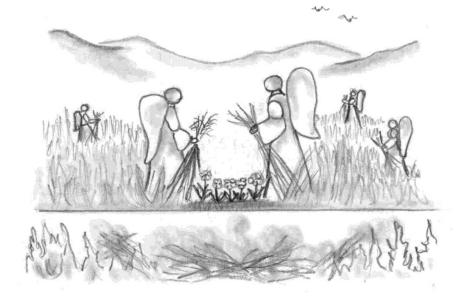
# "Growing God's Kingdom"



# EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER Pentecost

## July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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:

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day when all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

## 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 Cynthia Smith Hope Miller & Slone Smith Grace Miller, Harrison & Olivia Mummah Tammy Brackbill & Jenn Hutchinson Pastor Organist/Pianist Organist/Pianist Choir Director Lector Acolytes Communion/Offering Presenters Altar Guild

### EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST July 23, 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.

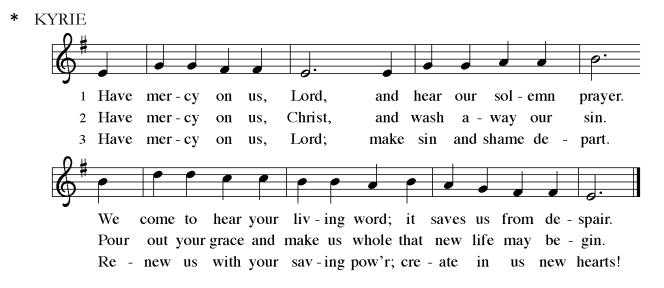
- P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

#### GATHERING

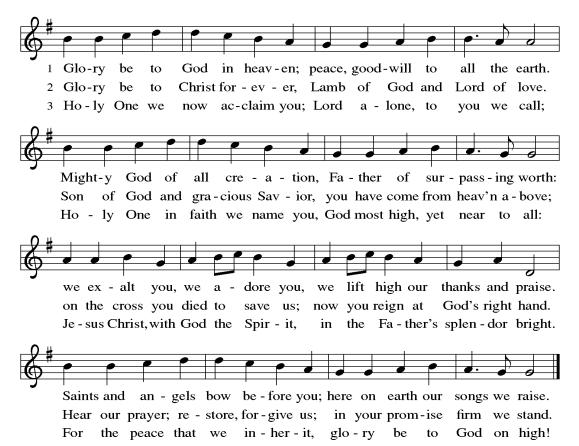
*	GATHERING HYMN	"Be Thou My Vísíon"	#776 (WOV)
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#### \* GREETING

- 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.



#### \* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- \* 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 Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### WORD

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

FIRST READING......Isaiah 44:6-8 <sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. <sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

- L: The word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

<sup>12</sup>I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore. <sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

- <sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
  <sup>16</sup>Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.
- <sup>17</sup>Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

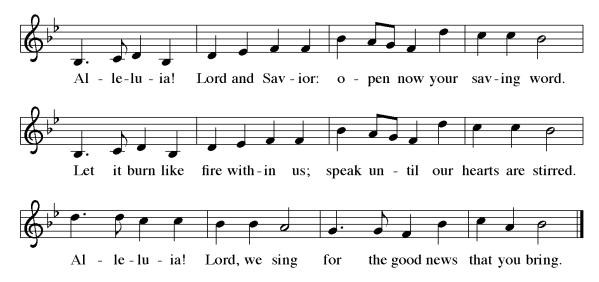
For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: The word of the Lord.

#### C: Thanks be to God.

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

- \* GOSPEL......Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
  - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

#### C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. <sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' <sup>28</sup>He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the

harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." <sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." <sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

YOUNG FOLKS SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

Pastor Leister Pastor Leister #506 Green Hymnal

\* 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, how 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.
- \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
  - P We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
  - C Amen

#### SENDING

- \* BLESSING
  - P The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed + bless, keep, and Sustain you now and to the end of the age.
  - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)
- \* SENDING HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" #259 Green Hymnal
- \* DISMISSAL
  - P Go in peace. Share the harvest. C Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barb Geedey NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tammy Brackbill & Jenn Hutchinson (7/3/23 – 7/30/23) NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Harrison & Olivia Mummah NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Haley Mummah, Thea & Brea Beward

#### WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshiping with us. VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Hannah and Drew's birthdays by Don and Barb Geedey.

JUST A THOUGHT – Jeremy Taylor, Anglican Cleric (1613 – 1667): If we refuse (to give) mercy here, we shall have justice in eternity.

#### **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY</u> <u>NOON.</u>

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 <u>mlcsleister@gmail.com</u>.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u> 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 <u>mlcsleister@gmail.com</u>.

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 <u>msgoss@gmail.com</u>.

PPC WILL MEET this evening, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Area.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, July 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday $-9:00 \text{ a.m.} - 5:00 \text{ p.m.}$	
Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

June 18, 2023 Worship Attendance – 32

June 25, 2023 Worship Attendance – 40

5	1	Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$2,634.00	Benevolence \$	33.00
Other Funds	<u>418.00</u>	Building Fund	163.00
General Fund	\$2,216.00	Memorial Fund	160.00
		Meals-On-Wheels	10.00
		AED	52.00
		Total	\$ 418.00

5	1	Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$4,222.00	Building Fund	\$ 510.00
Other Funds	872.00	Benevolence	30.00
General Fund	\$3,350.00	AED	22.00
		Meals-On-Wheels	210.00
		Memorial Fund	100,00
		Total	\$ 872.00

#### WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women of Messiah are invited to attend.

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

Shaving Cream
Shampoo
Deodorant
Body Wash

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

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

#### Paper Supplies

Paper Towels	Napkins
Toilet Paper	Tissues
Paper Plates	

#### Cleaning Supplies

--Brillo Pads

--Trash Bags

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

<u>PERSONAL CARE KIT ITEMS</u> (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).

ITEMS BEING COLLECTED FOR SCHOOL KITS (during August and September).

- --four (70-80 sheet) spiral notebooks-wide or college-ruled
- --1-30 centimeter/inch ruler
- --1 pencil sharpener
- --1 pair of blunt scissors
- --5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- --5 black or blue ballpoint pens
- --1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- --one 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch eraser

### 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. -6:30 p.m., PPC meeting in Youth Area.
- Monday: -7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.
- Wednesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- **Friday:** -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.
- Saturday: -9:00 a.m., Marine Corps in Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion/Healing Service.

#### PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik Jeremy Barnes Ryan Barr Donna Barton Gary Bechtold Michele Boniewicz 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 Gaver 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 Tonya Tabb 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