

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15th, 2020

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Ron Yorks
Braedon Walton
Slone Smith
Kay Varner & Kim White

Vicar
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Acolyte
Offering Presenter
Altar Guild

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST November 15, 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, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C Amen.

GATHERING

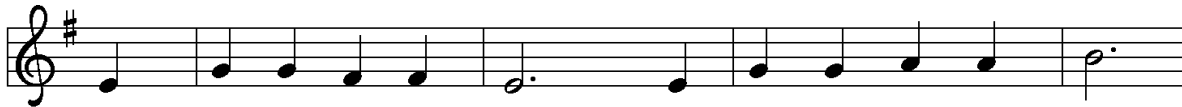
* GATHERING HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (vss. 1 & 2) bulletin, pg. 12

* 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 Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

FIRST READING.....Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:.....Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

⁸Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?]

¹²So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING.....1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Vicar Sam Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (vss. 3 & 4) bulletin, pg. 12

* APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

* 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.

* OFFERING PRESENTATION

* OFFERTORY ("Create in Me")

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN

"Let All Things Now Living"

bulletin, pg. 13

* 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 Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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 – Cecil Myers, Christian Thinker: Successful marriage is always a triangle, a man, a woman, and God.

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.

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. 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 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.

THIS MONTH'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for our local Juniata County Food Pantry. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Food Pantry. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This money comes from budgeted funds that have been unused this calendar year due to the shutdown from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF OCTOBER 25, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

A VOTERS ASSEMBLY will be held today following the worship service. Business: approval of the 2021 proposed budget and minutes of the boards.

PPC WILL MEET on Sunday, November 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee will meet (if necessary) at 6:00 p.m.

DECORATING OF THE CHURCH will take place the week of Sunday, November 29th in order to keep decorators social distanced. If any family would like to volunteer to help decorate an area of the church and have not yet been contacted, please contact Tawny Mummah. In addition, our annual Hanging of the Greens service which would normally be held on December 6th (the second Sunday of Advent) is on hold to be announced at this time due to social distancing requirements and the number of people we usually use for this service.

TENTATIVE INFORMATION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE – This year, it was decided that we would tentatively offer two services – one beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the other at 9:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The 7:00 p.m. service would be geared a bit more towards younger children, while the 9:00 p.m. service will be for older children, families, and others who choose to attend. Both services will be broadcast on Facebook Live as well as on AM 1700. Masks will still be required as well as social distancing rules. Communion will only be offered during the 9:00 p.m. service and each service will last no longer than 45 minutes. There will be NO candlelighting this year; however, congregants will be asked to shine their lights on their phones during the time we normally light the individual candles. If Covid shuts things down in our area around this time, we will turn to a complete, single, remote service at 7:00 p.m. which will be broadcast on Facebook Live and AM 1700....plus we will try to send out a Zoom link to everyone.

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.

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.

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.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Tuesday, November 17th.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

November 8, 2020 - Attendance 44

Total Offering	\$3,047.80
Other Funds	<u>467.80</u>
General Fund	\$2,580.00

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 145.00
Building Fund	175.00
Disaster Relief	10.00
Food Pantry	90.00
Flowers	7.80
Parish Fellowship Meals	<u>40.00</u>
Total	\$ 468.80

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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – We are sponsoring 6 children this year. The sign-up chart for the gifts that are needed is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are due at the church by December 6th, wrapped or bagged with a name tag that includes the child’s name and number on the tag.

THE CURRENT TOTAL FOR BLANKET SUNDAY OFFERINGS stands at \$730.00. Additional donations will be received until the end of November.

COMMUNITY

Again this year the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and **YOU** to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive, please give generously. If you can help us to begin stockpiling the foods listed below, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 400 meals for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas.

FOOD PANTRY HOLIDAY MEAL DONATION NEEDS

(These are the foods that are hard for us to get), Turkeys, Turkey Breasts, Hams (3-5 lbs.), canned Sweet Potatoes, and Fruit Cocktail. A donation of \$20 will purchase one complete meal!

PRAYER LIST

Carole Baker
Jane Ann Baney
Donna Barton
Lindsey Barton
Nick Beward
Joyce Bradley
Andrea Cameron
Pam Campbell
(Family of Melvin 'Chip'
Cashman)
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
Amy Hart

Beth Harris
Harry Heikes
Jennifer Heikes
Sue Henderson
Nox Hepburn
Jason Hockenberry & Family
Curt & Judy Houtz
Jennifer Hutchinson
Matt Hutchinson
Brenda Imes
Peggy Inch
Doc Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
Denny King
Kevin Kint
Darvin Krouse
Pam Lawson
Gwen Swisher Lewis
Carol Lyter
Anthony Martin
Carlen McClure
Marilyn McCoy
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler
Messiah's TEEM
Cecilia Miller
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
Gabriel Sweeney (great-
grandson of Neil & Pat Fisher)
Dorothy Towsey
Rich Walters
Todd Wert
Erma Williamson
Jim Woltman
Mackenzie Wray
Family of Barbara Yocum
Dorothy Zeiders
George Zimmerman
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