

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
Ron Yorks
Christie Holderman

Pastor
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 23, 2011 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER TODAY

Marian G., Reba S., Sue C., Flo B., Ethel B., Virginia F., Cathryn R., Goldie K., Jean M., Cassie S., Ruth C., Ray B., Anna Mary Z., Paul W., Bob C., Linda R., Conner L., George and Mary Lorraine H., Laurie F., Christy H., Mason B., Beth S., Harold S., Denny K., Dorothy P., Thea B., Robert W., Sis S., and Mark K.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

Today the church commemorates James of Jerusalem, martyr, who died around 62.

* 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 "Where Charity and Love Prevail"

* 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 Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

WORD

The holiness code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out in partiality for and consideration of the poor and the weak. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another.

FIRST READING: A reading from Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

THE LESSON READS:

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. ¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 1 (**Responsively**)

L – Their delight is in the law of the LORD. (Ps. 1:2)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

ALL – Their delight is in the law of the LORD.

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

SECOND READING: A reading from 1Thessalonians 2:1-8

THE LESSON READS:

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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.

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-46

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22st chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²"What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." ⁴³He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"' ? ⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from

that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

* 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].

ANTHEM

* 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 In grateful response to God's endless bounty of grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P Heavenly Father, you gave your people the law so that they might know how to live. Grant your church the faith and strength to live according to your law of love. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You created the fruit-bearing tree, a model for the godly life. Give your people the wisdom to tend to all of creation, so that in its beauty and life we might see a glimpse of your glory. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Divine ruler, you bid your people to live lives of justice and righteousness. Inspire the leaders of nations, states, provinces, and local communities to use their office not for personal gain but in humble service to their neighbor. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P From generation to generation, you are the refuge of all who suffer. Hold in your care all who are poor, unemployed or underemployed, homeless, and who live without adequate medical care. Grant your healing mercies to all who are sick (especially all of our shut-ins [both at home and in nursing homes], Paul Woltman, Bob Cameron, Linda Rhine, Connor Lauver, George Sr. and Mary Lorraine Hazard and family, Laurie Funk, Christy Hall, Mason Beward, Beth Smith, Cassie Smith, Harold B. Shearer, Denny King, Dorothy Patterson, Thea Beward, Robert Watkins, Sis Stetler and Mark Krobath). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Where two or three are gathered in your name, you promise to be present. Bless this congregation as it gathers around word and sacrament, in fellowship and prayer, in learning and service, in your holy name. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P In your love, gracious God, you hold (James of Jerusalem, martyr, and) all who have died in you. Comfort all who mourn with the promise of your never-ending embrace (especially), and give us the faith to look expectantly for your promised kingdom, where all will be given resurrection life. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant 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

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

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

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Leister

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Linda Leister (cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

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 Helen Dillman by Guy Dillman 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 – Simone Weil (1909 – 1943) – Jewish (Christian) Thinker and Writer: “Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life.”

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.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING – The next Property Committee meeting will be **Monday, November 14, 2011** at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room. We will not be meeting in October unless there is an emergency. In the meantime all business will be conducted via email and phone.

THANKOFFERING SERVICE – The speaker for the Messiah Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service on November 13, 2011, will be Elizabeth Yencho, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. A special offering envelope will be included in your November newsletter. Offerings help Women of the ELCA with their various projects and services to those in need. Please make checks payable to "Messiah Women of the ELCA." Additional envelopes will be available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED – Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2012 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove. If you are interested in serving, please contact the pastor or the church office.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF TEAM – Don Geedey, Jan Groninger, Doc Johnston, Ann and Ed Beaver will be working with LDR and a team from St. Stephens in Tennessee from October 30 to November 6. Please keep these volunteers in your prayers.

FOLDING CHAIRS FOR SALE – Please see a Property Committee member as soon as possible if you are interested in purchasing some folding chairs at \$5.00 a piece. The money will be put into a leaf/light snow blower fund.

BLANKET SUNDAY ENVELOPES may still be returned until the end of October. Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and take this opportunity to serve as Christ's helping hands in our world today!

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, November 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Linda Leister as devotional leader.

COMMUNITY

RELAY FOR LIFE (George's Gee Bees) fund raising event will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Messiah's Fellowship Hall. Various vendors will be offering items for sale.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR OCTOBER: ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, CLEANING SUPPLIES & BABY SUPPLIES: DIAPERS IN SIZES 4-6, PULL-UPS IN ALL SIZES, BABY SHAMPOO, BABY LOTION, DIAPER RASH OINTMENT, AND WIPES. PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS ARE ALSO NEEDED. WE GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND WEIS OR SCHLEGELS'S GIFT CARDS.

BENEFIT CONCERT – The 4th annual "Save Thanksgiving" Benefit Concert for the Juniata County Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 5-11 p.m. at the Central Juniata EMS Building in Mifflintown. This all-age event features a wide variety of music including country, folk, blues and rock. There will also be an art display by students at JHS and many door and raffle prizes. Food will be available to purchase. Cost of admission is a donation to the Food Pantry: food, personal care items, cleaning supplies, paper or baby products, cash or gift cards.

Juniata County Food Pantry, Inc.

Phone/fax: 717-436-9718

jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com

P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

THE TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES' INTERNATIONAL GIFTS FESTIVAL will be held at Cedar Grove Brethren In Christ Church on Friday, November 18 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Invest in the world. Shop fair trade. Discover unique home décor, musical instruments and jewelry at the festival. Your participation in this sale will help skilled artisans in 32 countries receive a fair price for their products. Featured items include hand loomed textiles, pottery, jewelry, baskets, toys and a variety of nativities and Christmas decorations. Ten Thousand Villages' is a non-profit fair trade organization based in Akron, PA. For more information contact Deb Richmond at 717-348-6364 or debrichmond@nmax.net.

FREE TUTORING FOR ADULTS is available at the Juniata County Learning Center (next to the Family Dollar). If you or someone you know needs help to improve reading, math, and language skills or English as a second language, please call 436-2517 ext. 115 or stop by! Are you interested in becoming a volunteer tutor? Tutoring times are arranged by appointment. If you would like more information about receiving free tutoring services or becoming a volunteer tutor, please call the number provided.

COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSALS will be held on the following dates from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room. *(Even if you cannot attend all of the rehearsals, please don't hesitate to join the Group).*

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|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Tuesday, October 25 | Monday, November 7 | Monday, December 5 |
| Monday, October 31 | Tuesday, November 15 | Tuesday, December 13 |
| | Tuesday, November 22 | |

This year's 15th annual Christmas Cantata performance "Dawn of Redeeming Grace" will be held **Sunday, December 18, 2011** at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Juniata High School.

NURSE'S NOTES – Expecting trick-or-treaters or party guests?

- Provide healthier treats for trick-or-treaters, such as individual packs of raisins, trail mix, or pretzels. For party guests, offer a variety of fruits, vegetables, and cheeses.
- Use party games and trick-or-treat time as an opportunity for kids to get their daily dose of 60 minutes of physical activity.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could result in falls.
- Keep candle-lit jack-o'-lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables, keep them out of reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.

Follow these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for everyone!

(<http://www.cdc.gov/family/parentautumn/index.htm>).

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-12 noon, Thrivent Meal in Fellowship Hall.
- Monday:** -7 p.m., Bible Study.
-8 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -9 a.m.—2 p.m., Family Resource Program in Fellowship Hall.
-7 p.m., Choir rehearsal in Rearick Room.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Saturday:** -Fellowship Hall reserved (afternoon).
- Sunday:** -FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Service of Healing/Communion/Jr. Church.
-11:30 a.m., Worship & Music Committee meeting.