

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 19th, 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: *Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.*

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
Hope & Grace Miller
Evan Miller, Silas Smith & Ella Harris
Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner
Marylou Hazard & Jean Berry
Cynthia Smith

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST October 19, 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.]

GATHERING

- * GATHERING HYMN *“O Word of God Incarnate”* #231 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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

WORD

FIRST READING.....Genesis 32:22-31

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM:Psalm 121 (responsively)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

SECOND READING.....2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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 of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

* GOSPEL.....Luke 18:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 18th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (Sung)**

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ. (Sung)**

HYMN SING

HYMN #1	"Blessed Assurance"	#699 Blue Hymnal
HYMN #2	"Here I Am, Lord"	#752 Blue Hymnal
HYMN #3	"Softly and Tenderly"	#734 Blue Hymnal
HYMN #4	"Shall We Gather at the River"	#690 Blue Hymnal

* HYMN OF THE DAY *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”* #439 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).

ANTHEM

“O Lord Most Holy” – arranged by Hal H. Hopson

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.

* 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.

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 *"Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak"* #403 Green Hymnal

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Reprinted from *Words for Worship*, copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license #SB154530

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Barb Geedey

NEXT WEEK'S ACOLYTES – Evan Miller & Silas Smith

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

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed (10/20/25 – 11/9/25)

NEXT WEEK'S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Diana Wise

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Mary Grimm & Tammy Brackbill

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of my sons Chris and Jesse's birthdays by mom, Debrann Meinsler.

JUST A THOUGHT – Johannes von Muller, Swiss Historian (1752 – 1809): Good has one enemy, the evil; but the evil has two enemies, the good and itself.

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.

ATTENTION YOUTH CURRENTLY IN 6TH GRADE AND UP – There will be an informational Workcamp meeting this evening 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.

YOUTH GROUP HOLIDAY WREATH FUNDRAISER – Our youth will be selling wreaths made by Kami Imes for \$25 (we make \$9 per wreath). Bow choices are RED or BUFFALO PLAID. Orders and money are due by November 1st. and wreaths will be available the first week of December. Order form is located on the table in the back of the Sunday School Room or you may contact one of our youth to order.

OCTOBER’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for Mifflintown Fire Co. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the Fire Company 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.

PPC will meet on Sunday, October 26th following the worship service for budget approval to submit to the congregation in November.

THE NEXT VOTER’S ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, November 23rd following the worship service for approval of budgets and sharing of board reports.

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.

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

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 Thursday, November 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women of Messiah are invited to attend.

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

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE SEAFARER'S BAGS:

--Sweatshirts (hooded or unhooded) M-L-XL only

--T-shirts (long or short sleeved) M-L-XL only

--Socks (thermal or gym) NO ankle socks

Please remove all store tags from each item and place the items in the plastic tub in the Adult Sunday School Room. We will be collecting these items until next October of 2026.

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 FOOD PANTRY OCTOBER UPDATE – Again this year the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, and YOU to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive, please give generously. If you can help us to start stockpiling the foods listed below for the holidays, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 800 meals: 400 for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas. We are also collecting winter attire for kids for Christmas gifts: hats, coats, mittens, and scarves.

HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS

(These are the foods that are more difficult for us to secure)
turkey breasts, hams (3-5 lbs.), canned sweet potatoes, instant potatoes,
stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, and brownie or cookie mix

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!

THE JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY BOARD OF DIRECTORS cordially invites you to our Annual Meeting, Thursday, October 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Food Pantry on 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown. The agenda will include an overview of the Food Pantry's ministry to the hungry in the past year, recognition of volunteers, outgoing board members, and election of new board members. For more information, please contact the Food Pantry at jcfp122017@gmail.com or 717-436-9718.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA REHEARSAL DATES AND LOCATIONS – Beginning Monday, October 20th, the weekly rehearsals will alternate between Monday and Tuesday evenings with the first four rehearsals (Oct. 20 & 28, Nov. 3 & 11) being held at Port Royal Lutheran Church and the final four rehearsals (Nov. 17 & 25, Dec. 1 & 9) being held at Free Spring Church. **All rehearsals will run from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -NO CONFIRMATION CLASS.
-10:00 a.m., Worship.
-6:00 p.m., 2026 Work Camp meeting at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.
- 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.
- Sunday:** -8:45 a.m., Confirmation Class in sanctuary.
-Reformation Sunday.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-PPC meeting in Choir Room following worship service.

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
Steph Neaus
Linda (Kerchner) Parks
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
Dr. Kenneth 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