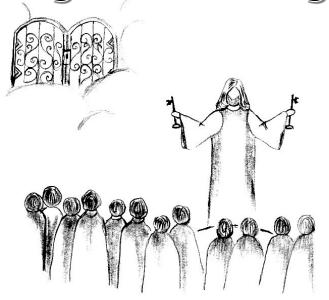
"Growing God's Kingdom"



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3rd, 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 prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

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
Harrison Mummah
Zeb Berry & Hannah Ehrisman
Braedon Walton, Hope Miller & Thea Beward
Tawny Mummah & Tammy Smith
Jean Berry

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolyte
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild
Manna Bread Baker

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 3, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PRELUDE:

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

- * CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
 - P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
 - C Amen.
 - P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Steadfast and faithful God,
- C you have received the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
- C Amen.

GATHERING

- * GATHERING HYMN "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vss 1-4) #527 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 (C- sung)
 - P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.
 - P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 - C Amen.
- * CANTICLE OF PRAISE ("Lord God, Heavenly King" In Unison)



- * 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, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

- L: Here ends the reading.
- C: Thanks be to God.

²Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar, ⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia.

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

- - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

WORK CAMP PRESENTATION

2023 Work Camp Participants

HYMN OF THE DAY "All Creatures of Our God and King" (vss. 5-7) #527 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 Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- * 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 ('Create in me'')

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

- OFFERING PRAYER
 - P God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ our Savior.
 - 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 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.

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

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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.

* LAMB OF GOD (SUNG)

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(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 Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

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 Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.
 - C Amen.

SENDING

- * BLESSING
 - P The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
 - C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)
- * SENDING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord"

#752 (WOV)

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. God is at work in you. C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Marina Holderman

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Braedon Walton & Grace Miller

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS - Silas Smith, Paige & Julia Martin

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Judy and Herman Armstrong.

JUST A THOUGHT – Stanley High The Evangel: We've got to recognize that we are not working (primarily) for a peaceful world. Peace will be a by-product of something else. We are working for a world of justice and rightness. Peace is a by-product of justice and mercy.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY 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 mlcsleister@gmail.com.

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 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.

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.

SEPTEMBER'S "MISSION OF THE MO	ONTH" at Messiah will be for	The monies will be sent
from Messiah directly to	_ to continue assisting in the effort to	o serve the needs of our community.
In addition to your generosity, the PPC alle	ocated funds to match congregations	al donations up to \$1,000.00. This is
just one way in which we can continue to e	extend our mission in Christ's love be	eyond the walls of our church
building.		•

BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME on Tuesday, September 5th at 9:30 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. NOTE: Time of 9:30 a.m. will be for September 5th only. We will resume meeting at 10:30 a.m. after that date.

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.

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 https://community.elca.org/uswildfires or simply mark your offering envelope for Hawaii Wildfires and we will be sure that those monies get sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

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:

August 6, 2023 Worship Attendance – 35

J	-	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	<u> 150.00</u>
		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 VESPER SERVICE will be held on this evening at 4:30 p.m. at the Kint Pavilion behind the Grandstand. Message by Pastor Sam Leister and music provided by The Boyz.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.

-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

-4:30 p.m., Juniata County Fair Vesper Service at the Kint Pavilion.

Monday: -6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room.

-7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.

Tuesday: -9:30 a.m. Bible Study in the Library area.

Wednesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal in sanctuary

Sunday: -"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.

-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.

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 Gayer Deb Geedey Bob & Eddi Kay Gill Deborah Gingrich Sylva Grimm Fred Gross

Dave Hart & Family Nox Hepburn Judy Hosler Erin Husler Terry Imes Annie Ingle Guy Kerstetter Jesse Kint Pam Lawson 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

Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Kellev Rusenko Ron & Arlene Shearer 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

Betty Ranck

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine

- --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