

# SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## 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)

*Teach God's Grace through Fellowship,  
Study, Service & Witness*

**TODAY'S INTRODUCTION:** *The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.*

# 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  
Barb Geedey  
Thea Beward & Olivia Mummah  
Brea Beward, Evan Miller & Olivia Mummah  
Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman  
Diana Wise

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

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 19, 2025 – 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.]

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**C Amen.**

P Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Merciful God,

**C we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

P God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**C Amen.**

### GATHERING

\* ENTRANCE HYMN

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

#265 Green Hymnal

\* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ, the mercy of the Holy One, and the Spirit of the living God 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.

<sup>All</sup>  
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 **Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

*The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, and the people are called to the celebration.*

FIRST READING.....Isaiah 62:1-5

<sup>1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. <sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. <sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 36:5-10 (responsively)

<sup>5</sup>Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, and your faithfulness to the clouds.

**<sup>6</sup>Your righteousness is like the strong mountains, your justice like the great deep; you save humankind and animals, O LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>How priceless is your love, O God! All people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

**<sup>8</sup>They feast upon the abundance of your house; you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

<sup>9</sup>For with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light.

**<sup>10</sup>Continue your lovingkindness to those who know you, and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

*The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing their spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.*

SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 12:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that

when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup>Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup>and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup>and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup>To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup>To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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.**

*Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.*

**\* GOSPEL.....John 2:1-11**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

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

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup>Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup>When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup>His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup>Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup>and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." <sup>11</sup>Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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**

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

#771 WOV

\* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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')

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

\* OFFERING PRAYER

P God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C Amen.

## MEAL

### \* COMMUNION DIALOG

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 Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**C Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.**

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 Amen.**

### \* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

**C 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.**

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

### \* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

\* 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.**

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 their 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 Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray.

**C Amen.**

SENDING

\* BLESSING

P The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

\* SENDING HYMN

*"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"*

#90 Green Hymnal

\* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C Thanks be to God.**

\* POSTLUDE

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2024 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.

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

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Beward Family

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Grace & Evan Miller

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Hope Miller, Carter Ehrisman & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp (1/20/25 – 2/16/25)



## JANUARY OFFERING COUNTERS:

Today: Ron & Christie Yorks

26: 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 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 Velma Suloff by Don and Barb Geedey.

JUST A THOUGHT – Phillip Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts in the Episcopal Church during the early 1890s: Prayer is not conquering God's reluctance, but taking hold of God's willingness.

## **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.

JANUARY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will go to the Juniata County Library. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Library so they may continue to serve those in 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 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.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING will be February 16<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES ARE NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2025 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly (date to be announced). If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Leister or the church office.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY – Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9, 2025. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God’s love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to “help our neighbors” by dropping a dollar in the soup pot and also by donating a can of soup on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

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.

THE 2025 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES are available to pick up in the Library. Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2024 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2025 is in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you wish to place flowers on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart.

THANK YOU to the members at Messiah for the Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated....Jen Hutchinson

### **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 NEXT WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 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 JANUARY**

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER;  
OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES; VICKS;  
AND ANY HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS.  
WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH  
AND GIFT CARDS TO PURCHASE THESE SUPPLIES.

**THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH**

- Today:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -5:00 p.m., Lion's Club Meeting in Fellowship Hall.  
-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
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.  
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Sanctuary.
- Saturday:** -9:00 a.m., Marine Corps League in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.  
-PPC Executive Meeting following worship service.

### 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  
Mark Harvey  
Bill Heck  
John (Pat) Henry  
Nox Hepburn  
Nancy Howell  
Terry Imes  
Annie Ingle  
Guy Kerstetter  
Jesse Kint  
Carlen McClure  
Andi McDanel  
Cecilia Miller  
Curt Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Marlin Milliken  
Claire Mummah  
Carole Nace  
Linda (Kerchner) Parks  
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine  
Cheryl Pinkerton  
Donna Pontius  
Betty Ranck

Keith Ranck  
Dave Reed  
Jan Reisinger  
Diane Rowles  
Greysley Rowles  
Kelley Rusenko  
Arlene Shearer  
Jennifer Smith  
Judy 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  
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