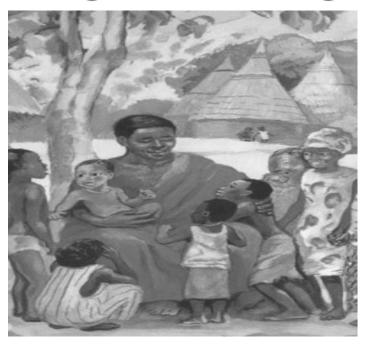
# "Growing God's Kingdom"



# THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

## Messiah Lutheran Church

**REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR** 

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

**PASTOR EMAIL:** mlcsleister@gmail.com **OFFICE EMAIL:** mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

**TODAY'S INTRODUCTION:** Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

## 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
Tawny Mummah
Olivia Mummah & Brea Beward
Hannah Ehrisman, Thea Beward & Braedon Walton
Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp

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

# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 22, 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
- "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
- #370 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, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Today's reading tells of the suffering of the prophet Jeremiah, who announced God's word to Judah but was met with intense opposition and persecution. Jeremiah continues to trust in God in the midst of his suffering.

#### **WORD**

<sup>18</sup>It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. <sup>19</sup>But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

<sup>20</sup>But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 54 (responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, by your name; in your might, defend my cause.

<sup>2</sup>Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

<sup>3</sup>For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life, those who have no regard for God.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who sustains my life.

<sup>5</sup>Render evil to those who spy on me; in your faithfulness, destroy them.

<sup>6</sup>I will offer you a freewill sacrifice and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

<sup>7</sup>For you have rescued me from every trouble,

and my eye looks down on my enemies.

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

<sup>4:1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

- 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.

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

- P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 9th chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON Pastor Leister Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind"

#506 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 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).

**ANTHEM** 

"Blessed Assurance"

Lyrics by Fanny Crosby

#### 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, (Sung)
- \* SENDING HYMN "Take My Life, that I May Be" #406 Green Hymnal
- \* DISMISSAL
  - P Go in peace. Follow Jesus. C Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Kate Swailes

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Braedon Walton & Thea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS - Silas Smith, Zeb Berry & Brea Beward

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

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Barb Geedey

#### SEPTEMBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: 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 loved ones by Neil and Pat Fisher.

JUST A THOUGHT – Francis August Scheaffer, Christian Thinker: Man still stands in the image of God – twisted, broken, abnormal, but still the image bearer of God.

#### **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 <a href="mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com">mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com">mlcsleister@gmail.com</a>.

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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 **this evening 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.

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held 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 <a href="mailto:msgoss@gmail.com">msgoss@gmail.com</a>.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! During our October 6<sup>th</sup> 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:

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 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.

-Voter's Assembly following worship service. Business: Board Reports. -A brief PPC meeting will be held following the Voter's Assembly.

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

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

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

-7:00 p.m., Juniata County Clearing House annual meeting at Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ

Church.

**Tuesday:** -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Choir Room.

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

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

Friday: -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.

**Sunday:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion/Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

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 Ed Fraker

Bentley Fulkroad

Terri Gaver 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 Family of Joy Noerr Linda (Kerchner)Parks Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine

Cheryl Pinkerton Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Greysley Rowles Kelley 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 Iim & 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