SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 28th, 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: Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

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
Ella Harris & Paige Martin
Thea Beward, Carter Ehrisman & Silas Smith
Linda Leister & Bethanie Beward
Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 28, 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
- "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
- #526 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.



- * 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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

WORD

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever; ⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good

confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

- 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 a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

- * GOSPEL....Luke 16:19-31
 - P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.
 - C Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' ²⁷He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON Pastor Leister Pastor Leister

* 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).

ANTHEM

"The Old Rugged Cross" - arranged by Doug Andrews

Choir

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#561 Green Hymnal

- * DISMISSAL
 - P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
 - C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR - Julia Martin

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK'S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Brea Beward, Stella & Sofia Reed

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD - Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner (9/29/25 - 10/19/25)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER - Jamie Miller

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss

10/5: Ron & Christie Yorks

10/12: Clint Miller & Nick Beward

10/19: Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry

10/26: Mary Grimm & ?

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.

JUST A THOUGHT – George Whitefield, Methodist Evangelist (1714 – 1770): It is an undoubted truth that every doctrine that comes from God, leads to God, and that which does not tend to promote holiness is not of God.

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 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.

ATTENTION YOUTH CURRENTLY IN 6TH GRADE AND UP – There will be an informational Workcamp meeting on Sunday, October 19th at 6:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Workcamp 2026 will be in Mt. Gilead Ohio June 14-20. Parents are encouraged to attend. Please be prepared to pay the \$100 NON-REFUNDABLE deposit for each participant.

A VOTER'S ASSEMBLY will be held today following the worship service. Business: reports of minutes of the boards.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet today following the worship service.

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:

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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.
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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

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS:

THE NEXT WELCA MEETING will be Thursday, October 9th at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women of Messiah are invited to attend.

ON "GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" SUNDAY, 2 quilts were knotted, 3 more dog beds were stuffed, and 63 school kits were filled. Thanks to everyone who helped.

CONVENTION REPORT – Our synod filled 200 period packs with leftover items distributed to local shelters.

THE THANKOFFERING SPEAKER for November 9th will be Ann Supplee/DeLauter Youth Center.

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.

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 <u>icfp122017@gmail.com</u>
Website: <u>www.icfoodpantry.com</u>

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.

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

-Voter's Assembly following worship service. Business: reports of minutes of the boards.

-Worship & Music Committee meeting following worship service.

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

-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary.

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

Sunday: -8:45 a.m., Confirmation Class in sanctuary.

-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 Kim Dumais

Freda Durio Cathy Dysinger Renee Dzikowski Kevin Fetterhoof Neil Fisher Bentley Fulkroad Kristen Gaisor Terri Gaver Deb Geedev

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 Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine

Betty Ranck Keith Ranck Dave Reed Diane Rowles Greysley Rowles Kellev 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

Cheryl Pinkerton

- --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