

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
Carole Nace
Diana Wise
Sandy Pines

Pastor
Choir Director
Organist
Lector
Altar Guild

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 24, 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., Helen D., Beth S., Steve M., and Luella M.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "Surely Goodness and Mercy" Peterson/Smith

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

* 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth" p. 13 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 **Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13 God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.

FIRST READING

A reading from 1 Kings 3:5-12

THE LESSON READS:

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136 (**Responsively**)

L – When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

ALL – When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

SECOND READING

A reading from Romans 8:26-39

THE LESSON READS:

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" p. 14 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

"Lord, I Want To Be A Christian"

Spiritual

[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 (Piano & Organ Duet)

"For Spacious Skies" Alice Swartz & Carole Nace

* 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 Led by the Holy Spirit, and 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 Let us pray for Christians everywhere, that they may work together for good. Help them always to act in accord with God's good purposes. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for the restoration of forests, fields, and prairies that provide homes for birds, wild animals, and livestock. Teach us to respect all land and creatures. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for rulers and people in power, that they act responsibly for the good of all people. Search their hearts, O God, and lead them to work for justice (especially). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for all who are suffering hardship: those who are hungry, unemployed, persecuted, naked, or ill (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, Helen Dysinger, Jean McNaught, Steve McLaughlin and Luella McLaughlin). Give them the assurance that nothing can separate them from your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Let us pray for this assembly that we may diligently seek the treasure of God's kingdom. Make us rise up like leaven to serve. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Let us give thanks for the saints before us, who are more than conquerors through Christ and now live in glory. Let their witness teach us how to serve. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

p. 15 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

* DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Song of Rejoicing"

Hughes

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Ed Beaver

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Ann Beaver

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.

OUR THANKS TO Carole Nace and Alice Swartz for providing our special music today.

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 honor of our grandchildren, Drew Geedey and Hannah Ehrisman, by Don and Barb Geedey.

THE FLOWERS ON THE PIANO are placed in honor of Claire Mumma's 80th birthday on July 26 by Mary, Glenn, Shane, Todd and Claire Grimm.

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 – Eleanor Roosevelt (1889 – 1962), First Lady: "...and there is no doubt in my mind that the more we simplify our material needs the more we are free to think of other things."

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

ALL MEMBERS OF MESSIAH AND FRIENDS are invited to a Pool Party at the Mifflin Pool on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please bring a snack to share!

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.

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.

SUPPLIES FOR THE HEALTH KITS goal of 70 kits has been reached. We thank everyone who has contributed to this project. The kits will be sent with the quilts following Blanket Sunday, October 2, 2011.

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 – **Not all medical insurance covers travel abroad.** Break a leg while hiking in another country and medical evacuation could set you back \$10,000 or more. So check with your insurer **before** taking a trip out of the country, and consider purchasing a supplementary policy.

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Early Worship Service/Communion.
- Monday:** -8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Wednesday:** -OFFICE CLOSED (July & August).
- Friday:** -6 p.m., Wedding rehearsal.
- Saturday:** -2 p.m., Maugans/Harris Wedding at Messiah.
- Sunday:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY.
-9:15 a.m., Early Worship Service/Communion & Service of Healing.