"Growing God's Kingdom"



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 19th, 2018 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Chris Mathiason Sam Leister June Bricker Andrea Cameron Kate Swailes Barb S. Geedey Haley Mummah & Slone Smith Interim Pastor
Lay Worship Leader
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolytes

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 19, 2018 – 9:15 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Those we want to remember in prayer today—please refer to "Prayers of Intercession."

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

* 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.

GATHERING

- * ENTRANCE HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" #415 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:
P Christe, eleison:
C Lord, have mercy.
C Christ, have mercy.
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 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 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 Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

FIRST READING

A reading from Proverbs 9:1-6

THE LESSON READS:

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. ²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, ⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, ⁵"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14 (responsively)

L-Those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good. (Ps. 34:10)

All - Those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me; I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

¹²Who among you takes pleasure in life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING

A reading from Ephesians 5:15-20

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

- * GOSPEL: John 6:51-58
 - P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"How Great Thou Art"

#532 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.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P O Lord, you build your church, the body of Christ, and sustain it with living bread. Let wisdom guide your church, and teach all its members the way of righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, bless the work of musicians, composers, writers, and all artists. Move us to even greater praise through their gifts of creativity. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, we thank you for the diversity of the nations. Shower your wisdom and mercy upon all leaders and citizens. Give us all the courage to seek peace and pursue it. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, send calm and perseverance to those who are in trouble or who live daily with great stress. Fill them with your Spirit and satisfy them with your presence. Today we pray especially for our shut-ins, the sick, and those who may be grieving who are in our hearts and minds listed here: Kitty Walters, Jane Marhefka, Ruth Cisney, Ray Bramm, Dottie Smith, Dorothy Cleck, Carol Simonton, Lura Aughey, Mona Lawson, and Jim Yetter. And for Bob & Jeanette St. Clair, Avonel Waller, Jim Woltman, Bob & Andrea Cameron, Mary Ernest, John Miller, Joan Fulkroad, Don Clark, Tom Lyter, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Austin Parker, Terry Coder, John Towsey, Barbara Wengerd, Rich Walters, Sieber Stoner, Mary Sanders, Jane Ann Baney, Lysha Maldonado, Donna Barton, Carolina Rubio and family, Josh Hohol, Noel Peachey, Shirley Miller, Jean Zimmerman, Elienai Ramirez,

Larry Miller, Mike Maugans, Jamie Miller, Leslie Lloyd, Ed Fraker, Ben & Dorothy Towsey, Tami Metz, and Dottie Wilson. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, we thank you for this congregation. Give us gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy, and inspire us to give thanks at all times. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Gracious giving God, give us your help again, just as you have always done. Remind us of your care. Let there be gratitude in our congregation, for all that is needful has been sent and ordained for us already. As our Call Committee works to call a new pastor to our congregation, may we be strengthened for this task with the thought that your providing reaches to every need of your church. Our Call Committee and community of believers are your church, too. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, we bless you for family, friends, and sisters and brothers in Christ who have guided us in wisdom and insight. Lead us into peace with all people until the day of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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."

OFFERING

OFFERTORY:

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

SPECIAL MUSIC "Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us – D" Strung-Out Dulcimer Band Medley: "When the Saints Go Marching In" "In the Sweet By and By" "I'll Fly Away" "I Saw the Light – CG%"

* 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.

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.

* 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.

(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.

SENDING

- * BLESSING
 - P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
 - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)
- * SENDING HYMN

"Lead On, O King Eternal!"

#495 Green Hymnal

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 - C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Ron Yorks

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD - Tawny Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Julia Martin & Hannah Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADER – Rev. Paul Kampa

WELCOME

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads but also in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor or indicate such in the Friendship Pads being sure to include your contact information. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

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

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the Narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

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

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Sieber Stoner's 95th birthday on August 11, 2018 by Dan and Michelle Stoner.

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.

WE WELCOME the Strung-Out Dulcimer Band to our Worship Service and thank them for providing our special music for today.

JUST A THOUGHT – Otto Zockler, German Theologian (1833 – 1906): The wise man is also the just, the pious, the upright, and the man who walks in the way of truth.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY NOON.</u>

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

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Sam Leister at sleister@gmail.com.

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 mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

WELCA AND MESSIAH'S YOUTH are joining forces to participate in God's Work on "Our Hands Sunday," September 9, 2018 and we invite you to join us. Following our worship service, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a pizza lunch and then begin working on two WELCA projects. First, we will be assembling School Kits for needy children. For this project, WELCA is in need of ball point pens (blue or black ink – no gel), blunt scissors, pencil sharpeners, notebooks (70 sheet, wide or college ruled) and rulers (either 30 centimeters or both centimeters and inches). In addition, we will be making Fleece Tied Blankets. If you can't join us, perhaps you can assist with a donation of any of these items or money to be used to purchase these items or fleece. Thank you for your help and looking forward to celebrating God's Work, Our Hands as a congregation!

HERSHEY PARK TICKETS are currently available in the church office for a discounted price of \$34.50. Regular price is normally \$67.80 per ticket. If you would like to purchase tickets, please call the church office at 436-6231. If you have any questions regarding the tickets, please contact Kate Swailes.

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."

COPIES OF JUNE 3, 2018 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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

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 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 12, 2018

<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Other Funds</u>	
Worship Service – 45		Benevolence -	\$ 55.00
		Building Fund -	\$ 185.00
Total Offering	\$1,948.00	Total	\$ 240.00
Other Funds	<u>\$ 240.00</u>		
General Fund	\$1.708.00		

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.

SINCERE THANKS to the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church for allowing the Strung-Out Dulcimer Band to practice twice each month in the church. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated.

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.

WELCA IS COLLECTING items for Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items needed are: 2 light-weight cotton T-shirts (NO ONESIES), 2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (WITHOUT FEET), 2 receiving blankets (medium-weight cotton or flannel, crocheted, or knitted with light-weight yarn up to 52 inches square), 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap, 2 pairs of socks, 1 hand towel (dark color), 2 diaper pins or large safety pins. Sizes are to be from 6 months to 24 months.

WELCA is collecting donations for the Oxen and Plow project through the ELCA Good Gifts program. Please place your donations in the box provided in the Adult Sunday School Room.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST:

DISH SOAP, ANY CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT.
BABY ITEMS (ESPECIALLY WIPES & DIAPERS – SIZE 5 & 6).
WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF
CASH/CHECKS & GIFT CARDS.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion. (Lay Worship Leader: Sam Leister).

Monday: -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

Friday: -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion. (Worship Leader: Rev. Paul Kampa).

-Food Pantry Sunday.