"Growing God's Kingdom"



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 1st, 2023 **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR 3 SOUTH THIRD STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

PASTOR EMAIL: mlcsleister@gmail.com

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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

Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Hannah Ehrisman
Brea Beward & Paige Martin
Silas Smith, Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed
Barb Geedey

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild
Manna Bread Baker

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST October 1, 2023 – 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.]

* BLESSING FOR BLANKET SUNDAY

- L Gracious God, as we present these gifts of our hearts and hands; quilts and personal care kits, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all the people of God.
- C We celebrate being the children of God.
- L We give thanks for the variety of gifts needed for these quilts and personal care kits, and the talents of the hands that sewed the quilts and the patience of those who filled and assembled the personal care kits. We also give thanks for the time donated by those who deliver the quilts and kits to their pick-up point.
- C We celebrate generosity.
- L We give thanks for the fellowship of all those who work together on our projects, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of doing something with our hands and hearts for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.
- C We celebrate community.
- L We send the quilts, and personal care kits as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives, trusting that these gifts will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of disaster and fear, a symbol of God's love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved

child of God. May the gifts serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient and may it be a step in recovering one's life and be a message of caring from someone they may never meet.

- C We celebrate hope in the midst of life's trials.
- L We remember those who have received our gifts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability.
- C We celebrate the gift of life.
- L We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need. Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are joined together in the unity of one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#481 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 (C- sung)
 - P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 - C Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE ("Lord God, Heavenly King" – In Unison)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



- * SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)
 - P The Lord be with you.
 - C And also with you.
- * 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.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

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

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember 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.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You 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......Philippians 2:1-13

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

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.

- - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON Pastor Leister Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Just as I Am, without One Plea"

#296 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

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 Merciful God,
 - C receive our prayer.
- * PEACE
 - P The peace of Christ be with you always.
 - C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG 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.

- * OFFERING PRAYER
 - P God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ our Savior.
 - C 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 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.

C Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

* LAMB OF GOD (SUNG)

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

DISTRIBUTION

["At the Chancel Rail" – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in your seat for communion)

* 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 Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.
- C Amen.

SENDING

- * BLESSING
 - P The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
 - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)
- * SENDING HYMN

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

#327 Green Hymnal

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. God is at work in you. C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR -

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES -

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS -

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD - Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed (9/25/23 - 10/22/23)

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in

JUST A THOUGHT – Henry Edward Manning, Catholic Archbishop of Westminster (1808 – 1892): A priest ought to be in no place where his Master would not go, nor employed in anything which his Master would not do.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

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

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.

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 Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

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.

SEPTEMBER'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for Lutheran Disaster. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Lutheran Disaster to continue assisting in the effort to serve the needs of our community. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

BIBLE STUDY WILL CONTINUE on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will be studying the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Anyone is welcome to attend.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES – 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 Pastor Sam or the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

FIRST COMMUNION – Please let Pastor Sam or 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.

MESSIAH'S PPC has purchased two AED'S (Automatic Electronic Defibrillators) along with upgraded first aid products for the Fellowship Hall and the main worship area. The estimated cost is approximately \$3,000. We are all given the opportunity to contribute to the purchase of these life-saving devices. There is a chart showing envelopes with numbers on them in the Adult Sunday School Room. The number is the amount of a contribution you can make to help with this purchase. Please take an envelope and return it when you come to church.

A YOUTH PLANNING MEETING will be held on Sunday, October 8th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's to plan and outline details of a work camp in Virginia from June 23-29, 2024 and the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 16-20, 2024. The age requirement is that youth must be <u>13</u> by June 23 to attend the work camp and youth who are now in grades <u>8 through 12</u> for the Youth Gathering. Please plan to attend if you are going to **BOTH**, if you are going to one or the other, **AND** if you **might be interested in going but are not sure!!**

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH Parish Planning Council met on September 10th in a special session. Our Treasurer has submitted her resignation. Carolyn explained that changes in her job duties at the Pennsylvania Treasury Department will make it difficult to continue as our Treasurer. Her resignation becomes effective as of September 15th. Council members received the resignation with regret and expressed thanks to Carolyn for her service. She has agreed to continue with the payroll and taxes until the end of the year. Plans were made to handle the offerings in the interim. Council members (2-3 members working together) will tally the monies received and make deposits. The Executive Committee of council will write checks and pay the bills. Council will begin a search for a church treasurer. According to our constitution our treasurer will need to be a member of the congregation. Members will continue to be informed of our progress through email, bulletins, newsletter, and announcements at our services. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this church position, or have any questions regarding the treasurer position, please contact Marylou Hazard, Nick Beward, or Jean Berry (our church Executive Council).

Official Announcement to the Messiah Lutheran Church Congregation:

- Sunday, September 10, 2023, marks the first official notice that the Parish Planning Council has approved and recommends for adoption the proposed amendments to the Church's Constitution and Bylaws as prepared by Tawny Mummah and Larry Wise. The amended version is based on the Upper Susquehanna Synod's model constitution with some alterations made to accommodate our Messiah Lutheran PPC operating structure. This proposed version has been developed over the past three years in full cooperation with and approval by Bishop Miller of the U.S.S. Copies are available both online and in the Adult Sunday School room. Please direct all questions to either Larry or Tawny.
- On Sunday, October 15, 2023, a congregational meeting will be held with the purpose to adopt the amendments by a majority of those members voting.
- On Sunday, November 26, 2023, at the annual congregational meeting, ratification vote will be conducted. A two-thirds majority of those members voting is required for this final ratification.

Should the new constitution and bylaws be ratified then on Monday, November 27, 2023, it will be submitted to the Synod and a 120-day waiting period will begin. If the Synod raises no concerns with the ratified constitution and bylaws then it will become effective on March 26, 2024.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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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.
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WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Shelter Service, Inc. in Lewistown:

--Laundry Detergent
 --Shaving Cream
 --Shampoo
 --Dryer Sheets
 --Deodorant
 --Body Wash

Please place items in the Adult Sunday School Room in the container provided.

ITEMS BEING COLLECTED FOR SCHOOL KITS (during August and September).

- --four (70-80 sheet) spiral notebooks—wide or college-ruled
- --1-30 centimeter/inch ruler
- -- 1 pair of blunt scissors
- -- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens
- -- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves 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.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:

CANNED BEETS, CANNED POTATOES, CANNED PINEAPPLE, SHAMPOO, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND PAIN MEDICINES, DISHWASHING SOAPS AND LAUNDRY SOAP, AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS WHILE THEY ARE ON SALE

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK will be held on Sunday, October 8th at Walker Township Park. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. The event will be 7 laps around the park. Twenty-five percent of pledge money will go to the Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels.

THE 2023 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA will be held on Sunday, December 17th at Messiah (time to be announced). The first rehearsal will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 15th and a make-up date on Wednesday evening, October 18th also at Messiah (time to be announced). Watch bulletins for more details.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.

Monday: -6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room.

-7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.

Tuesday: -10:30 a.m. Bible Study in the Library area.

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

-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal in sanctuary.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik Jeremy Barnes Ryan Barr Donna Barton Gary Bechtold Dan Brackbill Linda Brouse Family of Dan Brown Andrea Cameron Terry Coder Rob Davis Kim Dumais Freda Durio Cathy Dysinger Renee Dzikowski Neil & Pat Fisher Kevin Fetterhoof Jane Fogleman Bentley Fulkroad Terri Gaver Deb Geedey Bob & Eddi Kay Gill

Sheree Goss

Sylva Grimm Fred Gross Dave Hart & Family Nox Hepburn Judy Hosler Erin Husler Terry Imes Annie Ingle Guy Kerstetter Jesse Kint Michael Lozano Anthony Martin Carlen McClure Alice McClure Cecilia Miller Ellwood Miller Larry Miller Shirley Miller Claire Mummah Paul Ogden Donna Parks Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine

Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Kellev Rusenko Ron & Arlene Shearer Joyce & Todd Spangler Barry Strawser Vicki Suoja Tonya Tabb Dorothy Towsey Molly Ulsh Doug Wagner Roscoe Warner Florence Williams Heidi Woltman Jim Woltman Gary Zeiders Paul Zeiders George Zimmerman Linda Zimmerman

Betty Ranck

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- --Jane Marhefka Brookline Retirement Village, 92 Village Drive, Mifflintown, PA 17059
- --Rich Smith Magnolia Personal Care Center, 68 Lexi St., Mifflintown, PA 17059
- --Ray Bramm Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- --Ruth Cisney Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- --Edith Nipple 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059
- --Ona Stoner William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044