

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
Barbara S. Geedey
Linda Clark

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SEVENTEEN SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 23, 2012 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., 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., Haylee Y., Julie B., Gene R., Ken A., Jr., Jesse K., Susan M., and Tammy W.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

* 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** "Children of the Heavenly Father"

*** 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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

WORD

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

FIRST READING

A reading from Jeremiah 11:18-20

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" ²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 54 (Responsively)

L – God is my helper; it is the LORD who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

¹Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

²Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

⁴Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies.

ALL – God is my helper; it is the LORD who sustains my life.

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

SECOND READING

A reading from James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

THE LESSON READS:

^{3:13}Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

* GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had

argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "God Is Here!"

* 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 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 As disciples of Christ Jesus called to love and serve all people, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P O God, make your church around the world great in service and care to those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O God, bring favorable weather to farmlands, clean air to cities, and calm seas to coastlines. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Spirit of righteousness, bring peace to conflicts and disputes around the world (especially). Fill leaders with mercy and gentleness born of your wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God our helper, it is you who sustains our life. Hear the prayers of those in trouble or in any need (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], and for Ryan Keresey, Don Clark, Sarah Dressler, Luke Davis, Haylee Yocum, Julie Berryman, Gene Rhine, Ken Arbogast, Jr, Jesse Kint, Susan Minick, and Tammy Walton). Draw near to them with your healing presence. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of all, prepare us to welcome everyone into this assembly and redily accept the gifts they bring to the life and ministry of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Everlasting God, we give thanks for your servants of every generation. Help and defend us from all evil, until we worship and praise you around your throne with the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Hear our prayers, faithful God, and renew us by your Spirit, that we may joyfully love and serve you and one another, 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

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

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 – Cynthia Smith

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 worshipping with us. We invite you to return. Visitors are invited to commune with us if they are baptized and, if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor and memory of loved ones by Dan and Michelle Stoner.

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): Christ's blood has value enough to redeem the whole world, but the virtue of it is applied only to such as believe.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

BLANKET SUNDAY will be observed on Sunday, October 7, 2012. Along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelopes that are attached to the newsletters throughout the church (envelopes are also 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!

AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING NEEDED TO FUND 2012 EXPENSES is \$3,250. Offering received on 9/16/12 was \$2,463.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, September 16, 2012: \$50. This brings the total received to \$72,628 of the total \$85,890 needed for the project. Balance needed to complete funding is \$13,262.00.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS – There will be a Property Committee meeting on Monday evening, September 24, 2012 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 know.

THE NEXT PPC MEETING will be held on Sunday, **October 21, 2012** at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area (**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**). 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.

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.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA Juniata Valley Cluster meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 14, 2012** at Messiah Lutheran Church. Registration at 1:30 p.m. and program at 2:00 p.m.

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

- 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

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 AND ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS.
- PERSONAL CARE 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 PAPER AND TISSUES).
- BABY CARE ITEMS (LIKE DIAPERS, BABY WIPES, BABY SHAMPOO AND BABY LOTIONS).
- 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 AMERICAN RED CROSS will be holding blood drives at the following locations:

Saturday, September 29th
Heaven Bound Church
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
5246 West River Rd., Mifflintown

Tuesday, November 6th
Juniata Mennonite School
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
289 Leonard Hill Rd., McAlisterville

Saturday, October 20th
St. Jude's Catholic Church
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown

Friday, November 30th
Walker Grange Hall
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Route 75, Mexico

Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood safely every 56 days. Donors should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 Red Cross.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012 at Walker Township Park (RAIN OR SHINE!). 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. Donated items for the Food Pantry will be collected at the Walk. Twenty-five percent of pledge money will go to the Food Pantry and the Meals-On-Wheels program. Prizes will be given to persons with pledges totaling \$100 or more. 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.

NURSE'S NOTES – The raw egg yolk in Caesar dressing, cookie dough, spaghetti carbonara, and home-made ice cream – can be back on your menu without fear of Salmonella, thanks to new pasteurized eggs. They're treated in the shells, using a chemical-free hot-water bath that kills bacteria without cooking the eggs. Look for Safest Choice, the largest national brand, or use pasteurized egg substitutes such as Egg-Beaters. (*Prevention*, July 2012, pg. 12)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Property Committee meeting in choir room.
-7 p.m., Bible Study.
-8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Service of Healing.