

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

MUSIC SUNDAY

April 27th, 2025



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

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

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: *In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.*

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
Carter Ehrisman & Evan Miller
Silas Smith, Brea Beward & Paige Martin
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER MUSIC SUNDAY

April 27, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Jeremy Goodling

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

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* #543 Green Hymnal

* GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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.

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” -- In Unison)

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 O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

FIRST READING.....Acts 5:27-32

²⁷When they had brought [the apostles], they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³²And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM.....Psalm 118:14-29 (*responsively*)

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

²⁵Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!

²⁶Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD; we bless you from the house of the LORD.

²⁷The LORD is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar.

²⁸You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

²⁹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

SECOND READING.....Revelation 1:4-8

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and

the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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.

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

* GOSPEL.....John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.

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

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jeremy Goodling

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

ANTHEM

Jeremy Goodling

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 Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may
live as your risen body in the world.

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 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.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

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 Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*** 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 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 Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"

#171 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Hannah Ehrisman

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Stella & Sofia Reed

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Evan Miller, Gabby & Nick Reed

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed (4/7/25 – 5/4/25)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Christie Yorks

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Tammy Brackbill & Mary Grimm

May 4: Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry

May 11: Clint Miller & Nick Beward

May 18: Don & Barb Geedey

May 25: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss

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 honor of the birthdays of Cheryl Pinkerton and Debbie Meinsler.

OUR GUEST SOLOIST TODAY is Jeremy Goodling. Jeremy has been a soloist in the local Christian scene for 30 years. As a soloist, he specializes in southern gospel music, but also likes to include a few contemporary songs. He also plays various instruments. We welcome him to our worship service today and thank him for his ministry.

JUST A THOUGHT – Anthony Bloom, Writer and Broadcaster, Russian Orthodox Church (1914 – 2003): A miracle is not the breaking of the laws of the fallen world, it is the re-establishment of the laws of the kingdom.

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.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Sunday, September 7th, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, **“God’s Work, Our Hands.”**

APRIL’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for the Juniata County Food Pantry. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Food Pantry to continue assisting our friends and neighbors, supplying necessary items and food for their tables. 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.

A VOTER’S ASSEMBLY will be held today following the worship service. Business: approval of audit and sharing of board reports.

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE for July 2025 through June 2026 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.

SUMMER CAMP 2025

Kate Swailes will be serving as our congregation's camperson for Camp Mount Luther again this year. This year's summer camp season will begin on June 15th and will run until August 4th. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you're looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. If you have any questions about camp, you can contact Kate or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. The camp brochures are available on the Camp Mount Luther site <https://www.campmountluther.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Camp-Brochure.pdf> and camp brochures will be mailed to campers who attended camp in the past. Brochures and schedules are also available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Submit your camp registration online at **Camp Mount Luther Summer Camp Registration** and provide the \$50 payment to Kate Swailes or church treasurer Jen Hutchinson. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc.

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.

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 NEWS

WELCA CONVENTION will be held on Saturday, July 26th at Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. The theme will be "For All the Faithful Women." The in-gathering will go to LDR. **The in-kind collection will be items for "period packs" which contain: regular tampons, super absorbency tampons, or packs of 12 pads that are unscented (long, super or ultra-thin).** We are hoping to be able to complete 200 kits at the convention. We will be collecting from now until the convention in July. If you are able to purchase either of these items, you can place them on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you would like to donate money to purchase these items, you may give your donation to Barb, Cynthia, Linda, Christie or Cindy. Anyone who is interested in attending the Convention, please contact Barb for a copy of the registration form. The cost will be \$40 which covers refreshments upon arrival, lunch and any item needed for the program.

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 APRIL

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
SHAMPOO, DEODORANT,
CLEANING SUPPLIES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP,
ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, & PAPER TOWELS.

DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

MESSIAH/ST STEPHEN'S YOUTH GROUP

SPAGHETTI DINNER



SATURDAY, MAY 3RD FROM 4:00 TO 7:00 P.M.
In Messiah's Fellowship Hall

Proceeds will benefit St. Stephen's and Messiah's Youth Work Campers Trip

**(If you are able to supply a dessert for the dinner or a basket for the raffle,
please contact Chris Martin or Tawny Mummah)**

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** **-Music Sunday – Soloist Jeremy Goodling.**
 -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
 -Voter's Assembly following worship service.
 -11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.
- Monday:** -5:00 p.m., Lions Club in Fellowship Hall.
 -7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., The "Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
 -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary.
- Saturday:** -4:00-7:00 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold
Linda Bahorik
Melissa Bargo
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr

Bill Book
Linda Brouse
Andrea Cameron
Evitt Campbell
Kenton Cohenour

Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kevin Fetterhoof

Neil & Pat Fisher	Pastor Sam Leister	Arlene Shearer
Bentley Fulkroad	Don Lyter	Lowell Shearer
Kristen Gaisor	Cecilia Miller	Gail Sherman
Terri Gayer	Curt Miller	Althea Smith
Deb Geedey	Larry Miller	Jennifer Smith
Sheree Goss	Shirley Miller	Judy Smith
Amanda Gregg	Marlin Milliken	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Fred Gross	Claire Mummah	Barry Strawser
Mark Harvey	Linda (Kerchner) Parks	Vicki Suoja
Bill Heck	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	Amy Swartz
John (Pat) Henry	Cheryl Pinkerton	Molly Ulsh
Sawyer Henry	Donna Pontius	George Varner
Nox Hepburn	Betty Ranck	Roscoe Warner
Nancy Howell	Keith Ranck	Kathy Whitesel
Annie Ingle	Dave Reed	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Michael 'Doc' Johnston	Jeff & Lisa Rosenberry	Paul Zeiders
Guy Kerstetter	Diane Rowles	George Zimmerman
Jesse Kint	Greysley Rowles	Linda Zimmerman
Nancy Kramer	Kelley Rusenko	

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