"Growing God's Kingdom"



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 15th, 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: Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

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
Cynthia Smith
Carter Ehrisman & Nick Reed
Gabby, Stella & Sofia Reed
Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward
Tammy Brackbill

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 15, 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

- * GATHERING HYMN
- "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"
- #309 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 God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

WORD

⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:Psalm 116:1-9 (responsively)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life." ⁵Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁶The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt well with you.

⁸For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling; ⁹I will walk in the presence of the LORD

in the land of the living.

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly

poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

- 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.

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

- - P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

- 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 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" pg. 14 in bulletin Choir – vss 1 & 2.......Congregation – vss. 3 & 4

* 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 Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- * 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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

* 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).

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, Amen. (Sung)
- * SENDING HYMN

"O Jesus, I Have Promísed"

#503 Green Hymnal

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

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Cynthia Smith

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Carter Ehrisman & Nick Reed

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Gabby, Stella & Sofia Reed

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD - Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp (9/16/24 - 10/6/24)

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: 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 my Father, Robert St. Clair, Sr., by Bob St. Clair

JUST A THOUGHT – David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Welsh Protestant Minister, Preacher, and Doctor (1899 – 1981): A man's God is that for which he lives, for which he is prepared to give his time, his energy, his money, that which stimulates him and rouses him, excites, and enthuses him.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

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.

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?

A NEW ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE is being assembled for "Year C," which runs from Sunday, December 1, 2024 (First Sunday of Advent) through Sunday, November 23, 2025 (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!

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.

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 \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 --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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS CLEANING SUPPLIES AND PAPER PRODUCTS WE GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

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

-Board of Worship & Music meeting in Library following worship service.

Monday: -6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room.

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

Tuesday: -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Library.

-6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday: -7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Lion's Club United Way Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

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

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

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

-Voter's Assembly following worship service. Business: Board Reports.

-6:00 p.m., 2025 Mission Trip to South Dakota meeting at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold Linda Bahorik Melissa Bargo 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 Kevin Fetterhoof

Neil & Pat Fisher 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 Family of Joy Noerr Linda (Kerchner)Parks Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Cheryl Pinkerton

Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Greysley Rowles Kellev Rusenko Arlene Shearer **Jennifer Smith** 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

