

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059  
(717)-436-6213

**RADIO:** AM 1700

**OFFICE EMAIL:** [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [mlcmifflintown.org](http://mlcmifflintown.org)

***TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:*** *Jesus’ parable about two sons who don’t do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting 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.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059  
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister  
Andrea Cameron  
Bob St. Clair  
Randy Clark  
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed

Vicar  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

\*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

### PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE:

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Faithful God,

**C have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

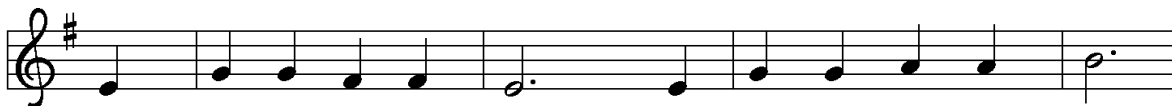
**C Amen.**

## GATHERING

- \* GATHERING HYMN “Just as I Am, without One Plea” (vss. 1 & 2) bulletin, pg. 11
- \* GREETING

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.  
C And also with you.

- \* KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

- \* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Verse Three)



- 1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (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 reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

FIRST READING.....Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What 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"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know 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. <sup>5</sup>Yet 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? <sup>6</sup>When 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. <sup>7</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>8</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>9</sup>Yet 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? <sup>10</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>11</sup>Cast 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? <sup>12</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 25:1-9

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

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

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

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

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

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

<sup>7</sup>Remember 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.

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

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

*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.....Phillippians 2:1-13

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

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*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 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

<sup>23</sup>When [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?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>25</sup>Did 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?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So 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. <sup>28</sup>What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which 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. <sup>32</sup>For 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

Vicar Sam Leister

\* HYMN OF THE DAY "Just as I Am, without One Plea" (vss. 3 & 4) bulletin, pg. 11

\* APOSTLES' CREED

**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 Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

\* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

**C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### SENDING

\* BLESSING

P Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

\* SENDING HYMN                    “Just as I Am, without One Plea”                    (vss. 5 & 6) bulletin, pg. 11

\* HOLY COMMUNION

P 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.

P 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.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P 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. Remember the poor.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!**

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**WELCOME TO ALL!**

WITH CHRIST’S LOVE AND GOD’S GRACE, we welcome all who worship at Messiah today. If you are a VISITOR or GUEST, we invite you to record your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Vicar. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Young children are also encouraged to join us in our worship experience! We are so thankful that you joined us for worship today!

FOR YOUR COMFORT, restrooms are located in the hallway through the double doors of the Adult Sunday School Room and to the left.

JUST A THOUGHT – M. F. Unger, Christian Thinker: Divine inspiration makes the Bible uniquely the Word of God and not merely a book containing the Word of God, and as such is different from any other book sacred or secular.

**CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

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 [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com). 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 [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

COPIES OF JULY 29, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

DUE TO THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND CONCERNS, the start of Sunday School at Messiah for adults and children will be delayed until further notice. The Parish Planning Council in close consultation with the Board of Christian Education will evaluate conditions and make a determination as conditions improve. Thank you for your patience and please stay safe!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

PPC MEETING will be held this evening at 6:30 p.m. with Executive meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE WILL MEET on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

CHURCH CLEANER – Since Dave Phelan has retired, Messiah is looking for a person to clean the church. It would be 10 hours a week. Hours would be flexible. Call the church office at 717-436-6213 for an application and more details.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

September 20, 2020 - Attendance 40

Total Offering	\$4,862.00
Other Funds	<u>1,992.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,870.00

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 330.00
Building Fund	1,590.00
World Hunger	50.00
Flowers	<u>22.00</u>
Total	\$1,992.00



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or [gramcynthia49@yahoo.com](mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com).

**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.

CARD SHOWER – Ona Stoner will be celebrating her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. For those who would like to send Ona a birthday greeting, her address is: 23591 Rt. 35 North, Mifflintown, PA 17059.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., 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 IS OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>. A special Blanket Sunday envelope will be included with your bulletin that Sunday for donations to Lutheran World Relief (please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA). Blankets will be delivered to the Synod Office by Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will continue to collect the following items for school kits. Items needed are:

- 70-80 SHEET NOTEBOOKS (each kit requires 4)
- 1 RULER WITH CENTIMETERS AND INCHES
- 1 PENCIL SHARPENER
- 1 PAIR OF BLUNT SCISSORS
- 5 UNSHARPENED PENCILS WITH ERASERS
- 5 BLACK OR BLUE BALLPOINT PENS (no gel pens)
- 1 BOX OF 16 OR 24 CRAYONS
- 1 2½ INCH ERASER

**COMMUNITY**

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER**

FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, SHAMPOO, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND PAIN MEDICINES, DISHWASHING SOAPS, LAUNDRY SOAP, SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS (WHILE THEY ARE ON SALE). DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPTED.

THE 48<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JUNIATA COUNTY CROP 5K FUN WALK/RUN will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Walker Township Park. Registration is at 1:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. This year's event will have a hybrid walk. Participants will be able to walk in-person at the park and will be asked to wear a mask. Register online at [www.crophungerwalk.org/mifflintownpa](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/mifflintownpa). Supporters can make their donations online if they would like.

Collection envelopes and materials are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Participants can also get a collection envelope by emailing Graham Fowler at [gfozler66@gmail.com](mailto:gfozler66@gmail.com) or by calling the Lost Creek Presbyterian Church Office at 717-463-3138. Please make checks payable to CWS/CROP. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry and Juniata County Meals-On-Wheels. For more information, go to Facebook page: Juniata Co CROP 5k Fun Walk/Run.

ON CROP WALK DAY, walkers can deliver the following needed items to the Food Pantry:

**Personal Hygiene Supplies** – toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, etc.

**Cleaning Supplies** – all-purpose cleansers, bleach, trash bags, laundry detergent, dish detergent, etc.

**Paper Products** – paper towels, toilet tissue, tissues.

**Infant Needs** – diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotions.

**Non-Perishable Food Items.**

### **PRAYER LIST**

Carole Baker  
Jane Ann Baney  
Donna Barton  
Lindsey Barton  
Bob Bell  
Nick Beward  
Joyce Bradley  
Andrea Cameron  
Pam Campbell  
Ruth Cisney  
Curtis Clark  
Terry Coder  
Leann Crimmel  
Will DeLancy  
Guy Dillman  
Fred & Dot Dowling  
Renee Dzikowski  
Neil Fisher  
Janie Fogleman  
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz  
Ed Fraker  
Bentley Fulkroad  
Joan Fulkroad  
Terri Gayer  
Edie Kay Gill  
Paul Goss

Jeanette Gross  
Beth Harris  
Harry Heikes  
Jennifer Heikes  
Sue Henderson  
Nox Hepburn  
Jason Hockenberry & Family  
Curt & Judy Houtz  
Jennifer Hutchinson  
Matt Hutchinson  
Brenda Imes  
Peggy Inch  
Denny King  
Kevin Kint  
Pam Lawson  
Carol Lyter  
Anthony Martin  
Carlen McClure  
Marilyn MaCoy  
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler  
Tammy Metz  
Ellwood Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Jim Minick  
Landon Musser  
Darve Nace

Madison Norman  
Austin Parker  
Noel Peachey  
Dave Phelan  
Butch & Sandy Pines  
Steve Pontius  
Betty Ranck  
Keith Ranck  
Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed  
Mary Sanders  
Mackenzie Shearer  
Ronald Shearer  
Mike Sparks  
Donald Speece  
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair  
Charles Stump  
Alice Swartz  
Messiah's TEEM  
Dorothy Towsey  
Rich Walters  
Erma Williamson  
Jim Woltman  
Mackenzie Wray  
Barbara Yocum  
Dorothy Zeiders  
Linda Zimmerman

### **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS**

Ray Bramm  
Ruth Cisney  
Max Ernest  
Margaret Guss  
Gail Henderson  
Mona Lawson  
Jane Marhefka  
Minnie Minick

Edith Nipple  
Esther Rhine  
Carol Simonton  
Sieber & Ona Stoner  
Ken & Kay Stuck  
Velma Suloff  
Kitty Walters  
Jim Yetter