

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

The Rev. Chris Mathiason
Andrea Cameron
June Bricker
Andrea Cameron
Linda Clark
Linda Bahorik
Diana Wise
Maia Kepler & Hannah Ehrisman
Don & Barb Geedey

Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Junior Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes
Greeters

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORLD COMMUNION/BLANKET SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 2017 – 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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Andrea Cameron

ANTHEM: “He’s Got the Whole World” “Do Lord”

Junior Choir

BLESSING FOR BLANKET SUNDAY

L Gracious God, as we present these gifts of our hearts and hands; quilts, school kits, seafarers bags, and soap, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all the people of God.

C We celebrate being the children of God.

L We give thanks for the soap and the variety of gifts needed for these quilts, school kits, and seafarers bags and the talents of the hands that sewed the quilts and the patience of those who filled the school kits and assembled the seafarers bags. We also give thanks for the time donated by those who deliver the soap, quilts and kits to their pick-up point.

C We celebrate generosity.

L We give thanks for the fellowship of all those who work together on our projects, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of doing something with our hands and hearts for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.

C We celebrate community.

L We send this soap, quilts, school kits and seafarers bags as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives, trusting that these gifts will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of disaster and fear, a symbol of God's love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God. May the gifts serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient and may it be a step in recovering one's life and be a message of caring from someone they may never meet.

C We celebrate hope in the midst of life's trials.

L We remember those who have received our gifts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability.

C We celebrate the gift of life.

L We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need.

Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are joined together in the unity of one God, now and forever.

C Amen

* 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 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #170 Green Hymnal

* 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 **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

FIRST READING: A reading from Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

THE LESSON READS:

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the LORD is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the LORD is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9 (**Responsively**)

L – Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

ALL – Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love.

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

SECOND READING: A reading from Philippians 2:1-13

THE LESSON READS:

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

* **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Andrea Cameron

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

#309 Green Hymnal

* **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 Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P We pray for the mission of the gospel. Unite your church in its proclamation and witness. Let the same mind be in us that is in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Creator God, you provide daily for our nourishment. Bless fields and orchards, oceans and lakes, birds and animals, insects and fish. Sustain those who harvest your life-sustaining bounty. Help us share the gifts you have freely given. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God of the nations, give all your people the mind of Christ. Guide national and international leaders to advocate for policies that look to the interests of the most vulnerable. Humble us when we question your mercy toward those who are different from us. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Self-emptying God, stir up compassion for those in need. Send your Spirit to those who are in crisis, troubled, weary, or discouraged. (We pray especially for all of our shut-ins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Jean McNaught, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, Sara Ann Aurand, Betty Karstetter, and Jim Yetter). And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Avonel & Rick Waller, Sr., Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Letha Swab, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Randy Clark, Joyce Doyle, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Seth Arentz, Tom Lyter, Margaret Lowery, Butch & Sandy Pines, Janet Fultz, Jeff Sanders, Tammy Metz, Joyce Bradley, Pat Fisher, Barbara P. Geedey, Audrey Peters, Jacob Jones, Minnie Minick, Chad Hershberger, Ken Stuck, Paul Goss, Dr. Laurie Cox, Pat Forney, Bob Bell. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We pray for our congregation and community. Guide our deliberations over difficult decisions. Strengthen our commitment to our ministries. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Lord of the Church, we give thanks to you for your death and resurrection, and that you are the Good Shepherd. Hear our prayer for our Call Committee and its work of discernment, and hear our prayer for your sending to us a pastor who will be a strong partner with us in the joy and service of your Gospel for those within your Church and those beyond our walls in this community. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints whose tongues confessed Jesus Christ as Lord. Keep us confident in your promises until we join them in endless praise. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] (all)

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

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

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

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

* BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen, Amen, Amen (sung)

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

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Sam Leister

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) 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 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 Collins is deeply gratified by the ministry of these servants of the Gospel.

JUST A THOUGHT – German Proverb: If God were not willing to forgive sin, heaven would be empty.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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 the church office at 436-6213 or 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.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email messiahlutheran@pa.net for any changes or requests.

TODAY IS BLANKET SUNDAY – Along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelope that is included with your bulletin today (additional envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room). Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and place in the offering plates or give to Cynthia Smith. Please take this opportunity to serve as Christ's helping hands in our world today!

OUR THANKS TO “THE NEEDLERS” for sewing all of the lovely quilts you see today and for decorating the chancel and nave this morning. The quilts on display will be donated by “The Needlers” as their Blanket Sunday offering. Blankets/quilts and kits will be taken to Buffalo Valley Commons parking lot across from the Synod office. Drop off date is October 14. The quilts will then be sent to Lutheran World Relief and also given to Messiah members who are now in nursing homes. A report of the total number of quilts made and other items

being sent will be printed in the bulletin after everything is packed for shipment. The covers on the altar and lecterns were made by Carole Nace.

THE OCTOBER 2017 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the Church Office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office (messiahlutheran@pa.net) and Bob St. Clair (stclairb@embarqmail.com) prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at www.mlcimiffintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

THE DEADLINE for all items to be included in the Sunday bulletin is **Thursday noon**.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

September 24, 2017

Worship Service

Attendance – 58

Sunday School – 27

Total Offering \$2,925.00

Other Funds \$1,036.00

General Fund \$1,889.00

Other Funds

Benevolence – \$ 155.00

Building Fund – \$ 215.00

Hurricane Disaster Funds – \$ 500.00

Flowers – \$ 25.00

Memorial Fund – \$ 100.00

Sunday School – \$ 41.00

Total \$1,036.00

“A STUDY OF LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM FOR ADULTS” is being offered in a Bible study format with Sam Leister as the discussion leader. Anyone interested in participating in this study group, please contact the church office. Dates and times will be determined by the group.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING – Any young people who might be interested in attending the ELCA youth gathering June 27 to July 1, 2018 in Houston Texas, please contact the church office. We will plan a meeting if there is any interest.

WORK CAMP – Any young people who might be interested in attending a work camp July 22 to July 28, 2018 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, please contact the church office. We will plan a meeting if there is any interest.

MESSIAH’S DOORS will be unlocked at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Worship.

COPIES OF JUNE PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY will be held today following the worship service. Business: quarterly reports of the boards.

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.”

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

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.

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.

THANK YOU to members and friends of Messiah for all of the cards, prayers, and phone calls I received for my birthday. All was very much appreciated.

Minnie Minick

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.

RETREAT AT CAMP MT. LUTHER – On Saturday, October 7th WELCA is sponsoring a Retreat at Camp Mt. Luther. Copies of the Retreat information as well as the registration form are located on the round table next to the piano in the Adult Sunday School Room. The Retreat begins at 9:45 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$22.00 which includes coffee/tea, snacks, lunch, and the program. We would love to have a good group from our church attend this event. The Retreat is replacing the cluster meetings which are always held in September. Churches are asked to bring items to the Retreat that are needed by the camp for next year. Our group picked out several items to collect and take to the Retreat. These items are: sidewalk chalk, construction paper, markers/dry erase markers, white/colored copy paper, and embroidery floss. All women in the congregation are welcome to attend the Retreat. Deadline for registration is September 26. Anyone who would like to donate any of the needed items for camp may put them in the box that is labeled Camp Mt. Luther on one of the tables in the Adult Sunday School Room.

ITEMS FOR THE SEAFARERS BAGS will be collected through September. Items needed are:

- 1 sweatshirt, preferably hooded (sizes L-XL)
- 3 pairs of socks (thermal or white gym socks)
- 1 pull-over T-shirt (sizes M-L)
- 1 knit heavy winter cap

WELCA IS GATHERING ITEMS for School Kits. Items needed for each kit are: four 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college-ruled 8 x 10½ inches), one 30 centimeter/inches ruler, one pencil sharpener, one pair of blunt scissors, five unsharpened #2 pencils, five black or blue ballpoint pens, one box of 16-24 crayons, and one 2½ inch eraser. Items may be placed on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Cynthia Smith will present the program. All women of the congregation are invited to attend—we would be thrilled to see you! Our meeting usually lasts about an hour and a half.

COMMUNITY

CROP WALK will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2017 beginning at 1:00 p.m. (registration at 12:30 p.m.) at Walker Township Park (rain or shine). Twenty-five percent of money collected goes to the Juniata County Food Pantry and Meals-On-Wheels. Please make checks payable to CWS / CROP and mail donations to Graham Fowler, P.O. Box 91, McAlisterville, PA 17049.

HEAVENLY CARAMELS – Heavenly....and....delicious! Perfect for gift giving! Cost: 1 lb. box, \$12.00, ½ lb. box, \$7.00. To order: call Westminster church office at 717-436-2219, Eddi Kay Gill at 717-436-6834 or Connie Benner at 717-436-2304. Deadline to order is October 22, 2017.

LOCUST GROVE RETIREMENT HOME is looking for volunteers (individuals or groups) to spend time with the residents. Some of the ways you can volunteer are: assist with activities, read, bingo caller, religious activities, music, pet visits, crafts, and nail painting, games, birthday parties, and visits with residents. If you are interested, please call 717-436-8921.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the following positions:

*Food Box Packer – organized person who works well without supervision to pack supplemental food boxes for the elderly and children’s programs.

*Cleaning Angel – person with a God-given talent for cleaning and organizing. Approximately 4-6 hours per week.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -World Communion/Blanket Sunday.
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion (Lay Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron).
-Voters Assembly following Worship Service.

Monday: -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in the Jr. Church Room.
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday: -9 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday: -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal in Rearick Room.
-7 p.m., Presbyterian Session meeting (Graham Fowler) in Youth Area.

Thursday: -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).
-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.
-1 p.m., Juniata County CROP Walk at Walker Park.