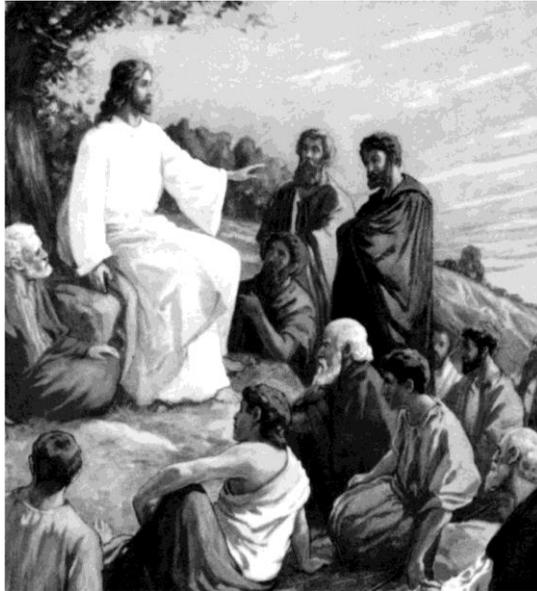


“Growing God’s Kingdom”



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Service of Healing

January 31st, 2021

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

RADIO: AM 1700

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Bob St. Clair
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner

Vicar
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY SERVICE OF HEALING January 31, 2021 – 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, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

bulletin, pg. 12

* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

* KYRIE (spoken responsively)

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (In Unison)

Come, Let Us Join



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow’r di - vine;
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

FIRST READING.....Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again

see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:.....Psalm 111 (**responsively**)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your

knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)



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.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

* GOSPEL.....Mark 1:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

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

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Vicar Leister

* HYMN OF THE DAY "He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!" (vss. 1-2) bulletin, pg. 13

* 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 (Prayers read by Worship Leader)

P let us pray.

C Have mercy, O God.

THE RITE OF HEALING

Those who sense the need for God's healing in any aspect of their lives may receive the gift of prayer. This sign, first given in baptism, tells us again that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and may be marked forever with the cross of Christ, who is health and salvation for the whole world.

In its ministry of healing, the church does not replace the gifts of God that come through the scientific community, nor does it promise a cure. The church offers and celebrates gifts such as these: God's presence with strength and comfort in time of suffering, God's promise of wholeness and peace, and God's love embodied in the community of faith.

P Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

P Let us pray,

Loving God, we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth, for our human bodies and all you have created. In your great mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, by the wounds of your Son we are healed. Bring your saving health to all people. In your great mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Restoring God, your Son Jesus brought the gift of healing and wholeness. Bring your healing presence now to all who are in any distress. In your great mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, source of human knowledge, give skill, wisdom, and compassion to all who provide medical care. In your great mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sustaining God, give gentleness and courage to family members, friends, and caregivers of all who are suffering. In your great mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of great and abundant mercy, with your presence sustain all for whom we pray; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** PRAYER OF COMMITMENT & BLESSING OF HEALING (for all)**

P Living God, grant comfort to all those in suffering. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore our sure defense, and help us to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, 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

*** SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN “He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!” (vss. 3-4) bulletin, pg. 13

* HOLY COMMUNION

P Beloved: here is bread; here is wine. Here is Jesus. Come and be fed.

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 Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.

C Amen.

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

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

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WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – Walter Elwell, et. Al, Contemporary Author: The fact that a remnant survives emphasizes both the grace of God and the dawning of a new age and a new community.

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.

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Esther Rhine, who passed away on January 23, 2021 at Locust Grove Retirement Village. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

FEBRUARY’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will continue to be for our local missions, specifically the Central Juniata EMS. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to CJEMS. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This idea was born when budgeted funds were unused during the 2020 calendar year due to the shutdowns from the Covid-19 Pandemic. 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.

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

THE 2021 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available to pick up in the Library. Please pick them up before or after Sunday morning services or contact the church office to make arrangements to pick yours up in the office. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2020 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

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.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

January 17, 2021 Attendance – 19

Total Offering	\$5,080.41
Other Funds	<u>1,610.00</u>
General Fund	\$3,470.41

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 90.00
Building Fund	20.00
Meals-On-Wheels	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
Total	\$1,610.00

January 24, 2021 Attendance – 19

Total Offering	\$3,975.00
Other Funds	<u>485.00</u>
General Fund	\$3,490.00

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 100.00
Building Fund	100.00
Memorial Fund	85.00
Meals-On-Wheels	100.00
Food Pantry	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$ 485.00

Current amounts collected so far for January missions:

Meals-On-Wheels	\$1,650.00
Food Pantry	\$ 100.00

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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed for the annual Synod Assembly on June 19, 2021 (virtually on zoom). If you are interested in serving, please contact Vicar Leister or the church office.

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.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, ANY CLEANING ITEM. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

PRAYER LIST

Shirley Aumiller
Tyson Aurand
Carole Baker
Donna Barton
Lindsey Barton
Gary Bechtold
Julie Berryman
Nick Beward
Roxanne Boyer
Charlotte Burd
Andrea Cameron
Pam Campbell
Ruth Cisney
Curtis Clark
Randy Clark
Terry Coder
Jean Compton
Leann Crimmel
Will DeLancy
Guy Dillman
Fred & Dot Dowling
Renee Dzikowski
Neil Fisher
Janie Fogleman
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz
Bentley Fulkroad
Joan Fulkroad
Michal Gayer
Terri Gayer

Ken Geedey
Eddi Kay Gill
Paul Goss
Amy Hart
Beth Harris
Harry & Jennifer Heikes
Sue Henderson
Ken Henry
Nox Hepburn
Jason Hockenberry & Family
Curt & Judy Houtz
Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson
Brenda Imes
Annie Ingle
Doc Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
Denny King
Darvin Krouse
Pam Lawson
Carol Lyter
Anthony Martin
Carlen McClure
Charlie, Amanda, & Isabel Meinsler
Messiah's TEEM
Cecilia Miller
Ellwood Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Jim Minick
Claire Mumamah

Landon Musser
Carole Nace
Darve Nace
Austin Parker
Noel Peachey
Dave Phelan
Butch & Sandy Pines
Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Matt, Amy & Olivia Reed
Family of Esther Rhine
Mackenzie Shearer
Ronald Shearer
Bobby & Eva Sieber
Mike Sparks
Donald Speece
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Charles Stump
Alice Swartz
Dorothy Towsey
Rich Walters
Dr. Glen Webb
Todd Wert
Erma Williamson
Jim Woltman
Mackenzie Wray
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
Carol Simonton
Sieber & Ona Stoner
Ken Stuck
Kitty Walters

In Christ There Is No East or West

359

C G7 C F7 Bb F C F Am Dm7 G7 C

1 In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north,
2 In him shall true hearts ev - 'ry-where Their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands then, broth - ers of the faith, What - e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, In him meet south and north;

Am C Am C G9 C G7 C F C G7 C

But one great fel - low - ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
His ser - vice is the gold - en cord Close - bind - ing all man - kind.
Who serves my Fa - ther as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
All Christ - ly souls are one in him Through - out the whole wide earth.

Am C Am C G9 C G7 C F C G7 C

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941
Tune: Negro spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

MCKEE
CM

501 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!

1 He lead-eth me: oh, bless-ed thought! Oh, words with heav'n-ly com-fort fraught!
 2 Some-times mid scenes of deep-est gloom, Some-times where E-den's bow-ers bloom,
 3 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, Nor ev - er mur-mur nor re - pine;
 4 And when my task on earth is done, When by thy grace the vic-t'ry's won,

What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 By wa - ters calm, o'er trou-bled sea, Still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 Con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, Since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
 E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me, By his own hand he lead - eth me.

His faith - ful fol - l'wer I would be, For by his hand he lead - eth me.

*Text: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1834-1918, alt.
 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868*

HE LEADETH ME
 LMD