"Growing God's Kingdom"



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1st, 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: Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

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
Paige Martin
Brea Beward & Ella Harris
Paige Martin, Silas Smith & Braedon Walton
Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward
Jean Berry

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024 – 10:00 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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
 - C Amen.
 - P Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Gracious God,
- C have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- P God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.
- C Amen.

GATHERING

- * 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 God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant.

Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

WORD

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 15 (Responsively)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart; ³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

SECOND READING......James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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.

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

- - P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 7^{th} chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Leister

SERMON Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #559 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 ('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 Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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 Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - C Amen.

SENDING

- * BLESSING
 - P God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace.
 - C Amen, Amen. (sung)
- * SENDING HYMN

"Beautiful Savior

#518 Green Hymnal

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Follow Jesus. C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Hope & Evan Miller

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS - Grace Miller, Ella Harris & Thea Beward

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

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Denise Hower by family.

JUST A THOUGHT – J. B. Phillips, Bible Translator (1906 – 1982): Every time we say "I believe in the Holy Spirit," we believe there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.

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?

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.

THE NEXT VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, September 22nd following the worship service. Business: reports of minutes of the Boards.

BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME on Tuesday, September 10th at 10:30 a.m. in the Library. We will begin a study of "The Life and Times of David." Material and books will be available by then. Anyone is welcome to attend.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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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.
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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)

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, September 12th at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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 this evening 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: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

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

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.

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

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

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 Geedey 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 Greysley 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