

# *“Growing God’s Kingdom”*



## *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

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

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

***TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:*** *In today’s second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus’ challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God’s boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.*

# Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister  
Andrea Cameron  
Bob St. Clair  
Diana Wise  
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed

Vicar  
Choir Director  
Organist  
Lector  
Altar Guild

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 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

“God’s Work, Our Hands”

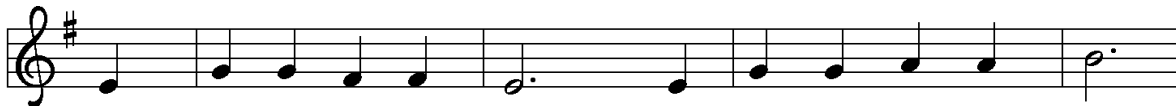
(vss. 1 & 2) Bulletin, page 11

\* 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 Two)



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 **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.**

**Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

FIRST READING.....Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 103: [1-7] 8-13

[<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

**<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.]

**<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

**<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

SECOND READING.....Romans 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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.

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

\* GOSPEL.....Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C **Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. <sup>23</sup>For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts

with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Vicar Sam Leister

\* 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                      “God’s Work, Our Hands”                      (vss. 3 & 4) Bulletin, page 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 – David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Welsh Protestant Minister, Preacher, and Doctor (1899 – 1981): A man’s God is that for which he lives, for which he is prepared to give his time, his energy, his money, that which stimulates him and rouses him, excites, and enthuses him.

## **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.

FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEND A CARD to Alice Swartz who is recuperating from a fall, her address is: 23642 Rt. 35 N., Mifflintown, PA 17059.

CARD SHOWER – One of our members, Minnie Minick, will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 21. For those who would like to send Minnie a birthday greeting, her address is: Minnie Minick, 187 Jam House Road, Mifflin, PA 17058.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin this Fall for students entering grade 7 and above. Please notify the church office at 717-436-6213 (email) [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) or Vicar Sam Leister at 717-436-8589 (email) [sleister@gmail.com](mailto:sleister@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend the class.

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



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

PPC MEETING will be held on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. with Executive meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> immediately following the worship service.

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.

### **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

### **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.

### **WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:**

September 6, 2020 - Attendance 41

Total Offering	\$3,507.00
Other Funds	<u>1,110.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,397.00

<u>Other Funds</u>	
Benevolence	\$ 75.00
Building Fund	<u>1,035.00</u>
Total	\$1,110.00

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.

**PRAYER LIST**

Carole Baker	Paul Goss	Darve Nace
Jane Ann Baney	Jeanette Gross	Madison Norman
Donna Barton	Beth Harris	Austin Parker
Lindsey Barton	Harry Heikes	Noel Peachey
Bob Bell	Jennifer Heikes	Dave Phelan
Nick Beward	Sue Henderson	Butch & Sandy Pines
Joyce Bradley	Nox Hepburn	Steve Pontius
Andrea Cameron	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Betty Ranck
Pam Campbell	Curt & Judy Houtz	Keith Ranck
Ruth Cisney	Jennifer Hutchinson	Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed
Curtis Clark	Matt Hutchinson	Mary Sanders
Terry Coder	Brenda Imes	Mackenzie Shearer
Leann Crimmel	Peggy Inch	Ronald Shearer
Will DeLancy	Denny King	Mike Sparks
Guy Dillman	Kevin Kint	Donald Speece
Fred & Dot Dowling	Pam Lawson	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Renee Dzikowski	Carol Lyter	Alice Swartz
Neil Fisher	Carlen McClure	Messiah's TEEM
Janie Fogleman	Marilyn MaCoy	Dorothy Towsey
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler	Rich Walters
Ed Fraker	Tammy Metz	Erma Williamson
Bentley Fulkroad	Ellwood Miller	Jim Woltman
Joan Fulkroad	Larry Miller	Mackenzie Wray
Terri Gayer	Shirley Miller	Barbara Yocum
Edie Kay Gill	Jim Minick	Dorothy Zeiders
	Landon Musser	Linda Zimmerman

**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

## **GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS** *(to the tune of “Earth and All Stars”)*

- (1) God’s work, our hands: working together, building a future, repairing the world, raising up homes, planting new gardens, feeding the hungry and sheltering the cold. Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel.
- (2) God’s work, our feet: traveling together, following Jesus to places unknown, walking as friends, marching for freedom, running the race with God’s future the goal. Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way, sharing the good news of your Gospel.
- (3) God’s work, our voice: singing together, praising, proclaiming to all who will hear, praying for peace, shouting for justice, claiming God’s love for the lost and the least. Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name, sharing the good news of your Gospel.
- (4) God is at work in and around us: seedlings are sprouting and bread’s on the rise! Washed and set free, humbled and honored, gifted by grace, we respond in God’s love. Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call, sharing the good news of your Gospel.

*Text: Wayne L. Wold*

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