

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *Thankoffering Sunday Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost*

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
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***LIGHT THE WAY FOR JUSTICE,  
LIGHT THE WAY FOR LOVE***

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister  
Deb Hackenberger  
Andrea Cameron  
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Cynthia Smith  
Hannah Ehrisman  
Haley Mumma  
Kay Varner & Kim White

Vicar  
Lay Leader  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Acolyte  
Offering Presenter  
Altar Guild

## THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

November 8, 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.]

### GATHERING

\* GATHERING HYMN “O God of Every Nation” bulletin, pg. 12

\* 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.**

\* THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C Amen.**

P Joined to Christ in the waters of Baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gracious gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)**

**P** Let us pray...

**C O God of justice and love, you light our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

FIRST READING.....Micah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the Lord Says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to You? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**L:** Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 15 (responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, who speaks the truth from his heart,**  
<sup>3</sup>there is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In his sight the wicked is rejected, but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>He has sworn to do no wrong and does not take back his word.

<sup>6</sup>**He does not give his money in hope of gain, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

<sup>7</sup>**Whoever does these things shall never be overthrown.**

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (NRSV)

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL.....Matthew 5:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

SERMON

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Christ, Be Our Light"

Deb Hackenberger  
(vss. 1-3) bulletin, pg. 13

\* 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 Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the renewal of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

P We pray, holy God, for the unity of the church universal: Draw your people together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ to carry out his holy mission, together sharing the good news of your justice and love wherever we are sent.

**C Christ, be our light.**

P We pray, omnipotent God, for the well-being of creation: We give you thanks for transforming the chaotic waters of creation into the saving waters that nourish and sustain all the earth. Renew us every day by your water and your word.

**C Christ, be our light.**

P We pray, righteous God, for peace and justice in the world: Lead the nations of the world away from the stony wilderness of sin, and toward the holy light of love, justice, and peace.

**C Christ, be our light.**

P We pray, compassionate God, for all in need: For those who hunger and thirst for peace, for belonging, for love, for righteousness, shine your light of justice. For those who mourn or suffer in any way, shine your light of comfort.

**C Christ, be our light.**

P We pray, faithful God, for the renewal of all life: Refresh us with your living water and anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Embolden us with your promise and your presence.

**C Christ, be our light.**

P Receive our thanksgiving, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith. May we know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom.

**C Christ, be our light.**

P All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

\* 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 ('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,

C God of grace, you have showered us with gifts of grace and abundance, entrusting to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness In the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied. Amen.

**SENDING**

\* BLESSING

P Our God calls us to do justice. May you find strength in God's grace.

C Amen.

P Christ Jesus calls us to love kindness. May you find comfort in Christ's gentleness.

C Amen.

P The Holy Spirit calls us to walk humbly with our triune God. May you always find joy in God's love and justice.

C Amen.

P Holy Trinity + One God, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

\* SENDING HYMN

"Christ, Be Our Light"

(vss. 4 & 5) 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.**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray,

We thank you, gracious God, for loving all your family with a mother's care, and feeding us in a way our hearts and souls can understand, with the saving body and blood of Jesus Christ. Renew and enliven us by your presence in this meal, that we may be your presence in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

\* DISMISSAL

P Rejoice and be glad in the light of God's love! Let us go forth in peace to share the good news.

**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.

TODAY IS OUR ANNUAL WELCA THANKOFFERING CELEBRATION – A special thanks to the Messiah Women of the ELCA for organizing our worship service and to all who participated. All loose offering received plus all the Thankoffering envelopes that are included with your bulletin today will go to the churchwide Women of the ELCA for their many projects. Extra envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please make checks payable to "Messiah Women of the ELCA." Thank you for your generosity.

AS WE MAKE OUR THANKOFFERINGS TODAY, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would act together as "cent" or "mite" societies. Each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of

congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with the hope for all that is to come, let us now give our Thankoffering.

JUST A THOUGHT – Jonathan Edwards, Preacher and Theologian (1703 – 1758): Love is the sum of all virtue, and life disposes us to do good.

### **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).

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 SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

A VOTERS ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2020 following the worship service. Business: approval of the 2021 proposed budget and minutes of the boards.

PPC WILL MEET on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> (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.

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.

**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](mailto:gramcynthia49@yahoo.com).

**WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:**

November 1, 2020 - Attendance 41

Total Offering	\$2,636.00
Other Funds	<u>115.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,521.00

<u>Other Funds</u>	
Benevolence	\$ 40.00
Building Fund	<u>75.00</u>
Total	\$ 115.00

**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.

THE NEXT MESSIAH WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT – We will be sponsoring 6 children this year. The sign-up chart for the gifts that are needed will be on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette soon. Gifts will be due at the church in early December, 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	Beth Harris	Madison Norman
Jane Ann Baney	Harry Heikes	Austin Parker
Donna Barton	Jennifer Heikes	Noel Peachey
Lindsey Barton	Sue Henderson	Dave Phelan
Nick Beward	Nox Hepburn	Butch & Sandy Pines
Joyce Bradley	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Steve Pontius
Andrea Cameron	Curt & Judy Houtz	Betty Ranck
Pam Campbell	Jennifer Hutchinson	Keith Ranck
Ruth Cisney	Matt Hutchinson	Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed
Curtis Clark	Brenda Imes	Mary Sanders
Terry Coder	Peggy Inch	Mackenzie Shearer
Leann Crimmel	Denny King	Ronald Shearer
Will DeLancy	Kevin Kint	Mike Sparks
Guy Dillman	Darvin Krouse	Donald Speece
Fred & Dot Dowling	Pam Lawson	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Renee Dzikowski	Gwen Swisher Lewis	Charles Stump
Neil Fisher	Carol Lyter	Alice Swartz
Janie Fogleman	Anthony Martin	Messiah's TEEM
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Carlen McClure	Dorothy Towsey
Ed Fraker	Marilyn McCoy	Rich Walters
Bentley Fulkroad	Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler	Erma Williamson
Joan Fulkroad	Cecilia Miller	Jim Woltman
Terri Gayer	Ellwood Miller	Mackenzie Wray
Edie Kay Gill	Larry Miller	Barbara Yocum
Paul Goss	Shirley Miller	Dorothy Zeiders
Jeanette Gross	Jim Minick	George Zimmerman
Amy Hart	Landon Musser	Linda Zimmerman
	Darve Nace	

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

Ray Bramm	Edith Nipple
Ruth Cisney	Esther Rhine
Max Ernest	Carol Simonton
Margaret Guss	Sieber & Ona Stoner
Gail Henderson	Ken & Kay Stuck
Mona Lawson	Velma Suloff
Jane Marhefka	Kitty Walters
Minnie Minick	Jim Yetter