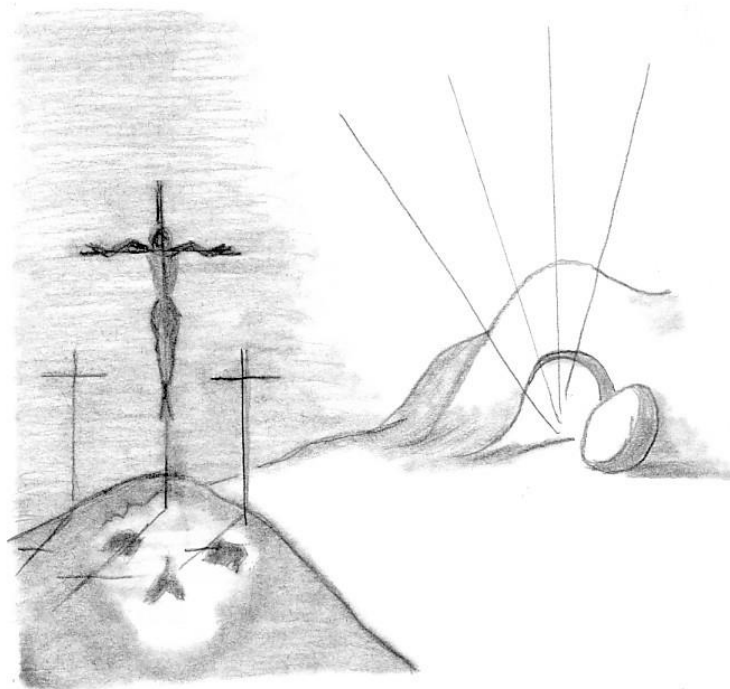


*“Proclaiming God’s Love
in Christ and His people”*



*THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST*

September 17th, 2017

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
Sam Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Jean Compton
Christie Holderman
Julia Martin & Hope Miller

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 17, 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: “Lead On, O King Eternal” T. Bliss
[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

* 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 “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” #343 Green Book

* 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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives

FIRST READING

A reading from Genesis 50:15-21

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

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

PSALM: Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13 (responsively)

L – LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

[¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

All – LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

SECOND READING

A reading from Romans 14:1-12

THE LESSON READS:

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to 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.**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Sam Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

#327 Green Book

* 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:
ANTHEM

“Jesus Loves Me”

G. Sewell

[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 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 Good and gracious God, we pray for the church. Bless the ministries of congregations in our community. Unite us in the proclamation of your life-giving gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Creator God, you spoke light into being, you separated the waters, you formed the dry land. Protect and enliven the creation you so love, and make us willing partners in its care. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of the nations, you love all tribes, peoples, and languages. We pray for all who govern. Give them wise and generous hearts for those they serve. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Divine Healer, calm the anxiety of those who are wrongly accused, who suffer under crushing debt, or who are in prison. Reassure those who are lonely, impatient, brokenhearted, homebound hospitalized, or ill (especially all of our shut-ins: Reba Sigler, Kitty Walters, Jean McNaight, 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, Michal Gayer, Letha Swab, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Randy Clark, Joyce Doyle, Joan Fulkroad, Don

Clark, Seth Arentz, Tom Lyter, Charlie Stouffer, 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, Sherman Fultz, and Pat Forney. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for this assembly; for our guests and visitors, for newcomers to this community, for those who are certain and those who doubt, and for all who seek you in this place. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We remember and give thanks for the faithful of every age who did not live to themselves but lived to you. Raise us with them on the last day. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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 for ever. Amen.

* BLESSING

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

C Amen, Amen, Amen (sung)

* CLOSING HYMN "All Creatures of Our God and King" #527 Green Book

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

“Lead Me, Lord”

S. S. Wesley

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

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Kate Swailes

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Holderman

NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Stephen Rodgers

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Braedon Walton & Slone Smith

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.

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

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Sam Leister 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 – Fredrick von Hugel, Christian Thinker: Behind every saint stands another saint.

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.

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

September 3, 2017

<u>Worship Service</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	
Attendance – 52	N/A	Benevolence -	\$ 235.00
		Building Fund -	\$ 230.00
Total Offering	\$3,965.01	Hurricane Disaster Funds -	\$ 325.00
Other Funds	<u>\$1,372.00</u>	Summer Camp -	\$ 375.00
General Fund	\$2,593.01	Flowers -	\$ 22.00
		Memorial Fund -	\$ 185.00
		Total	\$1,372.00

September 10, 2017

<u>Worship Service</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Attendance – 66		Benevolence –	\$ 140.00
Sunday School – 36		Building Fund –	\$ 105.00
Total Offering	\$2,981.50	Hurricane Disaster Funds –	\$ 170.00
Other Funds	<u>\$ 794.50</u>	World Hunger –	\$ 100.00
General Fund	\$2,187.00	Memorial Fund –	\$ 200.00
		Sunday School –	<u>\$ 79.50</u>
		Total	\$ 794.50

“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.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, October 1, 2017 following the worship service. Business: quarterly reports of 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.

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.

BLANKET SUNDAY – In October, the blankets/quilts and kits will be taken to Buffalo Valley Commons parking lot across from the Synod office. Blanket Sunday will be October 1 with the drop off date of October 14.

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.

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.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).
- 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:** -6 a.m.—10 a.m., Lions Club Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., Choir rehearsal in Rearick Room.
- Thursday:** -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church (Lay Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers).