Service of Ordination and Installation

of Samuel J. Leister

to the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Upper Susquehanna Synod

of the

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Messiah Lutheran Church 3 South Third Street Mifflintown, Pennsylvania 17059 Sunday, July 3, 2022 [—] 3:00 p.m.

Service of Holy Communion with a Rite of Ordination And Service of Installation

PRELUDE: Selected hymns

GATHERING SONG: Lift High the Cross

*(please stand as you are able)



5 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

© Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956 © Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

CRUCIFER 10 10 10 10

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

B: Gracious God, who has named and claimed us, calling us your beloved children, you know the secrets of our hearts. When we sin and stray from your paths, you astound us with your saving grace. For this Word of life,

C: we give you thanks.

B: Loving Jesus, living Word, in you the Kingdom of God has come near; through you all that was lost has been found. Help us to boldly follow wherever you may lead, trusting your promise that we need not fear, for you are with us.

For this Word of life,

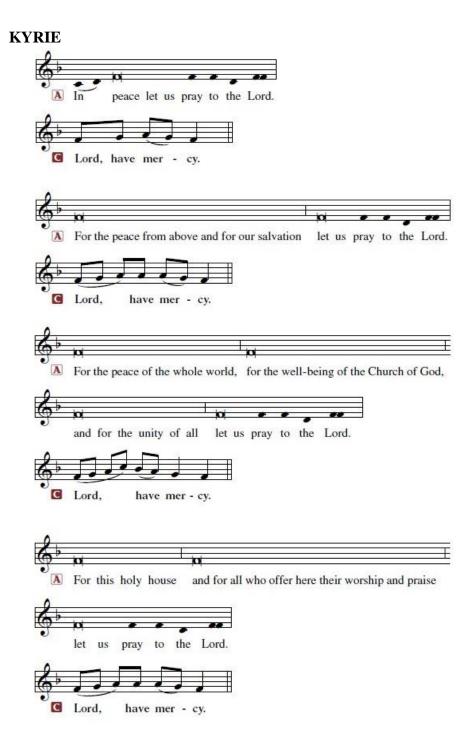
- C: we give you thanks.
- B: Holy Spirit, the mystery in which we dwell, into our scarcity, your abundance flows. Enliven all communities with your good news. Guide us to love and serve Jesus, giving ourselves away for the sake of the world.

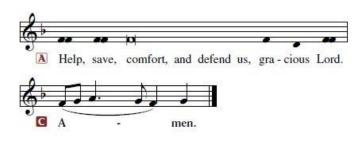
For this Word of life,

- C: we give you thanks.
- B: All glory to you, holy God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

B: 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**





PRAYER OF THE DAY

B: Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and you instituted the office of the ministry of word and sacrament so that the apostolic and prophetic work might continue throughout the ages. Grant that Samuel Joseph Leister, now to be ordained, may carry out this ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: Amen

(The assembly is seated)

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

1Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. 2At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; 3the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. 4Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" 5and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. 6The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not called me." But he said, "I did not called me." But he said, "I did not called me." But he said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. 8The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. 9Therefore Eli said to

Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' " So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

- 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion for his children,

so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

- 14 For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.
- 15 As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.
- 17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting

Second Reading: Acts 9: 1-15

1 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." 11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*(please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John20: 28:19-22 and John 14:27

B: The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

B: The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th Chapter

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

B: The Holy Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(The assembly is seated)

SERMON The Reverend Barbara Collins, Bishop - Upper Susquehanna Synod



Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946 Music: Daniel L. Schutte Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc. HERE I AM, LORD 7 7 7 4 D and refrain

RITE OF ORDINATION

The ordinand is presented by Rev. Charles Hershberger to the presiding Bishop and to the congregation.

PRESENTATION

*(please stand as you are able)

P: We present for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament Samuel Joseph Leister, who has been prepared, examined, and approved for this ministry and who has been called by the church to this ministry through Messiah Lutheran Church.

C: Thanks be to God.

(The presenter moves aside, and the assembly is seated.)

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

(The presiding Bishop addresses the ordinand)

All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

According to apostolic usage you are now to be entrusted with the office of word and sacrament in the one holy catholic church by the laying on of hands and by prayer.

A reading from John: Jesus said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

A reading from Matthew: Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

A reading from First Corinthians: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

(The presiding minister addresses questions to the ordinand.)

B: Before almighty God, to whom you must give account, and in the presence of this assembly, I ask: Will you assume this office, believing that the church's call is God's call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: The Church in which you are to be ordained confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and are the norm of its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge the Lutheran confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures. Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace? Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the Word and Sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Will you give faithful witness in the world through word and deed, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

O: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

C: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*(please stand as you are able)

B: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

L: For the holy catholic Church, that filled with truth and peace, that in your church on earth your children hunger and thirst for righteousness: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For all members of the Church, that they increase the faith and energy of ministries of all kinds to share and work for the salvation of all people, that they might be freed from sin and through faith are ensured of your love and eternal life: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For our Bishop, Barbara Collins; for all ministers of Word and Sacrament; for all ministers of Word and Service; that, together with all those responsible for the care and nurture of your people, they may support one another in serving Christ: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For Sam, Pappy, called to be a pastor in the church, that, sustained by your Holy Spirit, he may carry out this ministry with joy and a spirit of bold trust, may serve your people, may build up your church, and may glorify your name: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For the peace of the church, that our divisions may be overcome, so that, united in Christ, we may serve the world and bear witness to the good news: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For the mission of the church, that in faithful witness it may proclaim the gospel and in humble love serve all in need. Grant that we, by your Spirit, may have a right judgment in all things and evermore rejoice in the counsel of the Holy Spirit: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For the nations of the world and their leaders that they may work for justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person. Grant peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For this whole creation, that everything you have made may fulfill your purpose and that we may exercise care over your diverse gifts, gifts seen and unseen, gifts known and as yet unknown: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be comforted from anguish, shielded from harm and protected from danger: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Here other intercessions may be offered.)

L: For the glorious company of all the saints, those who have died in faith and those who live in certain hope, we praise you. That their witness may give us courage until the day of Jesus Christ: God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

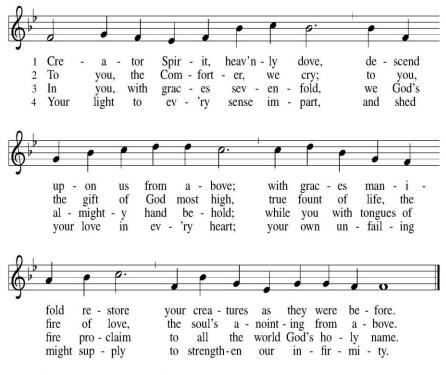
B: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF INVOCATION

Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove

Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove



- 5 Keep far from us our cruel foe, and peace from your own hand bestow; upheld by you, our strength and guide, no evil can our steps betide.
- 6 Teach us to know the Father, Son, and you, of both, to be but one; that through the ages all along your praise may be our endless song.

Text: Rhabanus Maurus, 776–856; tr. composite Music: Комм, Gott Schöpfer, J. Klug, Geistliche Lieder, 1543

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THANKSGIVING

(The ordinand shall kneel)

- B: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- B: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

B: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, we bless you for your infinite love in Christ our Lord, in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. We thank you that by his death your Son overcame death, and that, raised by your mighty power, he gives us new life. We praise you that, having ascended into heaven, Christ pours out his gifts abundantly on the church, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip your people for their work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.

(The presiding minister lays both hands on the head of the ordinand. Other ministers may be invited by the presiding Bishop to participate.)

B: Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon Samuel and fill him with the gifts of grace for the ministry of Word and Sacrament. Bless his proclamation of your Word and administration of your Sacraments, so that your Church may be gathered for praise and strengthened for service. Make him a faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise counselor. Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the church; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: **Amen.**

(The assembly is seated)

GIVING OF A STOLE

(The ordinand may remain kneeling. A stole is placed over the ordinand's shoulders by Mrs. Linda Leister, Mrs. Christie Holderman, Mrs. Stacie Kint, and Mrs. Bethanie Beward, as the presiding Bishop says:)

B: Receive this stole as a sign of your work, and live in obedience to the Lord Jesus, serving his people and remembering his promise: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

CHARGE

(The newly ordained stands; the presiding Bishop and her designee(s) address him)

B: Hear the words of the apostles: Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called. (1 Timothy 6:11-12)

Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you guardians, to feed the church of God, obtained with the blood of God's own Son. (Acts 20:28)

Tend the flock of God that is in your charge, not under compulsion but willingly, not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away. (1 Peter 5:2-4)

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

Care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do not betray their confidence. So discipline yourselves in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

BLESSING

B: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

C: Amen.

*(please stand and you are able)

ACCLAMATION BY THE ASSEMBLY

B: Will you, assembled as the people of God and speaking for the whole church, receive Samuel as a messenger of Jesus Christ, sent by God to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him as a servant of Christ?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

B: Will you pray for him, help and honor them for their work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

C: We will, and we ask God to help us.

(The presiding Bishop presents the newly ordained to the assembly.)

B: Let it be acclaimed that Samuel Joseph Leister, is a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the church of Christ. He has Christ's authority to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments; serving God's people as together we bear God's creative and redeeming love to all the world.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

*(please remain standing as you are able)

B: Having been authorized by the church to install Samuel Joseph Leister, our co-worker in the gospel, as pastor, I now ask for certification of this call.

(The calling body addresses the presiding Bishop)

Congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church: After prayerful deliberation, we, of Messiah Lutheran Church, have called Samuel Joseph Leister to serve as a minister of Word and Sacrament in the position of pastor. We present him with this letter certifying the call.

(The council president gives the presiding Bishop the letter certifying that the call has been received and accepted.)

(The council president and assembly is seated.)

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

B: Samuel, in the presence of this assembly will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church?

P: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America?

P: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

P: I will, and I ask God to help me.

B: Samuel, the office of pastor is now committed to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Gabby: Samuel, you have been called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins.

Haley: You have been called to be among us to proclaim the good news.

Ron: You have been called to be among us to preside at the Lord's Supper.

B: People of God, I present to you, Samuel as your pastor. Let us welcome him in the name of Christ.

PEACE

B: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

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

(The assembly is seated)

OFFERING - selected hymns

Today's offering will be equally divided between the Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Juniata County Ministerium.

ANTHEM - Be Thou My Vision - Solo by Andrea Cameron

OFFERTORY HYMN

*(please stand as you are able)



OFFERTORY PRAYER

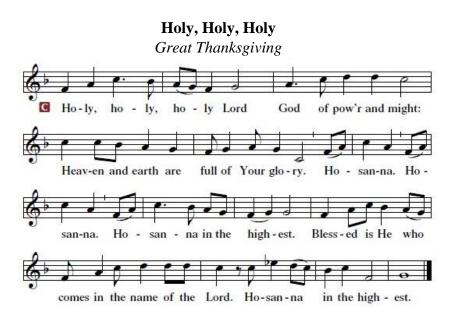
P: Let us pray

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- B: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- B: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them to the Lord.
- B: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

B: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks . . . (*Here the Bishop continues with the proper preface, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

B: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in this holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

B: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. C: **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

B: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

B: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

(The assembly is seated)

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. C: Amen. The blood of Christ, shed for you. C: Amen.

(All baptized Christians who accept the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the bread and wine of the Sacrament of the Altar, are invited to come to the Lords Table.)

Lamb of God Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have Lamb of God, You take a-way sin mer-cy on us. the of the Lamb of God, You take a-way world; have mer-cy on us. the of the world; sin grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS - Selected hymns played by Robert St. Clair and Slone Smith

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

B: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

BLESSING

C: Amen

SENDING SONG



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

HE LEADETH ME

DISMISSAL

B: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Selected hymns played by Robert St. Clair and Slone Smith

Presiding Minister - The Reverend Barbara Jean Collins Bishop, Upper Susquehanna Synod - ELCA Communion Assistants: The Reverend Charles Hershberger Andrea Cameron Authorized Lay Worship Leader Acolytes: Thea Beward **Brea Beward** Lector(s): Marina Holderman Malin Kint Gavin Kint Prayers: Gavin Kint **Communion Presenters:** Darin Kint Crucifer: Hope Miller Ushers: Barbara Geedey **Donald Geedey** Jessie Reed **Tammy Smith** Nick Reed Gabby Reed Grace Miller Olivia Mummah

At the conclusion of the worship service, you are cordially invited to join the Leister family and the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall for a catered meal prepared by Harshbarger's Catering. We are so thankful for everyone who helped with everything that goes into making ordination and installation at Messiah a memorable occasion of celebration. We cannot express the depth of our appreciation to all who attended and who were unable to attend, for your encouragement and support through this journey to the ordained ministry.

Many thanks to all the congregations I have served since 2015, as an Authorized Lay Worship Leader and to Messiah as your Vicar since 2019.

To Bishop Collins, Rev. Charles Hershberger, and Rev. Craig Miller: Thank you for believing in me and guiding me on this journey as positive mentors and friends through my seminary training and internship.

Most importantly - Thanks be to God for loving me. Thank you, God, for providing me with the hope, strength, perseverance, patience and wisdom to get to this point. I pray that you, O Lord, will continue to bless me, teach me, and guide me by the power of the Holy Spirit with all things necessary to serve and love you and your people. Samuel J. Leister and Linda G. Smith were baptized at Messiah on October 4, 1953 and are lifetime members of this congregation. In the 1960's, a young lady, Barbara J. Nein, while visiting her grandmother during the summer, attended Sunday worship at Messiah.

Today at Messiah, we welcome that young lady, Bishop Barbara J. Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod as she presides at the ordination and installation of Samuel Leister.

This faith story is not about Sam and Linda Leister; the story is not about Bishop Barbara Collins; nor is the story about Messiah and our congregation. This faith story is about the willingness to believe in and to follow the Holy Spirit who has taught, lead, and advocated for Sam, for Bishop Collins, and most assuredly for God's children of Messiah. May God's peace which passes all our understanding be with us always!

Pastors Who Have Served Messiah

Rev. William Scriba	1805
Rev. George Heim	
Rev. William Heim	
Rev. Charles Weyl	1834-1835
Rev. S. R. Boyer	1835-1846
Rev. Jacob Martin	1846-1848
Rev. Philip Willard	1848-1858
Rev. Levi T. Williams	1858-1861
Rev. Robert Fletcher	1861-1867
Rev. J. B. Anthony	1867-1870
Rev. D. M. Blackwelder	1870-1876
Rev. E. E. Berry	1876-1885
Rev. Philip Gralf	1885-1890
Rev. H. C. Holloway	1890-1896
Rev. W. H. Fahs	1896-1911
Rev. E. M. Morgan	1911-1918
Rev. J. E. Shewell	1918-1918
Rev. Thomas E. Shearer	1918-1921
Rev. C. H. Day	1922-1924
Rev. J. M. Rearick	1924-1930
Rev. Paul W. DeLauter	1930-1972
Rev. John C. Pretz	1972-1977
Rev. Claude R. Baublitz	1978-1987
Rev. Anna M. Ritter-Esborn	1988-2001
Rev. William N. Esborn	1988-2016