

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
Sam Leister
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner
Livia Arentz
Emma Arentz

Pastor
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Crucifer
Acolyte

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 20, 2015 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to [pg. 5](#) under “Prayers of Intercession.”

PREPARATION

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

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

* 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 Kyrie, eleison: **C Lord, have mercy.**

P Christe, eleison: **C Christ, have mercy.**

P Kyrie, eleison: **C Lord, have mercy.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the

Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people 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:

¹³Who 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)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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:

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] 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, ³⁷"Whoever 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 vineyards be fruitful, 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 foretaste 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 confidence in God’s compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

P Gracious God, we pray for the church in its many expressions. Give it the gift of discernment to know what is needed and the humility to ask for what is necessary. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We give thanks for another year of harvests, for farmers, gardeners, farmers markets, and community gardens. Teach us to share the earth’s abundance with all who hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the leaders of all nations. Take away selfish ambition, conflicts, and disputes, and guide leaders to work for the good of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for those affected by shortened daylight hours, for those who struggle with envy, and for those who suffer from impulses that are at war within them. We pray for all those in any kind of need (especially all of our shut-ins: Marian Gross, Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Ethel Bossinger, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, Dorothy Patterson, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith and Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Earl & Mona Lawson, Jim Yetter, and Craig Walker. And for Sarah Shellenberger, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jesse Kint, Jim Woltman, Ed Forney, Allison Saner, Charlene Aughey, Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Charlie Rush, Allison Garver, Clara Shepps, Andy & Wesley Kinzer, Gus Keiser, Kaiden Woods, Tina Hutchinson, Leiah Bridges, Michal Gayer, Judy Grimes, Jane Ann (Ziegler) Baney, Sara Ann Aurand, Carol Jan & John Mahlin, Betsy Aumiller, Jodi Fitzgerald, Virginia Waller, Dot Zeiders, Mindy Fryer, Mary Ann Bardell, Audrey Morral, Diane Layton, Gabby Baney, Josh Delancey, and Larry Houtz). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for children in this congregation and community. Give them compassionate and patient families, caregivers, mentors, teachers, and friends. Assure them that Jesus is always with them and loves them. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We give thanks for the saints and all those who have seasoned our lives of faith. Preserve us in faith until we join them in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your 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 Amen, Amen, Amen (sung)

* CLOSING HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

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.

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 – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop of Hippo (354 – 430): When God crowns our merits, it is nothing other than his own gifts that he crowns.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 ATTENDANCE 59. TOTAL OFFERING \$3,424.00—GENERAL FUND \$2,904.00.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015 ATTENDANCE 96. TOTAL OFFERING \$5,750.00—GENERAL FUND \$4,247.00—SUNDAY SCHOOL \$130.00.

BANK STATEMENT AUGUST 2015 – Beginning Balance \$18,779.25 – Ending Balance \$21,032.15.

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.

CHANGE OF ENVELOPE – Please note that your church envelope will look different in 2016. Resource Management Director, Bob Hazard approved Bob St. Clair’s research to make a change of envelope for a savings of \$200. More information will be forthcoming when the envelopes arrive.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin on October 4, 2015 during the Sunday School hour.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. If you are unable to attend, please notify Kay Varner.

GIANT STORE GIFT CARDS are also now available as well as the Weis Cards to purchase from members of the Disciples Class.

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.

FALL REMINDERS FOR JUNIATA COUNTY THRIVENT MEMBERS – The election dinner will be held on October 25, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Stephen’s, Licking Creek. Bring a guest and they will receive a Weis Gift Card. RSVP by calling Don at 436-8856 or Kathy at 436-2401 by October 18th. There will be an explanation of your NEW Thrivent programs. If you are an Advocate, please try to attend. Also, there will be a Highway clean-up on October 28 at 9:30 a.m. (meet at Deb Cramer’s, Stetler Rd.). Lunch at Walnut Cheese Nook when done! Remember to direct your Choice Dollars. NOTE: Thrivent Action Team—if you need help with your Thrivent Action Team Project, call Don at 436-8856. Remember benefit members can request two action teams and associate members one action team per year. Seed money of \$250 is available for each event.

THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD DAY AT KNOEBELS will held today. The park will be open from 12-7 PM. You can arrive at Knoebels at your leisure, pick up your pre-ordered discount tickets at pavilion P-5 beginning at 12:30 and spend your afternoon at the park. From 5:00-5:45 gather at pavilion P-5 for refreshments and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ from congregations throughout the synod. From 5:45-6:15, Vespers service led by Bishop Driesen at pavilion P-5. Hot dogs and buns will be provided. Congregations are asked to volunteer to provide other side dishes or desserts. Volunteers are also needed to provide hospitality at pavilion P-5 throughout the afternoon.

THANK YOU to Messiah Lutheran Church for the altar flowers.

John A. Miller

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.

KNITTING CLASSES will begin on Monday, September 21st in the Jr. Church Room around 6:00 p.m. until everyone is ready to leave. We will be completing our scarves and starting a dishcloth. Knitters will need a skein of cotton yarn, worsted weight. Some brands are Lion Cotton, Lily Sugar and Cream, Lily Peaches and Cream, and Bernat Handicrafter. The pattern can be downloaded for free from www.joann.com/static/project/0706/P148439.pdf. If you are unable to get the pattern, don’t worry we will have copies. The needle size that is recommended is a size 10, however, size 8’s can be used and the book says you can stay with the 7’s that were used for the scarf.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA continue to collect items for School Kits. 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. School Kit items will be sent along with the blankets in October.

COMMUNITY

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 4, 2015 at Walker Township Park RAIN OR SHINE! Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. – Walk begins at 1:00 p.m. Please bring all pledge money to be returned on Walk day! Donated items for the Food Pantry will be collected at the Walk. Twenty-five percent of pledge money goes to our local Food Pantry and Meals-On-Wheels program. The Short Walk is 3 laps and the Long Walk is 15 laps (directions to the Park will be provided with recruiter packets). Any questions, please call Graham Fowler at 463-3138 or Chris Mathiason at 463-2490. Donation envelopes and information are available in the Adult Sunday School Room. Needed items for the Food Pantry 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.

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).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:
ESPECIALLY DONATIONS OF CASH AND CHECKS!
ALSO FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE
FOODS, BABY CARE ITEMS: DIAPERS SIZES 4-6, WIPES,
DIAPER RASH OINTMENT, BABYWASH, LOTION AND POWDER

SYNOD GROW Team – Save the Dates

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!!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

Monday: -6 p.m., Knitting Class in Jr. Church 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.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following Worship Service.