

# “Growing God’s Kingdom”



## THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*October 13<sup>th</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](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com)

**OFFICE EMAIL:** [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [mlcmifflintown.org](http://mlcmifflintown.org)

**TODAY’S INTRODUCTION:** *The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark’s gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.*

# 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

Marina Holderman

Nick Reed & Hope Miller

Silas Smith, Evan and Grace Miller

Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed

Pastor

Organist/Pianist

Organist/Pianist

Choir Director

Lector

Acolytes

Communion/Offering Presenters

Altar Guild

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 13, 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                    *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*                    #526 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.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,  
 we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.  
 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,  
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

\* 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 Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

**WORD**

FIRST READING .....Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. <sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. <sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. <sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. <sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

L: Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: ..... Psalm 90:12-17 (**responsively**)

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**<sup>13</sup>Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.**

<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

**<sup>15</sup>Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

<sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.

**<sup>17</sup>May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

*We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.*

SECOND READING..... Hebrews 4:12-16

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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 has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.*

\* **GOSPEL** .....Mark 10:17-31

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON  
CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Leister  
Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"*

#327 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** God of grace,

**C** **hear 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.**

\* 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

*“Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult”*

#494 Green Hymnal

### \* DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB154530

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Andrea Cameron

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Braedon Walton & Olivia Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Zeb Berry, Thea & Brea Beward

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed (10/7/24 – 10/20/24)

## OCTOBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Don & Barb Geedey

20: Ron & Christie Yorks

27: Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry

## **WELCOME TO ALL!**

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of Herm and Marge McKee, given in love by Great-granddaughters Annabelle McGowan Miller and Sloane McKee Miller.

JUST A THOUGHT – Joseph Addison, English Essayist and Poet (1672 – 1719): There is no virtue so great as justice.

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at [mlcsleister@gmail.com](mailto:mlcsleister@gmail.com).

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com). If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

OCTOBER “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for Lutheran Disaster Response. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to LDR so they may continue to help those in need who are recovering from Hurricane Helene that affected the Gulf Coast of Florida to the western mountains of North Carolina. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

REMINDER: **Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter** to **Bob** at [stclairb@embarqmail.com](mailto:stclairb@embarqmail.com) or the church office at [mlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:mlchurchoffice@gmail.com) by the deadlines which are listed monthly in the newsletter.

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. We will be studying the “Life of David.” Anyone is welcome to attend.

PPC WILL MEET on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> for discussion of budget approval to submit to the congregation in November.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Harshbarger’s fundraising nights for the youth workcamp trip next summer. The dates are November 5, 2024 and January 14, 2025. More information in upcoming bulletins.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS are being collected for Shelter Service, Inc. in Lewistown:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| --Laundry Detergent | --Shaving Cream |
| --Clorox            | --Shampoo       |
| --Dryer Sheets      | --Deodorant     |
| --Dish Soap         | --Body Wash     |

Please place items in the Adult Sunday School Room in the container provided.

NOTE: We will again be sponsoring 6 children for the Christmas Angel Project this year. Details will be in the bulletin near the end of October.

## ***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 OCTOBER:**

(THESE ARE THE FOODS THAT ARE MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO OBTAIN)  
TURKEY BREASTS, HAMS (3-5 LBS.), WHOLE CHICKENS,  
CANNED SWEET POTATOES, INSTANT POTATOES, STUFFING, GRAVY,  
CRANBERRY SAUCE AND BROWNIE OR COOKIE MIX  
OR A \$20 DONATION WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!

## **THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.  
-Congregational meeting following worship service.  
-Board of Worship & Music meeting in Library following congregational meeting.  
-1:30 p.m., Registration for Juniata County CROP Walk at Walker Park.  
-2:00 p.m., Juniata County CROP Walk at Walker Park.
- 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 Choir Room.
- Wednesday:** -Pastor Sam out of town.  
-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.  
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.
- Sunday:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

## **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 Geedey  
Sheree Goss  
Amanda Gregg  
Fred Gross  
Hannah Hart  
Bill Heck  
John (Pat) Henry  
Nox Hepburn  
Judy Hosler  
Nancy Howell  
Terry Imes  
Annie Ingle  
Guy Kerstetter  
Jesse Kint  
Carlen McClure  
Alice McClure  
Andi McDanel  
Cecilia Miller  
Curt Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Claire Mummah  
Carole Nace  
Linda (Kerchner)Parks  
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine  
Cheryl Pinkerton

Betty Ranck  
Keith Ranck  
Dave Reed  
Diane Rowles  
Greysley Rowles  
Kelley Rusenko  
Arlene Shearer  
Allyson Smith & Family  
Jennifer Smith  
Joyce & Todd Spangler  
Donna Stoner  
Barry Strawser  
Vicki Suoja  
Molly Ulsh  
George Varner  
Kristy Wagner & family  
Heather Walton  
Roscoe Warner  
Kathy Whitesel  
Mary Jane Williamson  
Jim & Heidi Woltman  
Gary Zeiders  
Paul Zeiders  
George Zimmerman  
Jean Zimmerman  
Linda Zimmerman

### **Victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.**

#### **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