

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 6th, 2024

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

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TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

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
Olivia Mummah
Julia Martin & Hannah Ehrisman
Ella Harris, Paige Martin & Carter Ehrisman
Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp
Cynthia Smith

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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

World Communion/Blanket Sunday

October 6, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

BLESSING FOR BLANKET SUNDAY

Cindy Van Gavree

L Gracious God, as we present these gifts of our hearts and hands; quilts, school kits, and baby kits, we join giver and receiver, recognizing the unity of all the people of God.

C We celebrate being the children of God.

L We give thanks for the variety of gifts needed for these quilts, school kits, and baby kits and the talents of the hands that sewed the quilts and the patience of those who filled and assembled the school kits and baby kits. We also give thanks for the time donated by those who deliver the quilts and kits to their pick-up point.

C We celebrate generosity.

L We give thanks for the fellowship of all those who work together on our projects, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of doing something with our hands and hearts for another and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.

C We celebrate community.

L We send these school kits and personal care kits as a sign of God's love and blessing for each person who receives, trusting that these gifts will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of disaster and fear, a symbol of God's love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God. May the gifts serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient and may it be a step in recovering one's life and be a message of caring from someone they may never meet.

C We celebrate hope in the midst of life's trials.

L We remember those who have received our gifts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability.

C We celebrate the gift of life.

L We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need.

Bless all who give and all who receive, as we are joined together in the unity of one God, now and forever.

C Amen

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN *"Blessing and Honor"* #525 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 **Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 2:18-24

¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." ²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 8 (responsively)

¹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!?

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

SECOND READING..... Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise 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 announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

* GOSPELMark 10:2-16

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 10th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)

²Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" ³He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (Sung)

MESSAGE

Bishop Craig Miller

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

#479 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).

ANTHEM:

"Let All Things now Living"

J. C. Cowley, harmonized by K. K. Davis

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!

* **EUCCHARISTIC 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 *"For the Beauty of the Earth"* #561 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Marina Holderman

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Nick Reed & Hope Miller

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Silas Smith, Evan & Grace Miller

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

OCTOBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Clint Miller & Mary Grimm
13: 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.

JUST A THOUGHT – Oswald Chambers, Scottish Minister and Teacher (1784 – 1917): Happiness depends on what happens, joy does not.

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.

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. 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.

WE WELCOME Bishop Craig Miller as our guest speaker this morning. We thank him for sharing his experiences in the Holy Land with us today.

TODAY IS BLANKET SUNDAY and along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelope that is included with your bulletin today (additional envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room). Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and place in the offering plate or give to Cynthia Smith.

OUR THANKS TO “THE NEEDLERS” for sewing all of the lovely quilts you see today and for decorating the chancel and nave this morning. The quilts on display will be donated by “The Needlers” as their Blanket Sunday offering. Blankets/quilts, school kits and baby kits will be taken to Faith Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, PA on Saturday, October 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (container will be available from October 18th till October 22nd for loading). The quilts will then be sent to Lutheran World Relief and also given to Messiah members who are now in nursing homes. The covers on the altar and lecterns were made by Carole Nace.

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. 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.

THE OCTOBER 2024 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com and Bob St. Clair at stclairb@embarqmail.com prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at mlcmiffintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

REMINDER: **Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter** to Bob at stclairb@embarqmail.com or the church office at 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.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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.

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be Thursday, October 10th 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 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:** -World Communion Sunday/Blanket Sunday.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion (Bishop Craig Miller speaking).
- 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:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -1:00 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Sunday:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-Board of Worship & Music meeting following worship service in Library.
-1:30 p.m., Registration for Juniata County CROP Walk at Walker Park.
-2:00 p.m., Juniata County CROP Walk at Walker Park.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold	Terri Gayer	Betty Ranck
Linda Bahorik	Deb Geedey	Keith Ranck
Melissa Bargo	Sheree Goss	Dave Reed
Jeremy Barnes	Amanda Gregg	Diane Rowles
Ryan Barr	Fred Gross	Greysley Rowles
Donna Barton	Hannah Hart	Kelley Rusenko
Tony Beward	Bill Heck	Arlene Shearer
Bill Book	John (Pat) Henry	Allyson Smith & Family
Linda Brouse	Nox Hepburn	Jennifer Smith
Jim Burdge	Judy Hosler	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Andrea Cameron	Nancy Howell	Donna Stoner
Evitt Campbell	Terry Imes	Barry Strawser
Terry Coder	Annie Ingle	Vicki Suoja
Kenton Cohenour	Guy Kerstetter	Molly Ulsh
Heather Compton	Jesse Kint	George Varner
Fred & Dot Dowling	Carlen McClure	Kristy Wagner & family
Seth Dowling	Alice McClure	Heather Walton
Kim Dumais	Andi McDanel	Roscoe Warner
Freda Durio	Cecilia Miller	Kathy Whitesel
Cathy Dysinger	Curt Miller	Mary Jane Williamson
Renee Dzikowski	Larry Miller	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Rev. Jodi Ellis	Shirley Miller	Gary Zeiders
Kevin Fetterhoof	Claire Mummah	Paul Zeiders
Neil & Pat Fisher	Linda (Kerchner) Parks	George Zimmerman
Family of Ed Fraker	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	Jean Zimmerman
Bentley Fulkroad	Cheryl Pinkerton	Linda Zimmerman

Victims of Hurricane Helena, from Florida to North Carolina.

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