

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21st, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *The image of the good shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd’s willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sibling in need.*

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
Andrea Cameron
Harrison & Haley Mummah
Olivia Mummah, Braedon Walton & Evan Miller
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed
Jean Berry

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
TEMPLE TALK
PRELUDE

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

GATHERING

- * GATHERING HYMN *“We Give Thee but Thine Own”* #410 Green Hymnal
- * GREETING
 - P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 - C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
 - 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)

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
 we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* 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 Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

FIRST READING Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM..... Psalm 23 (*responsively*)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

SECOND READING..... 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides

in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given 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.**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

* **GOSPEL** John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)**

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)**

CHILDREN' SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Sam Leister
Pastor Sam Leister

* **HYMN OF THE DAY** "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" #481 Green Hymnal

* **NICENE CREED (In Unison)**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P God of grace,
C hear 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).

ANTHEM

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG

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 Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

C 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 The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

* 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.**

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 Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

* BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.

C **Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

* SENDING HYMN

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

#370 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Hannah & Carter Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Paige Martin, Silas Smith & Thea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed (4/8/24 – 5/5/24)

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Marylou Hazard & Clint Miller

April 28: Don & Barb Geedey

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 worshipping 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 Michelle Stoner's birthday by Sandy Pines, Braedon Walton and Dan Stoner.

JUST A THOUGHT – John Calvin, French Reformer and Father of the Presbyterian Church (1509 – 1564): The world invents its own good works and persuades itself that they are good.

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.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER – Dr. Rollie Martinson, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, as part of a Lilly Foundation study, discovered the increasing importance of summer Bible camp in passing on the faith to the next generation. In fact, camp rates second to mothers as a “faith factor.”

THE GOAL OF THE “FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE” Capital Campaign is \$1.6 to \$2 million. Our congregation’s goal is \$7,500.

KATE SWAILES will be serving as our congregation’s camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. This year’s summer camp season at Camp Mount Luther will begin on June 23 and run until August 2. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you’re looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. If you have any questions about camp, you can contact Kate or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. The camp brochures are available on the Camp Mount Luther site www.campmountluther.org and brochures will be mailed to campers who attended camp in the past. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. You can also register online and provide the \$50 payment to Kate. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther.

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.

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.

APRIL’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will continue to be for Camp Mount Luther. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Camp Mount Luther to continue assisting in their children’s ministries and restoration project. 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.

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.

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.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA Spring Day of Learning will be held on April 27th at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Mifflinville. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Barb Geede or Linda Leister. The program will be a presentation on the Holy Land. Cost is \$15.00 and lunch is provided.

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 APRIL

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, PAPER TOWELS, CASH/CHECK DONATIONS AND LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, JCPASR in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-6:00 p.m., Juniata Valley Conference in Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER LIST

Steve & Linda Bahorik
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Donna Barton
Linda Brouse
Andrea Cameron
Terry Coder
Kenton Cohenour
Heather Compton
Rob Davis
Fred & Dot Dowling
Seth Dowling
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kathie Eichenberger
Rev. Jodi Ellis
Neil & Pat Fisher
Kevin Fetterhoof
Bentley Fulkroad
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey
Bob & Eddi Kay Gill
Sheree Goss

Sylva Grimm
Fred Gross
Hannah Hart
Marylou Hazard
Bill & Jan Heck
John (Pat) Henry
Nox Hepburn
Judy Hosler
Nancy Howell
Erin Husler
Terry Imes
Annie Ingle
Guy Kerstetter
Jesse Kint
Carlen McClure
Alice McClure
Andi McDanel
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Claire Mummah
Abby Myers & Cody Lauver
Donna Parks
Ron & Linda (Kerchner)Parks

Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Dave Reed
Diane Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Arlene Shearer
Joyce & Todd Spangler
Donna Stoner
Barry Strawser
Vicki Suoja
Tonya Tabb
Molly Ulsh
George Varner
Doug & Marsha Wagner
Roscoe Warner
Mary Jane Williamson
Jim & Heidi Woltman
Gary Zeiders
Paul Zeiders
George Zimmerman
Jean Zimmerman
Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

- Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, 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
- Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044