

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise
Christie Holderman
Haley Mumma
Randy Clark

Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolyte
Greeter

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 25, 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: “Immortal, Invisible”

G. Peterson

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

* 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 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

* 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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

FIRST READING

A reading from Amos 6:1a, 4-7

THE LESSON READS:

^{1a}Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, ⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; ⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; ⁶who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

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

PSALM: Psalm 146 (Responsively)

L – The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed. (Ps. 146:7)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

³Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.**

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;
⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;**
⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

All – The LORD gives justice to those who are oppressed.

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Timothy 6:6-19

THE LESSON READS:

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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 a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

* GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Andrea Cameron

* HYMN OF THE DAY "We Are Marching in the Light"

* 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:

“Autumn Reverie”

D. Paxton

[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 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 God, we thank you for the church, its mission, and its ministry. Help us to be examples of the faith and to pursue righteousness in all we say and do. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the well-being of all creation. Make us wise stewards of your rich and beautiful world. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Ruler of the nations, we pray for peace in places of conflict and war. We pray for exiles, refugees, and those far from home. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for all those who are lonely or homebound, those who are trapped in any kind of prison of body, mind, or spirit, and for those who are sick or injured.

(Especially we pray for 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 Joan Foltz. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God who sits high but looks low, we pray for our brothers and sisters who struggle to make ends meet. Provide for all of our physical and spiritual needs. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We remember and give thanks for all your saints in light and for those who have recently died. Thank you for the good foundation of their lives and witness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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

“Holy Spirit, Truth Divine”

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).

COMMUNION:

“God Sends Us Along”

R. Loree

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 – Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman

NEXT WEEK'S GREETERS – Cynthia Smith & Carolyn Bryner

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Harrison Mummah & Nathan 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.

THIS MORNING we are led in worship by Andrea Cameron, 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 committed 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.

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 – Cecil Myers, Christian Thinker: Successful marriage is always a triangle, a man, a woman, and God.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

<u>September 11, 2016 Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Attendance – 80	Attendance – 36	Sunday School - \$ 73.00
Total Offering - \$2,811.50		Benevolence - 70.00
<u>395.00</u>		Building Fund - 205.00
General Fund - \$2,416.50		Flowers - <u>47.00</u>
		\$ 395.00

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 this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, September 26, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

HARD COPIES OF THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY are now available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

COPIES OF MAY, JUNE AND JULY PPC MINUTES are available on the piano in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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.

REMINDER: The Thrivent lunch will be held on September 25, 2016 in Messiah’s 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 - Volunteer cooks, drivers and people to help assemble meals are always needed. Please continue to support Meals-On-Wheels at their new location at Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church. 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 12:30 p.m. at Walker Township Park. Those walking for Messiah include Pat Fisher and Sam and Linda Leister. Others who wish to walk may contact Linda or Sam for an official envelope for donations. In lieu of walking, please consider sponsoring someone who is walking.

HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS

(These are the foods that are hard for us to get)

**TURDEYS, TURKEY BREASTS, HAMS (3-5 LBS), STUFFING,
INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, CANNED SWEET POTATOES,
GRAVY MIX OR CANNED GRAVY, CAKE MIX AND
READY-MADE ICING OR OTHER DESSERT MIX, OR
A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!**

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron.
-FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-Thrivent Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.
- 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.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/World Communion/Blanket Sunday.
Lay Worship Leader: Jim Bahorik.