"Growing God's Kingdom"



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27th, 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:

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

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 ? & Brea Beward Olivia Mummah, Julia & Paige Martin Linda Clark & Chris Martin Pastor Organist/Pianist Organist/Pianist Choir Director Lector Acolytes Communion/Offering Presenters Altar Guild

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 27, 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 your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

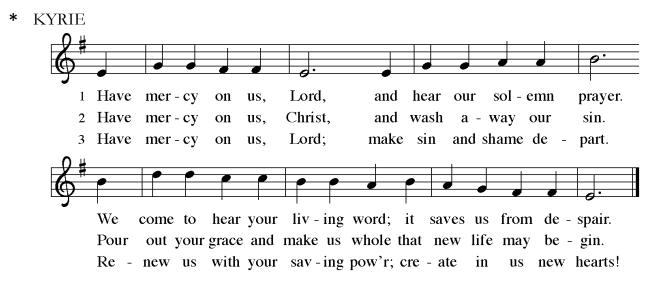
- P God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #499 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.



* 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 O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

FIRST READING......Isaiah 51:1-6 ¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. ²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things. ³When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

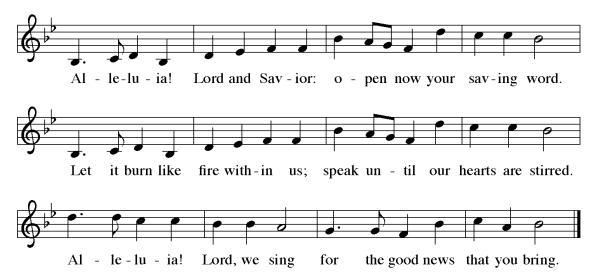
⁸You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

- * GOSPEL......Matthew 16:13-20
 - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others

Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

YOUNG FOLKS SERMON

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Pastor Leister

SERMON

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" HYMN OF THE DAY #448 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.

Pastor Leister

- * 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 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" #771 (WOV)
- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Share the harvest. C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Harrison Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Zeb Berry & Hannah Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Braedon Walton, Hope Miller & Thea Beward NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Tawney Mummah & Tammy Smith (8/28/23 – 9/10/23)

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.

JUST A THOUGHT – J. B. Phillips, Bible Translator (1906 – 1982): I sometimes wonder what hours of prayer and thought lie behind the apparently simple and spontaneous parables of the gospel.

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.

AUGUST'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for Wings of Kindness. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Wings of Kindness to continue assisting in the effort to serve the needs of our community. 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.

BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME on Tuesday, September 5th at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will begin a study of the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Material and books will be available by then.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet today following the worship service.

MESSIAH'S CHOIR NEEDS YOU! If you have a love for singing, please join our choir and "make a joyful noise." Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. from September through May. Anyone in junior high school or beyond, male or female are welcome to join us. Our first rehearsal for fall will be Wednesday, August 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

REMINDER: Beginning on September 3rd, regular worship services will resume at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES – If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to become a member of Messiah and attend the New Member Class, please let Pastor Sam or the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

FIRST COMMUNION – Please let Pastor Sam or the church office know if you would like your child to attend a First Communion Class and a date and time will be arranged with those who are interested.

A NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE is being drawn up for "Year B," which runs from Sunday, December 3, 2023 (First Sunday of Advent) through Sunday, November 24, 2024 (Christ the King Sunday). If you would like to join the Altar Guild or help in the baking of Manna Bread for communion, please let Slone Smith or Bob St. Clair know as soon as possible. Thanks to all who serve!

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.

"GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" SUNDAY will be September 10, 2023.

THE NEXT VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held on September 17, 2023 following the worship service. Business: Approval of proposed budget for 2024 and minutes of the boards.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS with the people of **Maui, Hawaii**, as they deal with the absolutely devastating death and destruction of the wildfires which occurred in the beginning of August. As of this writing, nearly 100 people have been confirmed dead and thousands of homes, businesses, and structures have been destroyed. If you would like to contribute to assist those fire victims and their families, etc., please go to <u>HTTPS://COMMUNITY.ELCA.ORG/USWILDFIRES</u> or simply mark your offering envelope for <u>Hawaii</u> Wildfires and we will be sure that those monies get sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

THE SYNOD OFFICE HAS MOVED to the new location at 100 Mahoning Street, Milton. UPDATE! The internet is now hooked up and staff are able to access email. Phone service is not yet up and running, so please be patient with synod communications. The mailing address will remain P.O. Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

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>.

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. August 6, 2023 Worship Attendance – 35

0 .	1	Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$4,345.00	Mission of Month	\$205.00
Other Funds	<u> 955.00</u>	Summer Camp	300.00
General Fund	\$3,390.00	Building Fund	300.00
		Benevolence	150.00
		Total	\$955.00

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

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.

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 pair of blunt scissors

--5 black or blue ballpoint pens

--1 box of 16 or 24 crayons

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 AUGUST:

CANNED POTATOES, CANNED CARROTS.

DISH SOAP, ANY CLEANING SUPPLIES AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES, (ESPECIALLY 1" BINDERS) AND PENS.

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

THE JUNIATA COUNTY FAIR CHURCH SERVICE will be held on September 3rd at 4:30 p.m. at the Kint Pavilion behind the Grandstand. Message by Pastor Sam Leister.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today:	-9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion. -Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.
Monday:	-5:00 to 9:00 p.m., Lions Club meeting in Fellowship Hall. -7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.
Wednesday:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall. -7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal in sanctuary
Sunday:	-Regular worship service resumes. -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church. -Juniata County Fair Church Service at 4:30 p.m. at the Kint Pavilion.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik Jeremy Barnes Ryan Barr Donna Barton Gary Bechtold Dan Brackbill Linda Brouse Andrea Cameron Terry Coder Freda Durio Cathy Dysinger Renee Dzikowski Neil & Pat Fisher Jane Fogleman Gary Frantz Bentley Fulkroad Terri Gaver Deb Geedey Bob & Eddi Kay Gill Arrin Gilson Deborah Gingrich Sylva Grimm Fred Gross

Nox Hepburn Judy Hosler Erin Husler Terry Imes Annie Ingle Curt Kauffman Guy Kerstetter Jesse Kint Pam Lawson Norma Leach Bobby Lillis Michael Lozano 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

Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Dave Reed 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 Paul 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

--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