

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Church Office / 436-6213 Dial-A-Prayer / 436-2100

The Reverend William N. Esborn
Andrea Cameron
Sam Leister
Christie Holderman

Pastor
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 7, 2011 – 9:15 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Helen C., Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Arlene M., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Jesse K., Audrey M., Conner L., George and Mary Lorraine H., Laurie F., Christy H., Mary W., Kitty W., Mason B., Beth S., Steve M., Luella M., and the family of Floyd C.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.

* SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregational sharing: **"Peace be with you."**

GATHERING

* ENTRANCE HYMN "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" p. 14 in bulletin

* 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 (sung)

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: **C** Lord, have mer-cy.

P Chri-ste, e-le-i-son: **C** Christ, have mer-cy.

P Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son: **C** Lord, have mer-cy.

* HYMN OF PRAISE (sung)

**Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
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.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
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.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.
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.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the highest;
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth, and peace
to God's peo-ple on earth.**

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (**spoken**)

P *The Lord be with you*

C **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (**spoken in unison**)

P *Let us pray...*

C **O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

FIRST READING: A reading from 1 Kings 19:9-18

THE LESSON READS:

⁹At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13 (**Responsively**)

L – I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

ALL – I will listen to what the LORD God is saying.

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

SECOND READING: A reading from Romans 10:5-15

THE LESSON READS:

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al-le-lu-ia. You have the words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu—ia. Al-le-lu—ia.

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith" who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Take My Life, That I May Be"

p. 15 in bulletin

* APOSTLES' CREED ('new version') **(all)**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

[Please pass the Friendship Pad down your pew for all to sign and then back to the center aisle so everyone has the opportunity to read the names. We request that our guests also give us their home address. Thank you].

SPECIAL MUSIC

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('vineyards')

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence, Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful God,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

P O God: We pray for all who gather today in your name in every land. Increase their faith and service. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P From the tiniest ladybug to the grandest ocean—your entire creation is a masterpiece, full of power and beauty. Help us treat this gift with respect and care. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P For all nations in conflict and for those in need (especially), we ask for your presence, O God. We pray for peace and for all who fight for the rights of others. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for all who are suffering (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Jesse Kint, Audrey Morral, Connor Lauver, George Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family, Laurie Funk, Christy Hall, Mary Weiland, Kitty Walters, Mason Beward, Beth Smith, Jean McNaight, Steve McLaughlin, Luella McLaughlin and the family of Floyd Covert) that relief might come and grief be quieted. For those who are afraid, give them courage and strength. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Look with mercy on this congregation, O God. Be present in this place to guide our steps and light our path. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P We give thanks, O God, for the faithful service of all who abide with you in heaven. May their examples of faith give us insight for our own pilgrimage on earth. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

- * THE LORD'S PRAYER ['new version'] **(all)**
 - P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:*
 - C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**
 - Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**
 - Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**
 - For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen**
- * BLESSING
 - P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*
 - C A-men, A-men, A-men (sung)**
- * CLOSING HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father" p. 16 in bulletin

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 Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.*
 - In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.*
 - 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.*
 - Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.*
 - Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.*
 - C Amen**

DISTRIBUTION

["INTINCTION" – dip your wafer in the wine. Come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisle. All who wish to stand at the chancel rail after partaking for a time of silent meditation are invited to do so].

* 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 Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C Amen

* THE SENDING AND BLESSING OF COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

P As we go into the world serving the ministry of Christ, may those who will extend this meal to the homebound take from the Lord's Table what we have received here today; the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his promise of forgiveness. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister

WELCOME

IF YOU WISH TO USE OR FOLLOW THE LITURGY MUSIC as we proceed through the service today, please use the green portfolios placed on top of the sound control system. In addition, headsets are available in the narthex for our sound enhancement system for the hearing impaired.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit not only in the Friendship Pads, but also 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. We invite you to return. 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.

WE INVITE EVERYONE (members and visitors) worshipping with us today to sign the Friendship Pads during the Organ Offertory. If you are a visitor, please be sure to include your address when signing. Please also place a check mark in the box (beside your name) if you are communing today and have not as yet given us a record of your participation in the sacrament during this quarter. (A new quarter begins in January, April, July, and October). The pads are found on the aisle seat of each pew in the nave, and in each section of the Adult Sunday School Room.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the weekly bulletin for one month. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for more than one month, please call the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of William C. Nipple by Edith Nipple and family.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JUST A THOUGHT – Dr. Cecil Murray: “Ours is not a failure of know how. Ours is a failure of will.”

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

CHURCH ORGANIST for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard. Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at ebeaver41@yahoo.com or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcmifflintown.org.

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE will meet the fourth Monday of August, (August 22) at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. There are many important items to discuss. Please let the director know if you cannot attend.

A CONFIRMATION CLASS PLANNING MEETING will be held on Sunday, August 21, 2011 following the worship service. Parents and catechetical students are asked to attend.

EARLY SUMMER SERVICES will continue through September 4, 2011 at 9:15 a.m. Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. will resume on September 11, 2011.

FALL BIBLE STUDY – Anyone who would like to attend the Fall Bible Study on the Book of Revelation should notify the church office or Pastor Esborn by September 4, 2011 so materials can be ordered. Bible Study will begin on September 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and will be a total of 6 weeks.

“THE NEEDLERS” will begin their sewing project on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone interested in helping to make patch quilts for local and World Relief, please come and join us!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES will be held on Sundays, September 18 and 25 during the Sunday School hour. If you wish to attend, please contact the church office at 436-6213.

COLLEGE AND OTHER AWAY-FROM-HOME STUDENTS are asked to notify the church office of your school enrollment and campus address (even if living at home), so that we can continue to send any important church mailings.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, July 31, 2011: \$400.00. This brings the total received to \$61,697.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

Messiah Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth with each attendee bringing a reading as the program for the evening. We will also begin assembling the Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA are gathering School Kits for the October shipment of World Relief. A School Kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war. School Kits help parents continue their children's education, even while living in refugee camp, for example. A School Kit may also be used in adult literacy classes. (Reprinted with permission from Lutheran World Relief). July and August is a good time to collect school supplies as many stores have great sales. There will be plastic bags on the blue table in the Sunday School Room with a list of supplies needed. Take a bag and fill it with the items and return it to the table. It will send the message to those in need, around the world, that we care about them.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST: FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
PAPER PRODUCTS: TOILET PAPER, FACIAL TISSUES, PAPER TOWELS, STORAGE BAGS AND
WRAPS, AND PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS.

We are still suffering empty shelves in the personal care items, cleaning supplies, baby supplies, and paper product sections. Any help will be greatly appreciated by us and our neighbors in need.

Donations of cash and Weis or Schlegel's gift cards will also be gladly accepted.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS blood drives will be in the Mifflintown area on the following dates:

Monday, August 8th

1:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Port Royal United Methodist Church

Saturday, August 13th

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

St. Jude's Council, Knights of Columbus

(All donors will receive a coupon for an ice cream cone at all of the above sites, courtesy of McDonald's, Lewistown)

The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood every 56 days. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800 Red Cross. Please bring Red Cross donor cards, photo ID or two other forms of identification to the donor site.

NURSE'S NOTES – It may sound silly, but doodling gives your mind a much-needed break. "It taps into the nonverbal, emotional part of our brain and can therefore promote creativity and release stressful emotions," says art therapist Erica Curtis, who sits on the board of directors of the American Art Therapy Association.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Today: -9:15 a.m., Early Worship Service/Communion.

Monday: -8 p.m., AA meeting.

Wednesday: -OFFICE CLOSED (July & August).

Thursday: -1 p.m., Dulcimer rehearsal in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.

Sunday: -9:15 a.m., Early Worship Service/Communion.
-Noon—5 p.m., Fellowship Hall reserved.