

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9th, 2021

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

RADIO: AM 1700

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Andrea Cameron
Tawny Mummah & Tammy Smith
Gabby Reed
Nick Reed

Vicar
Organist
Lay Worship Leader & Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolyte
Offering Ushers

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 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.]

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN “All Creatures of Our God and King” (vss. 1-2) bulletin, pgs. 12-13

* GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” -- In Unison)

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
 we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98 (*responsively*)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

²O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁵Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the world with righteousness

and the peoples with equity.

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

SECOND READING 1 John 5:1-6

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

*** GOSPEL** John 15:9-17

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

[Jesus said:] ⁹"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

SERMON

Andrea Cameron

*** HYMN OF THE DAY** "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vss. 3-5) bulletin, pgs. 12-13

*** 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**

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* **SUNG 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 God of love,
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.**

C Amen.

SENDING

* **BLESSING**

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* **SENDING HYMN** "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vss. 6-7) bulletin, pgs. 12-13

* **HOLY COMMUNION**

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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 With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P We praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to the entire world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen.

* DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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

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WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – Bruce Kemper, College President: Each of us, as members of the Body of Christ, has been given at least one spiritual gift.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Andrea Cameron an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations.

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.

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.

COPIES OF JANUARY 13, 2021 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

ANYONE WITH CHILDREN entering 6th grade or higher in the fall of 2021 who would like to register their child for the upcoming confirmation class (and is not already registered) are asked to contact Vicar Leister or the church office.

MAY’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for our local Summer Backpack Program held annually at the Juniata County Food Pantry. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Food Pantry for this cause. 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.

OUR WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE AT MESSIAH has begun talks about possibly changing the starting times of all Sunday services to an earlier time. Discussion centered around possibly starting services at 10 AM at the beginning of 2022, with the Sunday School hour then being adjusted as well. *HOWEVER*, we need your input!! Is 10 AM a time which would seem a good time to have all Sunday services? (Please remember that we now have air conditioning in our building. The lack of A/C in the past was a huge reason why we started having summer services at 9:15 AM). What do *YOU* think about a 10 AM start time? Would you prefer another, earlier time? What time would you like to see the Sunday School “portion” of the morning to begin?? Again, *WE NEED YOUR INPUT!* Please take the time to talk to any of our Worship & Music Committee members – Vicar Sam, Bob St. Clair, Diana Wise, Michelle Stoner, Andrea Cameron, or Jamie Miller – and share any ideas you may have concerning our start time in 2022. Remember, whatever time is selected will be that same start time all year round. But, as you may have heard, ***WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!*** Reach out to one of the committee members today!

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

April 25, 2021 Attendance – 43

Total Offering	\$2,760.00
Other Funds	<u>265.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,495.00

<u>Other Funds</u>	
Building Fund	40.00
Memorial Fund	145.00
Benevolence	<u>80.00</u>
Total	\$ 265.00

May 2, 2021 Attendance – 51

Total Offering	\$4,876.00
Other Funds	<u>1,995.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,881.00

<u>Other Funds</u>	
Benevolence	\$ 160.00
Back Pack Program	50.00
Building Fund	1,435.00
Memorial Fund	300.00
Summer Camp	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$1,995.00

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.

SUMMER SERVICES WILL BEGIN on Sunday, June 6th at 9:15 a.m. Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services will resume on Sunday, September 5th.

THE NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE for July, 2021 through June, 2022 will be completed soon. We are currently in need of more people to serve on Altar Guild, as a few of our long-serving members are no longer able to help. If you would like to serve or have any changes you would like to make, please contact Diana Wise. All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE for July, 2021 through June, 2022 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER – Kate Swailes is serving as our congregation’s camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. She has information on programs for the summer. If you have additional questions, you can contact her or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. Since our congregation has a camperson, each camper from our church will receive Camel Bucks from Kate for use at the camp store this summer! Campers who attended camp at Mount Luther in the past should have already received the camp brochures in the mail (additional brochures are available in the Adult Sunday School Room). For more information on Camp Mount Luther or to print the camp registration form, visit www.campmountluther.org. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther. Because Camp Mount Luther is accepting a lower number of campers this summer, Chad Hershberger recommends that families register their campers as soon as possible. Registration will not be accepted within the two weeks prior to each camp week.

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, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, ALL-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -7:00 p.m., AA in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Thursday:** -7:00 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.

PRAYER LIST

Shirley Aumiller
Donna Barton
Donna Bell
Andy Berrier
Roxanne Boyer
Wanda Boyer
Dan Brown
Charlotte Burd
Andrea Cameron
Pam Campbell
Dan Carlin
Curtis Clark
Randy Clark
Terry Coder
Leann Crimmel
Will DeLancy
Fred & Dot Dowling
Renee Dzikowski
Tom Ernest
Neil & Pat Fisher
Janie Fogleman
Bentley Fulkroad
Joan Fulkroad
Michal Gayer
Terri Gayer
Eddi Kay Gill
Sam & Diane Goshorn

Paul Goss
Amy Hart
Beth Harris
Harry & Jennifer Heikes
Sue Henderson
Ken Henry
Nox Hepburn
Curt & Judy Houtz
Dean Hutchinson
Brenda Imes
Annie Ingle
Doc Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
Denny King
Darvin Krouse
Pam Lawson
Vicar Sam Leister
Michael Lozano
Carol Lyter
Zaden Mabey
Anthony Martin
Carlen McClure
Alice McClure
Isabel Meinsler
Messiah Mutual Ministry
Cecilia Miller
Ellwood Miller

Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Jim Minick
Claire Mummah
Ken Mummah
Darve Nace
Austin Parker
Noel Peachey
Rick & Audrey Peters
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Dave Phelan
Butch & Sandy Pines
Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Mike Rhoades
Ronald & Arlene Shearer
Mike Sparks
Andy Spigelmyer
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Dorothy Towsey
Rich Walters
Erma Williamson
Jim Woltman
Mackenzie Wray
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

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All Creatures of Our God and King

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice with
 2 O rush-ing wind and breez-es soft, O clouds that ride the
 3 O flow-ing wa-ters, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for your
 4 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day Un-folds rich bless-ings

us and sing: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 winds a - loft: Oh, . . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord to hear. Oh, . . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!
 on our way, Oh, . . . praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!

O burn-ing sun with gold-en beam And sil-ver moon
 O ris-ing morn, in praise re-joice, O lights of eve-
 O fire so mas-ter-ful and bright, Pro-vid-ing us
 The fruits and flow'rs that ver-dant grow, Let them his praise

Refrain

with soft-er gleam:
 ning, find a voice. Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
 with warmth and light,
 a - bun-dant show.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 O ev'ryone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part,
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 All you who pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and lay on him your care. *Refrain*
- 6 And you, most kind and gentle death,
 Waiting to hush our final breath,
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 You lead to heav'n the child of God,
 Where Christ our Lord the way has trod. *Refrain*
- 7 Let all things their Creator bless
 And worship God in humbleness.
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One, *Refrain*