TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SERVICE OF HEALING

August 31st, 2025



Messiah Lutheran Church

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059 (717)-436-6213

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WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

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

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

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
Diana Wise
Olivia Mummah & Brea Beward
Julia Martin, Ella Harris & Braedon Walton
Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp
Clint Miller & Nick Beward
Tammy Brackbill

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SERVICE OF HEALING

August 31, 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 "When Morning Gilds the Skies" #546 (vss. 1-3) 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

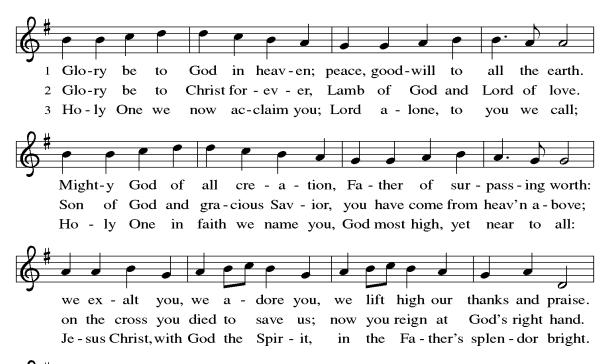


We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

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



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 God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

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

PSALM: Psalm 112 (Responsively)

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

²Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. ³Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

SECOND READING......Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and

adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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



Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

- * GOSPEL.....Luke 14:1, 7-14
 - P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame,

and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON Pastor Leister Pastor Leister

HYMN OF THE DAY

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

#546 (vss. 4-6) 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.

THE RITE OF HEALING

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

- P Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands as a commitment to God's power to heal may come down the center aisle. This may include those in need of physical, emotional, or mental healing. It may include those in need of reconciliation in their relationship to God or neighbor. It may include those who wish to commit their ministry of healing into the hands of God: as a doctor, nurse or health care worker.
- P Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. We give you thanks for this oil, for the fruit of the trees, nurtured in the warmth of the sun, watered from the rain of the heavens, the olives harvested, and oil pressed from the fruit of the trees. With oil, you anointed your chosen people Israel, and fed them with choice flour, oil, and honey. You anointed Aaron and made oil a sign of blessing for your chosen ones. You promised to anoint with oil those who walk through the valley of the shadow of death. You have anointed your own Son with the oil of gladness. The Good Samaritan tended a stranger, bound up his wounds, and poured oil on them. You gave the disciples power to heal, to cure, and to anoint with oil many who were sick. Your own body was anointed for burial by the woman who poured expensive ointment on his feet and wiped them with her hair. The virgins met the bridegroom and trimmed their oil lamps to burn brightly for the celebration, the feast to come.

(Those who wish to come forward to receive anointing with oil and the laying on of hands may do so now):

- P I lay my hands upon you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with grace, that you may know the healing power of his love.
- C Amen.
- P I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- * PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (for all)
 - P Let us pray.

The almighty Lord a stronger tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and whom they obey—be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only name under heaven given for health and salvation is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Merciful Lord God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
 - P Hear us, O God.
 - C Your mercy is great.
- * 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)
- * SENDING HYMN "Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak" #403 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 - Olivia Mummah

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES - Hope & Evan Miller

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Hannah Ehrisman, Olivia Mummah & Grace Miller

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD - Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp (8/18/25) - (9/7/25)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Barb Geedey

SEPTEMBER OFFERING COUNTERS:

- 7: Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry
- 14: Tammy Brackbill & Mary Grimm
- 21: Don & Barb Geedey
- 28: 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 worshiping with us.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of Warren and Claire Mummah's 70th anniversary by Mary and Glenn Grimm and family.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus' promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

JUST A THOUGHT – William S. Plummer: Bible Scholar - The bond of the Covenant is able to bear the weight of the believer's heaviest burden.

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.

"GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" Sunday will be September 7th following the morning worship service. We will once again be knotting quilts and filling school backpacks, so please plan on staying to help!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! During our October 5th morning worship service, we will recognize both Blanket Sunday and World Communion Sunday. Be sure to mark this special date on your calendars now and plan to attend worship on October 5th.

THE NEXT VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, September 28th following the worship service. Business: reports of minutes of the Boards.

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, September 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME on Tuesday, September 9th at 10:30 a.m. in the church Library. We will begin a study of the Gospels. Materials and books will be available by then. EVERYONE WELCOME!

SEPTEMBER'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for Central Juniata EMS. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to CJEMS to continue assisting in the effort to serve the needs of 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.

NEW ALTAR GUILD & OFFERING COUNTER SCHEDULES are being organized for "Year A," which runs from Sunday, November 30th, 2025 (First Sunday of Advent) through Sunday, November 22nd, 2026 (Christ the King Sunday). If you would like to join the Altar Guild or help in the baking of Manna Bread for communion or would like to volunteer a few Sundays a year to help count the morning offerings, please let Slone Smith or Bob St. Clair know as soon as possible. Thanks to all those who serve!

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</u> at <u>mlchurchoffice@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:

WE WILL BE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR SCHOOL KITS:

- --161 blue or black ball point pens (NO gel pens)
- -32 (2½ inch erasers)
- --12 pencil sharpeners
- --51 packs of 16-24 crayons
- --15 rulers with inches and centimeters
- --147 (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.

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be held on Thursday, September 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Barb Geedey will provide the devotions.

COMMUNITY

JUNIATA COUNTY FAIR VESPER

Date: This Evening Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Free Stage (weather permitting)

JUNIATA COUNTY CLEARING HOUSE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on Monday, September 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Cedar Grove Brethren In Christ Church. We will share statistics from the past 12 months. Please plan to attend and learn about how this ministry works in our community.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
PERSONAL CARE ITEMS,
CLEANING SUPPLIES, PAPER PRODUCTS.
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

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY. (CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ). Email jcfp122017@gmail.com Website: www.jcfoodpantry.com

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks, or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. *Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is available to receive them. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion/Service of Healing.

-4:00 p.m., Fair Vesper Service

Monday: -Labor Day.

-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.

Sunday: -"GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" SUNDAY.

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

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold
Linda Bahorik
Melissa Bargo
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Bill Book
Andrea Cameron
Evitt Campbell
Deb G. Chambers
Nathan Clark
Kenton Cohenour
Jean Compton
Scott & Heather Compton
Bill Conn
Stacy Couture

Bill Conn
Stacy Couture
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kevin Fetterhoof
Neil Fisher
Bentley Fulkroad
Kristen Gaisor
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey
Josslyn Geedey
Marilyn Gilbert

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 Paul Lingenfelter

Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Marlin Milliken
Claire Mummah
Linda (Kerchner)Parks
Fred Parnell
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Cheryl Pinkerton
Betty Ranck

Cecilia Miller

Curt Miller

Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Grevslev Rowles Kelley Rusenko Arlene Shearer Lowell Shearer Wyatt Shellenberger Gail Sherman Althea Smith Dave Smith **Jennifer Smith** Barry Strawser Kenton Stuck 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, 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