

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
Bob St. Clair
Barbara S. Geedey

Pastor
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 9, 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., and Robert W.

PREPARATION

CHIMES: CALL TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

[A Time for Meditation and Prayer]

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

* 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 "Now We Join in Celebration" 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 Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

WORD

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing everyone up—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

FIRST READING: A reading from Isaiah 25:1-9

THE LESSON READS:

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. ⁸Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. (spoken)

PSALM: Psalm 23 (Responsively)

L – You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

ALL – You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over.

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

SECOND READING: A reading from Philippians 4:1-9

THE LESSON READS:

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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.

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

* GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

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

C Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

THE GOSPEL READS:

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the

wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

SERMON

Pastor Esborn

* HYMN OF THE DAY "As We Gather at Your Table"

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

[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 Gracious God, unite the wills of your people. Empower us to be of the same mind in the Lord, so that through word and deed we might give faithful witness to you. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Creator of valleys and green pastures, of small towns and urban centers, give your care to this world. Inspire in us, your creatures, a love for all you have made, and grant us wisdom to care for it. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P God of all people, establish your peace in the world. Give the leaders of the nations a desire for reconciliation and a yearning for justice. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, lead all who are sick to the healing waters of your mercy. Bless the work of doctors, nurses, and caregivers, and through their efforts restore the sick to health (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 and Robert Watkins). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy God, by your power grant this congregation the faith to stand firm in Jesus Christ. Send your Spirit to this place, so that through all its ministries your wisdom and truth might be made known. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P God of blessed hope, comfort those who grieve with the promise of new life in Christ Jesus (especially). Give us the blessed assurance that you will swallow up death forever. 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

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

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

NEXT WEEK'S LECTOR – Linda Bahorik

NEXT WEEK'S ALTAR GUILD – Sandy Pines

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 worshipping 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 Herm and Marge McKee by Dave, Cindy, Jim, Matt and Carolyn Miller.

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 – Roger Van Ouch – Contemporary Motivational Speaker and Author: “...creative ideas come from manipulating your resources – no matter how few and simple they are.”

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.

PPC EXECUTIVE BOARD will meet this evening in the church office at 6:00 p.m.

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.

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.

RECEIVED IN STAINED GLASS FUND on Sunday, October 2, 2011: \$100.00. This brings the total received to \$63,062.00 of the total \$85,890.00 needed for the project.

PPC BOARD DIRECTORS are asked to submit their proposed 2012 budgets to Ken Eyler by the next PPC meeting (October 16, 2011). You may place them in Ken's mailbox in the church office or by email to keyler@nmax.net.

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

THE NEXT MEETING OF MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA will be Thursday, October 13, 2011 with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader.

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.

ON BLANKET SUNDAY, Messiah Women of the ELCA and the Needlers announced the gifts being sent to Lutheran World Relief. They are: 71 Health Kits, 134 School Kits, 56 pounds of soap, and 235 quilts. As of this Sunday, the number of quilts increased to 237 due to the completion of 2 quilts in order to fill a box. Two-hundred thirty-seven quilts is 10 more than sent in 2010. Other good news is that the Disciples Class and Messiah congregation are sponsoring the shipping costs in the amount of \$900.00 for the kits, soap and quilts that will be sent to the needy people. Thank you to everyone who, in any way, contributed to these projects. Matthew 25:40: "And the King will say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.' "

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.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS is holding blood drives in the Mifflintown area at the following locations:

Friday, October 21st

12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street, Mifflintown

Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older (16 in PA with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood every 56 days. The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of ID to the donor site. All presenting donors will be entered into a drawing for the Red Cross "Bleed Blue" donor game package for the 2011 Alabama, Iowa, Purdue and Nebraska games! For information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800 Red Cross.

HEAVENLY CARAMELS – Heavenly ... and ... delicious! Perfect for gift giving! To order call: Westminster United Presbyterian Church at 436-2219 or email to westminsterupc@pa.net. Prices: 1 pound box - \$9.00, ½ pound box - \$5.00. Deadline to order is October 15, 2011.

NURSE'S NOTES – **Have an afternoon of food-tasting.** Gather your family together to research at least 3-5 varieties of one type of food (i.e., fruit, vegetable, or nut). Talk about the unique qualities of the food and a little about its history (i.e., when it was discovered or what it is known for). Lead the family in a taste test of the different varieties of the food, or prepare the food several different ways and have everyone choose their favorite. For example, an apple could be prepared as apple snack wedges, applesauce, apple cider, and baked apples. You could also present similar types of vegetables, such as collard greens, spinach, kale, and mustard greens. Talk about differences in their taste. Pick fall favorites, or be adventurous and try new things. (<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.
-6 p.m., PPC Executive Board meeting in the church office.
- Monday:** -OFFICE CLOSED.
-7 p.m., Bible Study.
-8 p.m., AA meeting.
- Tuesday:** -9 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday:** -7 p.m., Choir rehearsal.
- Thursday:** -7 p.m., WELCA meeting in Youth Area.
- Friday:** -7 p.m., Square Dancing in Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class.
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church.
-7 p.m., PPC meeting.