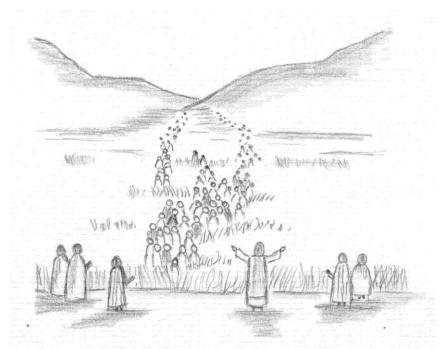
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 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: Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

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
Andrea Cameron
Paige Martin & Brea Beward
Braedon Walton, Julia Martin & Ella Harris
Tammy Brackbill & Jen Hutchinson
Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST July 27, 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

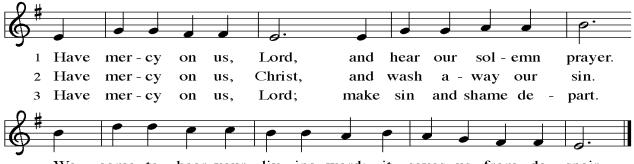
* GATHERING HYMN

"You Servants of God"

#252 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



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



- 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 Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

- L: Here ends the reading.
- C: Thanks be to God.

²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹²when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[16Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.

- * GOSPEL.....Luke 11:1-13
 - P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 11th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

¹[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." ²He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

⁵And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' ⁷And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' ⁸I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Pastor Leister Pastor Leister

#439 Green Hymnal

HYMN OF THE DAY

* 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. (sung)

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
 - C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Paige Martin

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Ella Harris & Evan Miller

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Hannah Ehrisman, Olivia Mummah & Zeb Berry

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD - Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman (7/28/25) - (8/17/25)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER - Christie Yorks

AUGUST OFFERING COUNTERS:

- 3: Slone Smith & Mary Grimm
- 10: Don & Barb Geedey
- 17: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss
- 24: Ron & Christie Yorks
- 31: Clint Miller & 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 worshiping 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 loving memory of Richard Nace by Carole, Heidi and family and Jennifer and family.

JUST A THOUGHT – St. Augustine of Hippo, Bishop of Hippo (354 – 430): God is more anxious to bestow his blessings on us than we are to receive them.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS <u>THURSDAY NOON.</u>

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 <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or <u>mlchurchoffice@gmail.com</u>. 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."

JOIN THE CHOIR! Our choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.. If you are in junior high school or beyond, "make a joyful noise," you are certainly welcome to join us! Our first rehearsal for the fall will be Wednesday evening, August 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISMAL CLASS – If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to become a member of Messiah and attend the New Member Class, please let Pastor Sam or the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS – Please let Pastor Sam or the church office know if you would like your child to attend a First Communion Class and a date and time will be arranged with those who are interested.

AUGUST'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be continued support for the Juniata County Food Pantry's 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 <u>Bob</u> at <u>stclairbjr@gmail.com</u> or the <u>church office@gmail.com</u> 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

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, August 14th at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Barb Geedey will provide the devotions. All women of Messiah are invited to attend.

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
- --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

ISLAND GROVE CAMPMEETING services will be held nightly beginning August 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at Island Grove Campground, 164 Doe Run Road, Mifflintown. The schedule is:

Sunday, 8/3: Hymn Sing with Bunkertown Men's Chorus Monday, 8/4: Rev. Bob Graybill and The Naka Sisters

Tuesday, 8/5: Sam Leister and Drew Wagner Wednesday, 8/6 Mindy Petrovcic and The Boyz Thursday, 8/7 Stephanie Rupert and Brian Hassinger

Friday, 8/8: Carrie Bumgardener and Kathryn Hart and Becca Woleslagle

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST

ANY TYPE OF PASTA, CANNED CARROTS,
DISH SOAP, ANY CLEANING SUPPLIES AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT,
SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER,
SCHOOL SUPPLIES, (ESPECIALLY 1' BINDERS
FILLER NOTEBOOK PAPER, PENCIL BOXES, PENS).
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.

-PPC meeting following worship service.

Monday: -2:00 p.m., Lion's Club Organizational Meeting in Fellowship Hall.

-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.

Tuesday: -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.

Wednesday: -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.

Thursday: -7:00 p.m., Jazz Band rehearsal in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold Mark Harvey Dave Reed Linda Bahorik Bill Heck Diane Rowles Melissa Bargo John (Pat) Henry Greysley Rowles Jeremy Barnes Kelley Rusenko Karen Henry Ryan Barr Sawyer Henry Arlene Shearer Bill Book Nox Hepburn Lowell Shearer Nancy Howell Linda Brouse Wyatt Shellenberger Andrea Cameron Annie Ingle Gail Sherman Michael 'Doc' Johnston Evitt Campbell Althea Smith Nathan Clark Guy Kerstetter Dave Smith Kenton Cohenour George King Jennifer Smith Bill Conn Jesse Kint Joyce & Todd Spangler Stacy Couture Nancy Kramer Barry Strawser Kim Dumais Pastor Sam Leister Kenton Stuck Freda Durio Cecilia Miller Vicki Suoja Cathy Dysinger Curt Miller Amy Swartz Renee Dzikowski Larry Miller Molly Ulsh Kevin Fetterhoof Shirley Miller George Varner Victims of the Texas Floods Neil & Pat Fisher Marlin Milliken Bentley Fulkroad Claire Mummah Roscoe Warner Kristen Gaisor Linda (Kerchner)Parks Sandy Wert Fred Parnell Todd Wert Terri Gayer Deb Geedey Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine Kathy Whitesel Cheryl Pinkerton Jim & Heidi Woltman Sheree Goss Amanda Gregg Betty Ranck George Zimmerman Fred Gross Keith Ranck 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