA. Research reveals that your dog's instinct to comfort and nuzzle you – for instance after a bad breakup – may have evolved over time, in order to help dogs live in sync with human owners. Dogs' nurturing tendencies may also have come from highly social and cooperative by nature – just one more reason a dog really is man's best friend. (*Prevention Magazine*, June 2012, pg. 124)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Early Summer Worship/Communion.
-7 p.m., PPC reorganizational meeting in Youth Area.
- Monday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
-8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -OFFICE CLOSED (July & August).
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.