

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 2nd, 2023

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

PASTOR EMAIL: mlcsleister@gmail.com

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Rev. Samuel Leister

Bob St. Clair

Slone Smith

Andrea Cameron

Kate Swailes

Nick & Gabby Reed

Silas Smith, Sofia & Stella Reed

Tammy Brackbill & Jenn Hutchinson

Pastor

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Lay Worship Leader & Choir Director

Lector

Acolytes

Communion/Offering Presenters

Altar Guild

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 9, 2023 – 9:15 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 greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P Merciful God,

C we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

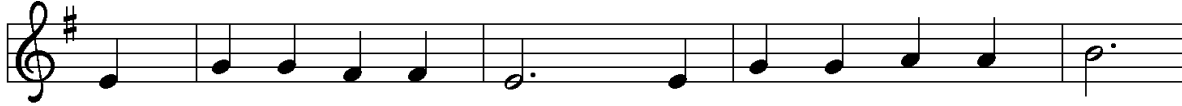
#522 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

* KYRIE



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



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!

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

FIRST READING.....Zechariah 9:9-12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:Psalm 145:8-14 (**Responsively**)

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall

and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

SECOND READING.....Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now

if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The word of the Lord.
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.

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

* GOSPEL.....Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." ²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.** (spoken)

YOUNG FOLKS SERMON
SERMON

Andrea Cameron
Andrea Cameron

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Shall We Gather at the River"

#690 (WOV)

* 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.**

* PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

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

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('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 field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOGUE (from Isaiah 55)

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C **For through these gifts he comes to feed us.**

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread, and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy,

C for we come as God's invited guests!

* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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.

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

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (all)

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.

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

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

DISTRIBUTION

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

* COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

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

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL SERVICES on July 5 through July 16, please contact Pastor Richard Adams of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church. He may be reached through his cell number at 717-253-0235.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

JULY’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for the Juniata County Library. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to our community library to continue to serve our local area. 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.

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

BIBLE STUDY WILL NOT BE HELD DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.

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

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

June 25, 2023 Worship Attendance – 40

Total Offering	\$4,222.00	<u>Other Funds</u>	
Other Funds	<u>872.00</u>	Benevolence	\$ 30.00
General Fund	\$3,350.00	Building Fund	510.00
		Memorial Fund	100.00
		AED	22.00
		Meals-On-Wheels	<u>210.00</u>
		Total	\$ 872.00

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WE WILL CONTINUE TO COLLECT donations of clothing for Packages of Hope for local families as well as children entering foster care as requested by Children’s Services. The list of clothing items is included below. If you would like to purchase an item or two to donate, please place them in the appropriate storage containers located in the Adult Sunday School Room.

0-3 Years

- Socks (2 packs each: sizes 0-3 mo, 3-6 mo, 6-9 mo, 9-12 mo, 2, and 3)
- Onesies (2 packs each: sizes 0-3 mo, 3-6 mo, 6-9 mo, 9-12 mo, 2, and 3)
- Pajamas (2 sets of each: sizes 0-3 mo, 3-6 mo, 6-9 mo, 9-12 mo, 2, and 3)

4-7 Years

- Socks (2 packs each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- Underwear (2 packs each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- Pajamas (2 sets of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- Short sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- Long sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- Sweatpants (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)
- Sweatshirts (2 of each: sizes 4T, 5T, 6T, and 7)

8-12 Years

- Socks (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Underwear (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Short sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Long sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)

- Sweatpants (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Sweatshirt (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)

13-17 Years

- Socks (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Underwear (2 packs of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Short sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Long sleeve tee (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Sweatpants (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)
- Sweatshirt (2 of each: sizes small, medium, large, extra-large)

(Additionally, we are requesting donations of plastic storage containers to help store and organize all donated items).

OUR CONVENTION will be held at Camp Mt. Luther on Saturday, July 22nd. If anyone is interested in attending, the cost is \$45.00 which covers a light breakfast, lunch, speaker and any activities. Contact Barb, Linda or Cynthia for copies of registration forms.

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

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| --Laundry Detergent | --Shaving Cream |
| --Clorox | --Shampoo |
| --Dryer Sheets | --Deodorant |
| --Dish Soap | --Body Wash |

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

COLLECTION FOR HAVEN MINISTRY "WISH LIST" (a Homeless Shelter and Food Pantry serving the Sunbury area).

Paper Supplies

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| Paper Towels | Napkins |
| Toilet Paper | Tissues |
| Paper Plates | |

Cleaning Supplies

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Liquid Hand Soap | Dish Sponges and Scrubbies |
| Brillo Pads | Rubber Gloves for cleaning |
| Trash Bags | Dawn Brand Dish Detergent (Dawn is used for cleaning jobs) |

PERSONAL CARE KIT ITEMS (collecting May—July)

- ONE** lightweight bath-size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27").....dark color recommended.
- TWO OR THREE** bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. (any brand in original wrapping.....no mini or hotel size bars).
- ONE** adult-size toothbrush (in original packaging.....multi-packs may be used as long as each individual toothbrush is sealed in a business-size envelope.....no plastic bags or wraps).
- ONE sturdy** comb (NO picks or fine-toothed combs).
- ONE** metal nail clipper (attached file optional, remove packaging).

THE NEXT MESSIAH WELCA MEETING will be Thursday, July 13th at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women are invited to attend.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JULY:

CANNED BEETS, CARROTS, AND BAKED BEANS.

CLEANING SUPPLIES AND TOILET PAPER.

BACKPACK PROGRAM: SINGLE-SERVE FRUIT CUPS, JELLO CUPS,
NON-CHOCOLATE PUDDING AND SINGLE SERVE MEALS.

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

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Thursday:** 1:30 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Donna Barton
Gary Bechtold
Michele Boniewicz
Family of Rod Boyer
Dan Brackbill
Don Bratton
Linda Brouse
Dan Brown
Andrea Cameron
Terry Coder
Fred & Dot Dowling
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
The Ettlinger Family
Neil & Pat Fisher
Jane Fogleman
Gary Frantz
Steve Freeman & family
Mindy Fryer
Bentley Fulkroad
Terri Gayer

Deb Geedey
Bob & Eddi Kay Gill
Arrin Gilson
Deborah Gingrich
Sylva Grimm
Sue Henderson
Nox Hepburn
Judy Hosler
Erin Husler
Terry Imes
Annie Ingle
Curt Kauffman
Guy Kerstetter
Jesse Kint
Pam Lawson
Norma Leach
Bobby Lillis
Michael Lozano
Zaden Mabey
Anthony Martin
Carlen McClure
Alice McClure
Cecilia Miller
Ellwood Miller
Larry Miller

Shirley Miller
Claire Mummah
Paul Ogden
Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Sandy Pines
Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Diane Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Ron & Arlene Shearer
Jan & Dave Smith
Joyce & Todd Spangler
Barry Strawser
Vicki Suoja
Dorothy Towsey
Molly Ulsh
Doug Wagner
Roscoe Warner
Florence Williams
Jim Woltman
Gary Zeiders
George Zimmerman
Linda Zimmerman

The Family and Co-Workers of Trooper Jacques Rougeau Trooper Lieutenant James Wagner

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Retirement Village, 92 Village Drive, Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Gail Henderson Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Rich Smith – Magnolia Personal Care Center, 68 Lexi St., Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
- Edith Nipple – 1482 William Penn Hwy., Mifflintown, PA 17059
- Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044