"Growing God's Kingdom"



THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 25th, 2024

Messiah Lutheran Church

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

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TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

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
Bob St. Clair
Stella & Sofia Reed
Thea Beward, Nick & Gabby Reed
Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 25, 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.]

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

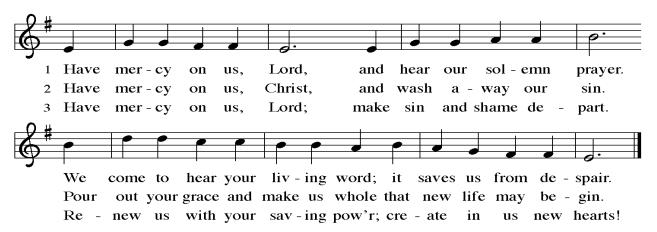
GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

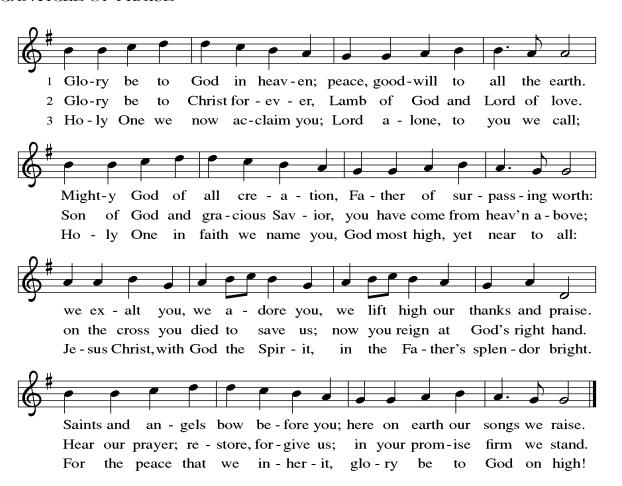
"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

#229 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



* 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 Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

WORD

served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

L: Here ends the reading.

against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22 (Responsively)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluía. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluía. Alleluía.

The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶"Those 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." ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

C Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (spoken)

SERMON Pastor Leister

Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" #389 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 "Jesus, the Very Thought of You" #316 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 - Paige Martin

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Brea Beward & Ella Harris

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

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward (8/26/24 – 9/15/24)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Jean Berry

AUGUST COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Clint Miller & Mary Grimm

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

- 1: Don & Barb Geedey
- 8: Ron & Christie Yorks
- 15: Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry
- 22: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss
- 29: Tammy Brackbill & Nick Beward

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 – Thomas Watson, English Theologian (1515 – 1584): He called them that they might be holy, and holiness is the beauty produced by his workmanship in them.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY</u> 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 <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.

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 <u>Bob</u> at <u>stclairb@embarqmail.com</u> or the <u>church office</u> at <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u> 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.

2025 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, (Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Badlands National Park, Wall Drug) to name a few, we will be leaving on a jet plane for Rapid City South Dakota around June 12th. Participants must be at least 14 years old to be eligible for this adventure. If you are interested, please send **Kathy Whitesel** a text or call her at **717-363-6144**. A meeting for parents and participants will be held on **Sunday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church** for paying the \$100 non-refundable deposit and to brainstorm 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 South Dakota and then 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 <u>UNANIMOUSLY</u> voted to agree with the survey to have <u>10:00 a.m. SUNDAY SERVICES YEAR-ROUND</u>. We will begin this new time when we go back to our "normal" service schedule on <u>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st</u>. 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 – Today, 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:

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Tuesday -9:00 \text{ a.m.} - 5:00 \text{ p.m.}
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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
 --Shampoo
 --Dryer Sheets
 --Deodorant
 --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.

-Blessing of the Backpacks.

Monday: -7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.

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

-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

Thursday: -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.

Sunday: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

-4:30 p.m., Juniata County Fair Vesper Service.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold Linda Bahorik Jeremy Barnes Ryan Barr Donna Barton Tony Beward Bill Book Linda Brouse Jim Burdge Andrea Cameron Evitt Campbell Terry Coder Kenton Cohenour Heather Compton Fred & Dot Dowling Seth Dowling Kim Dumais Freda Durio Cathy Dysinger Renee Dzikowski Rev. Jodi Ellis

Neil & Pat Fisher

Kevin Fetterhoof

Bentley Fulkroad

Terri Gayer

Deb Geedev Sheree Goss Fred Gross Hannah Hart Bill 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 Linda (Kerchner)Parks Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Betty Ranck

Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Grevslev Rowles Kelley Rusenko Arlene Shearer Joyce & Todd Spangler Donna Stoner Barry Strawser Vicki Suoja Molly Ulsh George Varner Kristy Wagner & family Heather Walton Roscoe Warner Mary Jane Williamson Hannah Wirt 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