

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 13th, 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: To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

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
Kate Swailes
Olivia Mummah & Grace Miller
Silas Smith, Hope & Evan Miller
Tammy Smith & Tawny Mummah
Slone Smith & Christie Yorks

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Lay Worship Leader/Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild
Offering Counters

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 13, 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.]

* BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

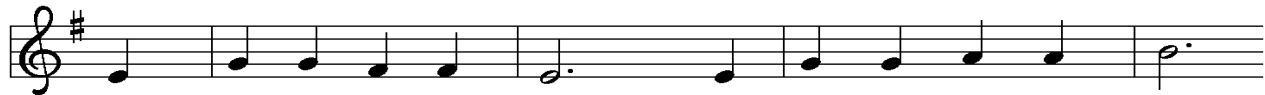
#415 Green Hymnal

* 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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

* 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 Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.

FIRST READING.....Deuteronomy 30:9-14

⁹The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 25:1-10 (*Responsively*)

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.

SECOND READING.....Colossians 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

* GOSPEL.....Luke 10:25-37

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Andrea Cameron
Andrea Cameron

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"*

#448 Green Hymnal

* 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 (“Vineyards”)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

(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 kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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 Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

* SENDING HYMN *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”* #559 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Marina Holderman

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Thea Beward & Nick Reed

NEXT WEEK’S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Gabby, Sofia & Stella Reed

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Tammy Brackbill & Jen Hutchinson (7/14/25 – 7/27/25)

NEXT WEEK’S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Diana Wise

JULY OFFERING COUNTERS:

20: Clint Miller & Nick Beward

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 the birthday of my mother Flo, by Debrann Meinsler.

THIS MORNING WE ARE LED IN WORSHIP by Andrea Cameron an Authorized Lay Worship Leader of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Authorized Lay Worship Leaders have received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and also have been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist in specific situations.

JUST A THOUGHT – Warren Wendel Wiersbe, American Pastor (b. 1929): The Christian life is not a playground, it is a battlefield.

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.

THE JULY 2025 “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 stclairbjr@gmail.com prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at

mlcmifflintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

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.”**

JULY’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be continued support for Juniata County Food Pantry Summer Backpack Program. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Food Pantry to continue assisting in the effort to feed the children of our community through the summer months. 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 stclairbjr@gmail.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.

WE WILL BE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SCHOOL KITS:

- blue or black ball point pens (NO gel pens)
- 2½ inch erasers
- pencil sharpeners
- packs of 16-24 crayons
- rulers with inches and centimeters
- blunt scissors
- 70-80 sheet college-rule 8x10½ notebooks

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 JULY

CANNED BEETS AND BAKED BEANS; CLEANING SUPPLIES AND TOILET PAPER.
BACKPACK PROGRAM: SINGLE-SERVE FRUIT CUPS, JELL-O CUPS,
NON-CHOCOLATE PUDDING, AND SINGLE-SERVE MEALS.
MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED.

P.O. BOX 44, 114 N. MAIN ST., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
PHONE: 717-436-9718 HOURS: TUES. 9-12 & 1-5, SAT. 9-12

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
Monday: -7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
Wednesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
Sunday: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

PRAYER LIST

The Family of Jeff Fry
Joedy Arnold
Linda Bahorik
Melissa Bargo
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Bill Book
Linda Brouse
Andrea Cameron
Evitt Campbell
Nathan Clark
Kenton Cohenour
Bill Conn
Stacy Couture
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kevin Fetterhoof
Neil & Pat Fisher
Family of Jeff Fry
Bentley Fulkroad
Kristen Gaisor
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey
Sheree Goss

Amanda Gregg
Fred Gross
Mark Harvey
Bill Heck
John (Pat) Henry
Karen Henry
Sawyer Henry
Nox Hepburn
Nancy Howell
Annie Ingle
Michael 'Doc' Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
George King
Jesse Kint
Nancy Kramer
Pastor Sam Leister
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Marlin Milliken
Claire Mummah
Linda (Kerchner) Parks
Fred Parnell
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Cheryl Pinkerton

Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Dave Reed
Diane Rowles
Greysley Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Arlene Shearer
Lowell Shearer
Wyatt Shellenberger
Gail Sherman
Althea Smith
Dave Smith
Jennifer Smith
Joyce & Todd Spangler
Barry Strawser
Vicki Suoja
Amy Swartz
Molly Ulsh
George Varner
Roscoe Warner
Sandy Wert
Todd Wert
Kathy Whitesel
Jim & Heidi Woltman
George 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, Thompsonstown, PA 17094
--Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsonstown, PA 17094
--Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044