"Proclaiming God's Love in Christ and His people"



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 14th, 2016 Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

EMAIL: messiahlutheran@pa.net **WEBSITE:** www.mlcmifflintown.org

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Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office / 436-6213

The Rev. Chris Mathiason Richard Beck June Bricker Andrea Cameron Marina Holderman Linda Clark Nate Swailes Interim Pastor Lay Worship Leader Organist Choir Director Lector Altar Guild Acolyte

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 14, 2016 – 9:15 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 "Prayers of Intercession."

PREPARATION

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today, in the assembly, we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses." In the word and in the Holy Communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

* 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 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"
- * 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, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

FIRST READING

A reading from Jeremiah 23:23-29

THE LESSON READS:

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Lector:The word of the Lord.Congregation:Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 82 (Responsively)

L - Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)

¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods: ²"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked? ³Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

⁴rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High; ⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'''

⁸Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.

All – Arise, O God, and rule the earth.

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

SECOND READING

A reading from Hebrews 11:29-12:2

THE LESSON READS:

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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 delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

* GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:]⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise to you, **O** Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Richard Beck

"Rejoice, for Christ Is King!" * 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 "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be" Strung-out Dulcimer Band "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" "Whispering Hope"

* 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 Rooted in Christ and rising to serve, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. A brief silence.
- P God near to us, increase your people's passion to share how Christ transforms lives. Raise up prophets in your church, Lord, to interpret the word and the world today. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P Renewing God, we pray for scorched places that need rain, those recovering from disaster, and those needing balance. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P God of power, administer justice. Pour your spirit of compassion and mercy into those who hold the lives of others in their hands. We pray for all who are persecuted or imprisoned for their beliefs. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Compassionate God, save us from being overwhelmed by addictions, medical conditions, competition, and fear. Comfort all in need in body, mind, or spirit (especially all of our shut-ins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Flo Beale, Jean McNaight, Jane Marhefka, Fay McCormick, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Rick Waller, Sr., Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, Bob Cameron, Michal Gayer, Joan Foltz, Bill Geise, Mary Ernest, Josh Delancey, Earl Lawson, Ellwood Miller, Cindy Reed, Marylou Hazard, Letha Swab, John Miller, Brady Mingle, Belva Fulton, and Mrs. Dan (Barb) Geedey. Bless hospitals, mental health facilities, and all places of healing. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Give wisdom to our community, Lord. Help us discern your will for our life and ministry together, even when it may divide or challenge us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We thank you, O God, for the great cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. Gather us with all the saints around your throne on the last day. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting your promise to hear us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- * THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] (all)
 - P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
 - C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

* BLESSING

- P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C Amen, Amen, Amen (sung)
- * CLOSING HYMN "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel).

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 – Diana Wise NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Diana Wise NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTE – Caden Swailes

WELCOME

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 or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. 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.

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.

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS ARE ALSO PROVIDED FOR COMMUNION. Wine and wheat wafers are used and if you so desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in front of the chancel.

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.

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

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Richard Beck, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committee to ordained ministry as the primary means for filling the needs of this church for Word and Sacrament, but at this place in the church's pilgrimage, the church's inability to provide all congregations with full-time ordained pastoral ministry presents a challenge. On any given Sunday, congregations have needs that cannot be met by available ordained ministers. Therefore, because it is the bishop's responsibility to meet the Word and Sacrament needs of the congregations in this Synod, synodically authorized lay worship leaders are trained to meet this need. On behalf of the whole church, Bishop Driesen is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.

WE WELCOME "The Strung-out Dulcimer Band" to our Worship Service and thank them for providing our special music for today.

THE STRUNG-OUT DULCIMER BAND practices twice each month in the Messiah Lutheran Church Social Room. Please receive our sincere thanks for affording us the very generous privilege.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of William C. Nipple by Edith Nipple and family.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact Judy directly at the church office at 436-6213 or at <u>messiahlutheran@pa.net</u>. If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

JUST A THOUGHT – Oswald Chambers, Scottish Minister and Teacher (1784 – 1917): Happiness depends on what happens, joy does not.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

HOME COMMUNION – The Compassionate Services Committee is again looking for people who would like to give Communion to our shut-ins. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins is used on a quarterly basis. If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey. Phone: 436-6433 or Email: <u>geedey@centurylink.net</u>.

CRUCIFER AND ACOLYTE TRAINING (for new as well as veterans of this service) will be held on Sundays, August 21 and 28, before or right after church services. Kids grade 3 and up including those already confirmed are invited to attend.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin on Sunday, September 11, 2016 during the Sunday School hour at the rear of the Adult Sunday School Room. All youth who are in 6th to 8th grade are eligible to participate in the Confirmation program. Please notify the church office at 436-6213 (email) <u>messiahlutheran@pa.net</u> or Sam Leister at 436-8589 (email) <u>sleister@gmail.com</u> if you are planning to attend the class.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES – A reminder that the summer worship services will continue through Sunday, September 5th, with worship beginning at 9:15 a.m. Regular worship service, with service time at 10:30 a.m. will return on September 11th.

NEED A CRIB? There is an extra crib in the Fellowship Hall. Messiah was pleased to have two people donate Pac and Plays to the church. If you could use a crib, please call the church office.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT PACKETS (with yellow covers) are available on the piano. If you have any questions, call Ann Beaver at 436-9382.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to press quilt tops for "The Needlers." Tops can be taken home and pressed and brought back to the church. Anyone who is interested, please contact one of "The Needlers."

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

WEEKLY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Friday – <u>12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m</u>**.

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.

THANK YOU TO MESSIAH CONGREGATION – The members, leaders and families of the Juniata Beef and Breeders Club greatly appreciate the use of your facility to hold our club meetings October through April. Thank you for your small part in keeping 4-H alive in Juniata County!

THANK YOU – Dear friends at Messiah Lutheran Church....Thank you for your generous donations to the Juniata County Food Pantry. Your gifts greatly bless the lives of your neighbors in need by providing them not only with the necessary nourishment for their bodies, but also the hope and encouragement to nourish their spirits. The Lord bless you and keep you.

Your Friends at the Juniata County Food Pantry

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected 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.

SCHOOL KITS – We will be collecting items for School Kits beginning in June. Items needed are: 70-sheet notebooks, college-ruled paper 8 x $10^{1/2}$ inches, 30 centimeter rulers or rulers with cm on one side and inches on the other, pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel pens), boxes of 16 or 24 crayons, and $2^{1/2}$ inch erasers. Items may be placed on the table with the basket in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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).

THE CROP WALK will be held this year on Sunday, October 9th at Walker Township Park. A promoter for each church is needed. Please email Graham Fowler at <u>pastor.lostcreekpres@gmail.com</u> if you are interested in being the promoter for your church.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST

FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE AND ANY NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SHAMPOO, LOTION, BATH SOAP, OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN AND COLD MEDICINES, BAND AIDS AND ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENT WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS. (VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR A NUMBER OF POSITIONS)

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today:	-9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.
Monday:	-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
Thursday:	-1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
Sunday:	-9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.
	-Crucifer/Acolyte Training immediately after worship service.