

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

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

The Reverend William N. Esborn
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Randy Clark
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner
Livia Arentz
Emma Arentz

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Acolyte

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2015 – 9:15 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

SHUT-INS: Marian G., Reba S., Kitty W., Flo B., Ethel B., Jean M., Helen K., Sis S., Jane M., Fay M., Dorothy P., Ruth C., Ray B., Dottie S., Dorothy C.

OTHERS: Sarah S., Rick W., Avonel W., Jesse K., Jim W., Heidi W., Ed F., Allison S., Charlene A., Bob & Jeanette S., Charlie R., Allison G., Clara S., Anna S., Andy K., Seamus C., Gus K., Kaiden W., Tina H., John M., Leah B., Michal G., Judy G., Jane B., Diana K., Carol, Jan B's father (Harry), Sara Ann A., Jan & John M.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

* 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 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

* 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 **Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

FIRST READING

A reading from 2 Kings 4:42-44

THE LESSON READS:

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha], the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 145:10-18 (**Responsively**)

L – You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁶You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

ALL – You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

SECOND READING

A reading from Ephesians 3:14-21

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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.

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

* GOSPEL: John 6:1-21

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages

would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people? ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

- * HYMN OF THE DAY "We Come to the Hungry Feast"
- * 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-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 Gathered by the Holy Spirit and fed by the word, we come together as the people of God to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P God our provider, awaken hunger for your truth in the church around the world so all are fed with your love and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Give rain to the fields that supply our bread, and care for those who tend the crops. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Raise up leaders who love truth and seek justice. Prosper the work of those who supply and oversee feeding programs in our community and around the world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Comfort those who fear that they will not be able to feed their children. Send them healthy food and surround them with people who care. With your Spirit, strengthen those who are unsatisfied, lonely, rejected, or ill (especially all of our shut-ins, both at home and in nursing homes, and for Dorothy Patterson, Sarah Shellenberger, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jesse Kint, Jim Woltman, Heidi Woltman, Ed Forney, Allison Saner, Charlene Aughey, Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Charlie Rush, Allison Garver, Clara Shepps, Anna (Pontius) Sparks, Andy Kinzer, Seamus Cantwell, Gus Keiser, Kaiden Woods, Tina Hutchinson, John Miller, Leah Bridges, Michal Gayer, Judy Grimes, Jane Ann (Ziegler) Baney, Diana Kint, Jan Barber's father (Harry), Sara Ann Aurand, Carol, Jan, and John Mahlin). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Strengthen this congregation in its service to food pantries and community meal programs. Open our eyes to your abundance when we see only scarcity. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P With all the saints, root and ground us in love until we know the breadth, length, height, and depth of fullness in your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,

trusting in your abundant 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 forever. 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

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

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 – Marina Holderman

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Clark

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.

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 – Walter Elliott, American Catholic Priest (1842 – 1928): Perseverance is not a long race, it is many short races one after another.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

PRAYER CHAIN – Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net. If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

JUMP START BLOG: The teacher recruitment for Children's and Youth Sunday School continues, but now at a stepped-up pace. As to be expected, summer is a difficult time to contact people because many are away from home on a long anticipated vacation. There are also those candidates who legitimately need time to think and pray prior to making the commitment to be a Sunday School teacher. To join the church school faculty is an important step not to be taken lightly. Not only is a steady dedication demanded, but in most cases this church job brings with it the need to reassess and reprioritize one's personal life. Preparation and teaching both demand personal time, and by necessity, a spiritual commitment such as this now must compete with routine secular activities.

We are pleased to report that the Board of Christian Education has, to date, received the commitment to teach from four persons: Nasreen Kepler, Kate Swailes, Sandy Pines and Linda Clark. Linda has also agreed to be the real-time, on site facilitator. If we were to start Sunday School tomorrow, we now have the teachers in place to make it work! However, to fit our model of two teachers per class, we are half-way there. Our goal is to have a complete resolution by the end of the month.

While this goal has assumed priority, we see our focus slowly shifting to Jump Starting the Young Adult Class to be made up largely of the parents of the children in our children's Sunday School. This start up is extremely important as it represents a platform for rejuvenating our entire church. More on this later.

WEDNESDAY EVENING "INFORMAL COMMUNION" will be held during the summer months at 6:30 p.m. in the Junior Church Room for those who cannot make it to the services on Sunday mornings and still wish to partake of the Lord's Supper.

PPC WILL MEET tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4oz. to 5oz., 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 Adult Sunday School Room.

SEAFARERS PROJECT – Women of the ELCA are collecting items for the Seafarers Project. Items needed are: sweatshirts (preferably hooded sizes L-XL), thermal or white gym socks (no dress socks), casual pull-over T-shirts sizes M-L, and heavy knit winter caps. Please place items on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA will begin collecting items for School Kits in July as sales will be starting. Items needed are: 4—70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper 8” X 10½“. One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, one pencil sharpener, one blunt pair of scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 5 ballpoint pens, one box of 16 or 24 crayons, and one 2½“ eraser. Items should be placed on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

FAMILY FARM PROJECT – Women of the ELCA will be raising money for ELCA Good Gifts and in particular, a Family Farm. The cost of the Family Farm is \$715.00 and will provide a cow, goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, agricultural training and marketing support. Checks or cash will be accepted. Checks should be made payable to WELCA with a note for “Farm Project.”

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Ann Beaver as the devotional leader. We will be assembling the Seafarers' Kits to see what is still needed.

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS needs volunteer cooks, drivers and people to help assemble meals.

Cooks are especially needed for the 5th Tuesday and 5th Friday of the month. If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

SYNOD GROW Team – Save the Dates

September 13, 2015: God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

September 20, 2015: Knoebel's Day for the Synod

October 31, 2015: Building Youth Groups at Camp Mount Luther

November 21, 2015: Family Advent Night at Messiah in Williamsport

February 19-20 or 26-27, 2016: GROW in the SNOW Retreat at Camp Mount Luther

WATCH FOR DETAILS IN UPCOMING BULLETINS CLOSER TO THE DATES!!

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY
JULY UPDATE 2015

Donations have been very low this summer and we are running short of funds. We would be very grateful for cash, check or gift card donations. We are in need of non-perishable foods, personal care, baby care and paper products. We would also gladly accept any extra vegetables and fruits from your gardens.

NOTE: WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS OR EGG CARTONS! THANK YOU!

Address: P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone #: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tuesday 9-12 & 2-6, Saturday 9-12

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to accept donations

Contact person: Kathy Queitzsch

Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com

Visit our **Website:** www.jcfoodpantry.com

Like us on **Face Book!**

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Summer worship/communion.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall (meeting during Summer months for anyone who would like to help).
- Wednesday:** -CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (during July & Aug.).
-6:30 p.m., Quiet Communion in Jr. Church Room.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Summer worship/communion.