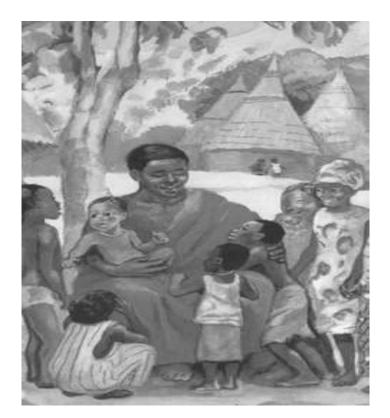
"Growing God's Kingdom"



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 23rd, 2018 MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.mlcmifflintown.org

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Church Office: 717-436-6213 Email: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

The Rev. Chris Mathiason The Rev. Erin Bovendam Bob St. Clair Andrea Cameron Jean Compton Diana Wise Jade Britcher & Braedon Walton

Interim Pastor Worship Leader Organist Choir Director Lector Altar Guild Acolytes

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 23, 2018 – 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

PRELUDE:

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

F. Ritter

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

* 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 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

#370 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 O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

FIRST READING

A reading from Jeremiah 11:18-20

THE LESSON READS:

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

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

PSALM: Psalm 54 (responsively)

L – God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life. (Ps. 54:4)

¹Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

²Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

⁴Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble, and my eye looks down on my enemies.

All – God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

SECOND READING

A reading from James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

THE LESSON READS:

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

- * GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37
 - P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one

another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

*

Pastor Erin Bovendam

HYMN OF THE DAY "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" APOSTLES' CREED ('new version') (all) *

#506 Green Hymnal

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 Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.
- A brief silence.
- P Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Creative God, blue whales and honeybees sing the goodness of the earth. Glaciers and deserts declare your greatness. Make us good stewards of our home for the generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn. 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, Butch & Sandy Pines, Joyce Bradley, Minnie Minick, Austin Parker, Terry Coder, Barbara Wengerd, Rich Walters, 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, Dottie Wilson, Sieber Stoner, victims of Hurricane Florence, and families of David Boyle and Matthew Reichart. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Welcoming God, you place children among us. Teach us to honor the children in our midst and to pay attention to what they can teach us about who you are. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Gracious accompanying God, the One in whom we live and move and have our being, give us a vision of the times of our lives, the new situations in which we live out our faith in Jesus. May we ask anew what it means to be the Church in our time, our place. And as our Call Committee continues to work to call a new pastor to our congregation, may we all welcome according to your Spirit the one you may send to us to lead us at the appropriate time into the new days ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You surround us with a cloud of witnesses who announce the good news of abundant life to a sad and needy world. Make us a pilgrim people, always telling the story of your lovingkindness. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
- 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: "Little Offertory In D" E. Broughton

[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:	"How Beautiful"	Arr. Lloyd Larson
		The full harden

* 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: "Remembrance" D. F. Callender ["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 "Take My Life, that I May Be" #406 Green Hymnal
- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 - C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Jean Compton NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Diana Wise NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Jade Britcher & Braedon Walton NEXT WEEK'S LAY WORSHIP LEADER – Stephen Rodgers

<u>WELCOME</u>

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.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Rev. Erin Bovendam. We welcome her and pray God's blessing on her as she ministers to us this morning.

JUST A THOUGHT – Warren Wendel Wiersbe, American Pastor (b. 1928): The Christian life is not a playground, it is a battlefield.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY</u> <u>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 <u>sleister@gmail.com</u>.

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 <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u> for any changes or requests.

MEETING – There will be a meeting of the Call Committee and the Parish Planning Council with Pastor Craig Miller, Assistant to the Bishop, on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to share ideas, thoughts, and goals of the call process.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASS – If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to become a member of Messiah and attend the New Member Class, please let the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS – Please let the church office know if you would like your child to attend a First Communion Class and a date and time will be arranged with those who are interested.

HERSHEY PARK TICKETS – Did you want to make a trip to Hersheypark this year, but you just didn't fit it into your schedule? Messiah has Hersheypark tickets available at a discounted price of \$34.50 (tickets normally cost \$67.80). The tickets must be used on September 23rd, 29th, or 30th, since the tickets will expire September 30, 2018. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact Kate Swailes at 717-649-0820. The tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis.

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 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.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

<u>Attendance</u>		Other Funds	
Worship Service	- 71	Benevolence -	\$ 85.00
Sunday School -	320	Building Fund -	\$ 315.00
Total Offering	\$3,391.76	Sunday School	\$ 55.76
Other Funds	<u>\$ 455.76</u>	Total	\$ 455.76
General Fund	\$2,936.00		

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 SEPTEMBER: FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE AND ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, BABY WIPES, DIAPERS (SIZE 5 & 6), AND ANY KIND OF CLEANING ITEMS SUCH AS DISH SOAP, LAUNDRY SOAP, ALL PURPOSE CLEANER, ETC. WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS & GIFT CARDS.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today:	-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church. (Worship Leader: Rev. Erin Bovendam).
Monday:	-6:30 p.m., Property Committee meeting in Choir Room. -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
Tuesday:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
Wednesday:	-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal in Rearick Room.
Friday:	-NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
Sunday:	-FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY. -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class. -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Junior Church/Service of Healing. (Lay Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers).