

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
The Rev. LeRoy Reitz
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise
Tawny Mummah
Hannah Ehrisman

Interim Pastor
Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolyte

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 11, 2016 – 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 “Prayers of Intercession.”

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As Paul's first letter to Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

* 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 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

* 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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks mercy for them.

FIRST READING

A reading from Exodus 32:7-14

THE LESSON READS:

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.** (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10 **(Responsively)**

L – Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

All – Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Timothy 1:12-17

THE LESSON READS:

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that his or her recovery brings joy in heaven.

* GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

THE GOSPEL READS:

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)**

SERMON

Pastor LeRoy Reitz

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

* 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].

* 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 Rejoicing in the Spirit's work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P Gracious God, we thank you for your word that strengthens the weak and the faint in heart. We thank you for your word that encourages the believer and saves sinners.

Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for those places in our world ravaged by fires or floods. Restore the land, and bless the efforts of those who work to save and protect it. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for the leaders of nations and all those in positions of authority. Guide them as they make decisions for the good of all. Lead them in the ways that make for peace.

Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for those who suffer as the result of war, violence, terrorism, or natural disaster. And we pray for those who willingly serve others in dangerous situations: first responders, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, members of the military, and law enforcement. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for our congregation. Prepare us to welcome newcomers. Make this a place of hope for the least of these in our community. Be with those who are sick, injured, or in any need (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, Mary Ernest, Josh Delancey,

Ellwood Miller, Marylou Hazard, Letha Swab, John Miller, Brady Mingle, Belva Fulton, Edith Nipple, and Jim & June Bricker. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Let us remember with thanksgiving the blessed dead who rest from their labors.

Gladden us by their lives of faith, and at the last day unite us in the joy of heaven.

Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

p. 14 in bulletin

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 – Briley Holderman

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman

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 worshipping 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) 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.

WE WELCOME Pastor LeRoy Reitz as our worship leader and pray God’s blessing on him as he ministers to us this morning.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Neil and Pat Fisher.

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

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. 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 messiahlutheran@pa.net. 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.

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

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>August 28, 2016 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other funds</u>
Attendance – 51	Attendance – N/A	Sunday School - N/A
Total Offering - \$2,305.00		Benevolence - \$ 125.00
<u> \$ 210.00</u>		Building Fund - \$ 60.00

General Fund - \$2,095.00

Memorial Fund - \$ 25.00
\$ 210.00

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS – Any Messiah member who wishes to receive the monthly financial reports and the weekly tallies by email, please send Ann Beaver (annbeaver@embarqmail.com) your email address.

PPC WILL MEET on Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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: geedey@centurylink.net.

KNITTING CLASSES will begin on Monday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Jr. Church Room. We are going to continue with the Prayer Shawls and directions will be on the table next to the piano in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you have other directions that you prefer to use, that is fine also. Any questions, please call Barb Geedey at 436-6433.

REMINDER: The Thrivent lunch will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

3-RING BINDERS ARE AVAILABLE in assorted sizes in the church office. Anyone who would like one may stop in during regular office hours.

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT PACKETS (with green 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 – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

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 10½ 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 2½ inch erasers. Items may be placed on the table with the basket in the Adult Sunday School Room.

COMMUNITY

MEALS-ON-WHEELS UPDATE – For many years, Westminster Presbyterian Church has been the home base for Meals-On-Wheels. In late August, Meals-On-Wheels moved to their new location at Cedar Grove Church. The ministry gains an easier parking situation and a better way to get food in and out of the building (no steps). Volunteer cooks, drivers and people to help assemble meals are always needed. Please continue to support and pray for Meals-On-Wheels. Contributions can be sent to Juniata Meals-On-Wheels, P.O. Box 251, Mifflintown, PA 17059.

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 pastor.lostcreekpres@gmail.com if you are interested in being the promoter for your church.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE AND ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
BABY CARE ITEMS SUCH AS SHAMPOO/BABY WASH,
DIAPER RASH OINTMENT, LOTION AND POWDER
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., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. Worship Leader: The Rev. LeRoy Reitz.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in the Jr. Church Room.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. Worship Leader: The Rev. Paul Kampa.