

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14th, 2025



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

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

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

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: *The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

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
Cynthia Smith
Sofia & Stella Reed
Silas Smith, Nick & Gabby Reed
Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward
Tammy Brackbill & Mary Grimm

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C Amen.

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Merciful and loving God,

C we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

#158 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 ((C-Sung)

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the
unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the
Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” – In Unison)

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

WORD

FIRST READING.....Exodus 32:7-14

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:Psalm 51:1-10 (**responsively**)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

SECOND READING.....1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of

violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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.

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

* GOSPEL.....Luke 15:1-10
P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)**

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."
³So he told them this parable: ⁴Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
⁸Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON	Pastor Leister
SERMON	Pastor Leister
HYMN OF THE DAY	“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” #481 Green Hymnal

* **APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 receive our prayer.

* **PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* **SUNG OFFERTORY ("Create in Me")**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

* **OFFERING PRAYER**

P Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

* 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.

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

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 O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

C **Amen, Amen, Amen. (Sung)**

* SENDING HYMN *“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”* #734 Blue Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Bob St. Clair

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Carter Ehrisman & Thea Beward

NEXT WEEK’S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Zeb Berry, Paige Martin & Ella Harris

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward (9/8/25 – 9/28/25)

NEXT WEEK’S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Jen Hutchinson

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: 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 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 my Father, Robert St. Clair, Sr., by Bob St. Clair.

THE FLOWERS IN THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY are from the Memorial Service for Glenn Compton.

JUST A THOUGHT – Thomas a’ Kempis, Medieval Catholic Monk and the probable author of “The Imitation of Christ” (1380 – 1471): Truly, when the Day of Judgment comes, we will not be examined on what we have read, but what we have done; not how well we have spoken, but how we lived.

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 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.

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!

TO ALL MEMBERS OF MESSIAH – As the Executive Director of PPC and on behalf of all of the board members, we would like to discuss a very delicate topic.

It was decided at our last PPC meeting that we would decrease our benevolence from \$12,000 per year to \$6,000 per year. We did this with heavy hearts. This decision was made because in the past several months up to and including the present time, we are running in the red. It is hard to ask our congregation to try to dig deeper into their pockets. We ask that you please pray about your giving and pray about the future of Messiah. We, as a congregation, have always moved forward on behalf of our church. So, I am asking each and every one of our members to please do their best to help our church continue and grow and be able to support everyone of our members and missions into the future.

Prayerfully yours,
Marylou Hazard, Messiah PPC Executive Director

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:

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.

COMMUNITY

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

CANNED BEETS, CANNED POTATOES, CANNED PINEAPPLE, SPAM,
SHAMPOO, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND PAIN MEDICINES,
DISHWASHING SOAPS, LAUNDRY SOAP AND
SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND BACKPACKS WHILE THEY ARE ON SALE.

*WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS AND GIFT CARDS.

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: -8:45 a.m., Confirmation Class in the sanctuary. We will be studying the Old Testament.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.

Monday: -6:30 p.m., The Knitters in Junior Church Room.
-7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.

Tuesday: -10:30 a.m., Bible Study in Library.

Wednesday: -5:00 to 9:00 a.m., Lion's Club United Way Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.
-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary.

Sunday: -8:45 a.m., Confirmation Class.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Delta Kappa Gamma in Fellowship Hall.

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
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
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Marlin Milliken
Claire Mummah
Linda (Kerchner) Parks
Family of 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
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, 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