"Growing God's Kingdom"



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10th, 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:

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

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 Marina Holderman Braedon Walton & Grace Miller Silas Smith, Julia & Paige Martin Tawny Mummah & Tammy Smith Pastor Organist/Pianist Organist/Pianist Choir Director Lector Acolytes Communion/Offering Presenters Altar Guild

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 10, 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.]

* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

#551 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.

* HYMN OF PRAISE ("Lord God, Heavenly King" – In Unison)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



- * 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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart. ³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

- ³⁶Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.
- ³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

- 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.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

- - P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"You Servants of God"

#252 Green Hymnal

Pastor Leister

Pastor Leister

* 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.

- C Through him, with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. 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	"Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"	#171 Green Hymnal
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- * 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 – Andrea Cameron NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Nick & Gabby Reed NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Grace Miller, Stella & Sofia Reed NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward (9/11/23 – 9/24/23) NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Jenn Hutchinson

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 Neil and Pat Fisher.

JUST A THOUGHT – Walter Elliott, American Catholic Priest (1842 – 1928): Perseverance is not a long race, it is many short races one after another.

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.

THE WOMEN OF ELCA HAVE PLANNED AN ACTIVITY FOR GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY TODAY. Following the worship service, a light lunch of soup, salad, pizza, and a sundae bar will be provided. Following lunch, we are inviting the youth and anyone (man or woman) to stay and help to knot our quilts. These quilts will be sent to LWR in October. All are invited to attend!

SEPTEMBER'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for Lutheran Disaster. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Lutheran Disaster 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 CONTINUE on Tuesdays, at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will be studying the book of Revelation from Augsburg publishers. Anyone is welcome to attend.

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.

A YOUTH PLANNING MEETING will be held on Sunday, October 8th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's to plan and outline details of a work camp in Virginia from June 23-29, 2024 and the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 16-20, 2024. The age requirement is that youth must be <u>13</u> by June 23 to attend the work camp and youth who are now in grades <u>8 through 12</u> for the Youth Gathering. Please plan to attend if you are going to **BOTH**, if you are going to one or the other, **AND** if you **might be interested in going but are not sure!!**

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> <u>Wildfires</u> and we will be sure that those monies get sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

August 26, 2023	Worship Attendance – 30
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0 ,		Other Funds	
Total Offering	\$2,590.00	Benevolence	\$ 20.00
Other Funds	248.00	Building Fund	60.00
General Fund	\$2,342.00	Mission of Month	20.00
		AED	50.00
		Lutheran World	
		Relief – Maui	50.00
		Flowers	48.00
		Total	\$ 248.00

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.

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

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be September 14th at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women of Messiah are welcome 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 SEPTEMBER:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS,

CLEANING SUPPLIES AND PAPER PRODUCT'S.

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

THE JUNIATA COUNTY CROP HUNGER WALK will be held on Sunday, October 8th at Walker Township Park. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. The event will be 7 laps around the park. Twenty-five percent of pledge money will go to the Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today:	-GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY. -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
	-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
	-Light Lunch following Worship Service. After lunch, all are invited to stay and help knot quilts for Lutheran World Relief.
Monday:	-6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room. -7:00 p.m., AA in Disciple's Class. Area.
Tuesday:	-10:30 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.
Thursday:	-1:30 p.m., WELCA in Youth Area.
Sunday:	-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
•	-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
	-Voters' Assembly following worship service.
	-6:00 p.m., AA District Meeting in Fellowship Hall.

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 Bentley Fulkroad Terri Gaver Deb Geedey Bob & Eddi Kay Gill Sheree Goss Sylva Grimm Fred Gross

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

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