

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18th, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.*

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
Beward Family
Julia & Paige Martin
Hannah Ehrisman, Ella Harris & Evan Miller
Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman
Diana Wise

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 18, 2024 – 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.]

* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C Amen.

P Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God, our provider,

C help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

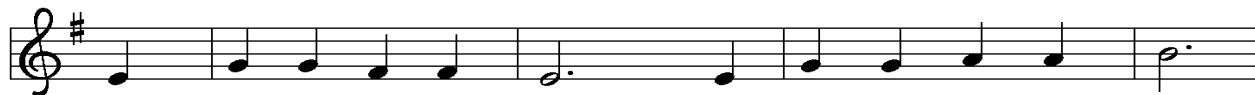
#415 Green Hymnal

* 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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

3 Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might - y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

* 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 **Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

WORD

FIRST READING Proverbs 9:1-6

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. ²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, ⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says, ⁵"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14 (*Responsively*)

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰The lions are in want and suffer hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me; I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

¹²Who among you takes pleasure in life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING..... Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

* GOSPEL John 6:51-58

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

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

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Leister

SERMON

Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY

"How Great Thou Art"

#532 Green Hymnal

* APOSTLES' CREED (*In Unison*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 ("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 Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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.

(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 Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

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 Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever.

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

* SENDING HYMN

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

#495 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Tawny Mummah

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Stella & Sofia Reed

NEXT WEEK’S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Thea Beward, Nick and Gabby Reed

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman (7/29/24 – 8/25/24)

AUGUST COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Larry Goss & Nick Beward

25: Clint Miller & Mary Grimm

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 Sandy Pines’ birthday by Dan and Michelle Stoner and Braedon Walton.

JUST A THOUGHT – C. S. Lewis, Oxford Professor, Christian Writer and self-made Theologian (1898 – 1963): There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, “thy will be done,” and those to whom God says, in the end, “Thy will be done.” All that are in Hell choose the second.

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.

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/SEPTEMBER “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for CJEMS. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to CJEMS 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.

REMINDER: **Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter** to **Bob** at stclairb@embarqmail.com or the **church office** at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com by the deadlines which are listed monthly in the newsletter. SAVE THE DATE – “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday will be September 8th following the worship service. We will be knotting quilts and working on our Christmas wreaths. A light lunch will be provided.

JUNIATA COUNTY CLEARING HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Cedar Grove Brethren In Christ Church. We will share stories and stats from the past 12 months. Please plan to attend and learn about how this ministry works in our community.

GROUP WORKCAMP – Mission, South Dakota has been chosen as the Group Workcamp 2025 location! This Native American experience will be June 15-21, 2025. However, since there are many things to see in the area, (Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Badlands National Park, Wall Drug) to name a few, we will be leaving on a jet plane for Rapid City SD around June 11th. Participants must be at least 14 years old to be eligible for this adventure. If you are interested, please send Kathy Whitesel a text at 717-363-6144 as soon as possible. A meeting for parents and participants will be scheduled at the end of September for paying the \$100 non-refundable deposit and brainstorming fund-raising events. Please note that workcampers will be most likely flying to Rapid City so we will need someone willing to tow the trailer with our supplies to SD and back home. Who wants to spend a week exploring the badlands?

CHOIR REHEARSAL will begin on Wednesday evening, August 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Anyone who would like to “make a joyful noise” is welcome to attend!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS – 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.

BAPTISMAL/MEMBERSHIP CLASS – 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.

ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th, the Board of Worship and Music UNANIMOUSLY voted to agree with the survey to have 10:00 a.m. SUNDAY SERVICES YEAR-ROUND. We will begin this new time when we go back to our “normal” service schedule on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st. From September 1st onward, all Sunday morning services will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will continue throughout the entire year, including summers.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS – On Sunday, August 25th, during the final 9:15 a.m. service, Pastor Sam will be providing a “Blessing of the Backpacks” – for any students returning to school, college or even those who may be returning to further their education or those who are beginning their education in pre-school. All students of any age are welcome to bring their backpacks to the service on the 25th to be blessed for the new and upcoming school year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! During our October 6th morning worship service, which is also Blanket Sunday and World Communion Sunday, Bishop Craig Miller will be at Messiah and will be speaking and sharing about his experiences in the Holy Land. Be sure to mark this special date on your calendars now and plan to attend worship that morning! Refreshments following worship service.

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.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Baby Kits:

- white tee-shirts, sizes 6-24 months (no onesies). Hobby Lobby has these.
- pajamas, sleepers, or tops and pants that could be used as pajamas, sizes 6-24 months (no feet in any of these items).
- hand towels, sizes 15x18, 15x25 or 15x30 (preferably darker colors).

THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL KIT ITEMS are still needed and will be collected until mid-September:

- 19 pencil sharpeners
- 4 pairs of blunt scissors
- 45 black or blue pens (no gel pens – each school kit needs 5 pens)

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:

ANY TYPE OF DRY PASTA, CANNED CARROTS,
DISH SOAP, ANY CLEANING SUPPLIES AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT,
SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER,
SCHOOL SUPPLIES (ESPECIALLY 1" BINDERS, FILLER NOTEBOOK PAPER,
PENCIL BOXES AND PENS)
WE GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS!

THE JUNIATA CO. FAIR VESPER SERVICE will be held on Sunday, September 1 at 4:30 p.m. at the Kint Pavilion behind the Grandstand. The sermon will be provided by Pastor Karen Ward from Trinity Lutheran Church, McAlisterville.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-5:00 p.m., Lion's Club Zone Meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Blessing of the Backpacks.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold	Deb Geedey	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Linda Bahorik	Sheree Goss	Betty Ranck
Jeremy Barnes	Fred Gross	Keith Ranck
Ryan Barr	Hannah Hart	Dave Reed
Donna Barton	Bill Heck	Diane Rowles
Tony Beward	John (Pat) Henry	Greysley Rowles
Bill Book	Nox Hepburn	Kelley Rusenko
Linda Brouse	Judy Hosler	Arlene Shearer
Jim Burdge	Nancy Howell	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Andrea Cameron	Erin Husler	Donna Stoner
Evitt Campbell	Terry Imes	Barry Strawser
Terry Coder	Annie Ingle	Vicki Suoja
Kenton Cohenour	Guy Kerstetter	Molly Ulsh
Heather Compton	Jesse Kint	George Varner
Fred & Dot Dowling	Carlen McClure	Kristy Wagner & family
Seth Dowling	Alice McClure	Heather Walton
Kim Dumais	Andi McDanel	Roscoe Warner
Freda Durio	Cecilia Miller	Mary Jane Williamson
Cathy Dysinger	Curt Miller	Hannah Wirt
Renee Dzikowski	Larry Miller	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Rev. Jodi Ellis	Shirley Miller	Gary Zeiders
Neil & Pat Fisher	Claire Mummah	Paul Zeiders
Kevin Fetterhoof	Jean Noerr	George Zimmerman
Bentley Fulkroad	Donna Parks	Jean Zimmerman
Terri Gayer	Linda (Kerchner)Parks	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