

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Brent Snyder
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise
Diana Wise

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 22, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

SHUT-INS: Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Jean M., Cassie S., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Florence B.

OTHERS: Tammy W., Wilma P., Audrey L., Josh B., George and Lorraine H., Karl and Margaret G., Clara S., Justin T., Darlene Y., Arielle D., Wib T., Sarah S., Bill S., Gwen S., Troy B., Riley C., Allen H., Esther L., Rick V., Brian M. and family, Michael S., Trent P., Diane G., Charlene A., Rich W., Wendy S., Gretchen W., Rick S., and Bob S.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recall that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

* 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 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

* 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 God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

WORD

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

FIRST READING

A reading from Amos 8:4-7

THE LESSON READS:

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 113 (**Responsively**)

L – The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes. (Ps. 113:7)

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

²Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations, God's glory above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

⁶but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.
Hallelujah!

ALL – The LORD lifts up the poor from the ashes.

The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Timothy 2:1-7

THE LESSON READS:

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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.

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

* GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his

master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 'Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 'And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 'And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Take My Life, That I May Be"

* 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].

ANTHEM

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

Let the vine-yards be fruit-full, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, 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 the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P Holy God, who gives all good things, open our mouths and loose our tongues to praise you for all of your ways. Let our witness lead others to your goodness. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Pour out your provision for every living creature that makes preparations for the cold season ahead. Preserve life in plants and animals, that they may blossom again after winter. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Fill the leaders of our nations with your truth. Direct their decision making, and guide them to ensure a peaceable life for all people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Make yourself known among people in distress. Bring healing to all who suffer with illness, hopelessness, and fear (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Tammy Walton, Wilma Pyles, Dorothy Patterson, Audrey Landis, Josh Beitz, George and Lorraine Hazard, Karl and Margaret Guss, Clara Schlegel, Justin Tabb, Darlene Yutzy, Arielle Dougherty, Wib Taylor, Sarah Shellenberger, Bill Stoner, Gwen Swisher, Reba Sigler, Troy Burd, Riley Cooper, Allen Hall, Esther Long, Rick Varner, Brian Marshall and family, and Michael Slagle, Trent Phillips, Diane Glendye, Charlene Aughey, Rich Waller, Sr., Wendy (Zook) Swartz, Gretchen Wagner Wray, Rick Stuter, Cassie Smith, and Bob St. Clair, Sr.). Surround them with comfort, and restore them to life. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Encourage and inspire ethical business practices. By your Holy Spirit, move employers to pay fair wages. Let your justice permeate economic systems, that none may suffer want. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Living God, giving thanks for the saints, whose lives point toward Christ, we pray you lead us in faithful living, until the day when heaven and earth are united before him. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, O Holy One, we entrust all for whom we pray, confident in your abundant and abiding 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 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

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.**

(In hospitality and attempting to meet the needs of individuals, Messiah now offers gluten free communion hosts. If you wish to receive gluten free hosts, please come to the side where Pastor Esborn is serving).

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 – Ron Yorks

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 honor of Messiah Women of the ELCA.

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 – Fredrick von Hugel, Christian Thinker: Behind every saint stands another saint.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN WILL BE UPDATED – The current Prayer Chain will be deactivated and a new one started. If you would like to receive emails for persons needing prayers, please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net. A new phone chain will also be established. If you wish to receive phone calls for persons needing prayers, please contact Stacie at 436-6341.

MESSIAH IS IN NEED of a new treasurer to replace Ken Eyler after his many years of service. If you would like details, please contact Executive Director Guy Dillman or Pastor Esborn.

PPC BOARD DIRECTORS are asked to submit their proposed 2014 budgets to Ken Eyler by October 15, 2013. You may place them in Ken's mailbox in the church office or by email to keyler@nmax.net.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. We have not had a meeting since May, so there are items to be discussed. Please plan to attend. If you are unable to attend, please let Kay Varner know.

A NEW MEMBER CLASS will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library area. If you wish to attend, please contact the church office.

A SOUP SALE will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at Messiah Lutheran Church. Soups are: Ham Bean, Chicken Corn, Beef Vegetable, and Broccoli Cheddar. Cost is \$5.00 per quart. Pick-up between 4-7 p.m. Sign-up sheets are available in the Kitchenette and Adult Sunday School Room. Proceeds will go to the Fultz family for medical expenses.

BLANKET SUNDAY WILL BE OBSERVED on Sunday, October 6, 2013. Along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelopes that are 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!

HELP AVAILABLE – If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help. For more information, contact Michael “Doc” Johnston at 436-9209, or Cynthia Smith at 436-8512.

THANK YOU: “I would like to thank the Swailes family for the visit, fruit basket, and card from the children of the church. It is so nice to be remembered.”

Thank you,
Jean McNaight

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SOAP PROJECT: “***Rub-a-dub-dub, let's fill the tub!***” Women of the ELCA are collecting new bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of any brand soap in its original wrapping (boxes are accepted) for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the wash tub in the Adult Sunday School Room.

SEAFARERS PROJECT - Women of the ELCA are collecting items for the Seafarers Christmas gift set through October. Please place collected items below on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room:

- casual T-shirts, medium & large (no slogans, etc.)
- sweat shirts, large & extra-large
- 3 pairs of socks
- 1 heavy knit winter cap

COLLECTION OF ITEMS FOR SCHOOL KITS (until the beginning of October) – Items needed:

- 4 (70 sheet) notebooks, 8 x 10½ wide or college ruled paper “no loose leaf paper”
- 1 (30 centimeter) ruler or one with cm. on one side and inches on the other
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons

Place any items on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you would rather give money for these items, you may give it to Cynthia Smith or any other WELCA member.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
SHAMPOO, OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN AND COLD MEDICINES,
DISHWASHING SOAP AND ALL-PURPOSE CLEANERS

WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS TO LOCAL STORES
DROP OFF DONATIONS ANYTIME IN OUR VESTIBULE!

PLASTIC AND PAPER GROCERY BAGS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer drivers, cooks and people to help assemble meals. If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK will be held **(rain or shine)** on Sunday, October 6, 2013 at Walker Township Park (route 322, Port Royal exit). Short Walk will be 3 laps and Long Walk will be 15 laps. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the Walk begins at 1:30 p.m. Please bring all pledge money on Walk day. This year there are no incentive prizes for a certain amount of pledges. Everyone will receive a small 'thank you' gift for participating. There will be drawings for prizes periodically during Walk time. We will try to provide some sort of games or diversionary activities throughout the afternoon. Donated items for the Food Pantry will be collected at the Walk. Needs include: PERSONAL HYGIENE SUPPLIES such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, etc. CLEANING SUPPLIES like all-purpose cleansers, bleach, trash bags, laundry detergent, dish detergent, etc. PAPER PRODUCTS such as paper towels, toilet tissue, tissues. INFANT NEEDS like diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotions. NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS. Twenty-five percent of pledge money will go to the Food Pantry and the Meals-On-Wheels program. Thank you for all donations! If you have questions, please contact Becky Zeigler at 463-2309 or Kathy Whitesel at 436-2401. Sign-up sheet and donation envelopes are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

THE ANNUAL THRIVENT ELECTION AND DINNER will be held on Sunday, October 27, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church. Any member who brings an adult non-member along will receive a Weis Gift Card (so bring a friend). Also, please bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Juniata County Food Pantry. There is no charge for the meal and some great prizes will be given away. Hope to see you there! Please RSVP by calling Esther Bratton at 436-8856 or Dan Smith at 436-9377 by **Friday, October 18th**.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Bible Study.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-1:30 p.m., Women of the ELCA Juniata Valley Cluster meeting at Allensville Lutheran Church.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Property Committee meeting in Choir Room.
-7 P.M., Bible Study in Library area.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square & Line Dancing in Fellowship Hall (Caller: Leslie Herb).
- Saturday:** -10 a.m., New Member Class in Library area.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Bible Study.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion.