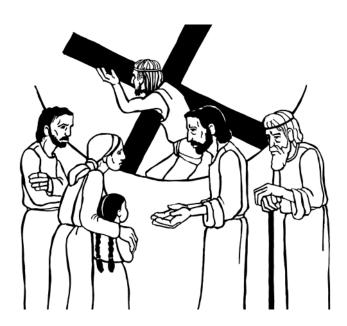


## LECTIONARY 23

SEPTEMBER 7, 2025



#### Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

308 Market St. / PO Box 246, New Berlin, PA 17855 www.newberlinlutherans.com | 570-966-2815

**Beverly Hoffman, Synod Approved Minister**Please contact Beverly Hoffman for all pastoral needs.

1-570-428-4876 | bevhoff@ptd.net

Christine Rowe, Parish Secretary christinerowe@newberlinlutherans.com

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

#### WF'RF GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

## Navigating Worship

Congregational responses are written in bold.

#### AFD Available Downstairs

In case of an emergency, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is located in the stair tower on the first floor.

## Nursery

The nursery is available downstairs—please wipe down toys used.

## Streaming Video

We extend our worship from our building into our community on Facebook, and YouTube. The front two pews and chancel are visible on the video.

## Today's Worship Leaders:

Presiding: Beverly Hoffman
Greeter/s: The Mitchell Family
Lector: Kathleen Ferster

Acolytes: Ava and Emma Mitchell

Cantor/s: JR Erdley
Music Dir: Frank Shue
Video Operator: Nancy Morgan

Communion Set Up: Ronald and Frances Blatchley

Communion Baker:

Altar Flowers: Robert and Jean Sauers

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<sup>\*</sup> indicates to stand as you are able

## Ф GATHERING Ф

#### WELCOME AND WORSHIP NOTES

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### \*Confession And Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

#### Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

#### Amen.

TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE

#### \*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

#### \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex alt ed thus!"
- 3 Je sus is wor-thy to re-ceive hon-or and pow'r di vine;
- 4 Let all cre a tion join in one to bless the sa cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one. "Wor-thy the Lamb," our lips re-ply, "for he was slain for us!" and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine. of God who sits up-on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen.

ФWordФ

#### FIRST READING

**DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20** 

[Moses said to the people:] 15 See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in the LORD's ways, and by observing God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other deities and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the LORD your God, obeying the LORD, and holding fast to your God; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Word of God, Word of Life **Thanks be to God.** 

RESPONSE PSALM 1

#### Refrain (sung twice at the beginning and once at the end)



#### Psalm Tone



<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel <sup>|</sup> of the wicked.

nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

- <sup>2</sup> Their delight is in the law <sup>1</sup> of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching <sup>1</sup> day and night.
- <sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that <sup>1</sup> do not wither;
  - everything they | do shall prosper.
  - It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when <sup>1</sup> judgment comes,
  - nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.
  - <sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way <sup>1</sup> of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be destroyed. R

(Repeat Refrain)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup> to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. <sup>7</sup> I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason Onesimus was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. 20 Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

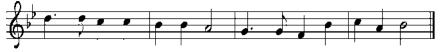
Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

#### \*Gospel acclamation





it burn like fire with in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



the good news that you bring. Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for

The holy gospel according to St. Luke Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>25</sup> Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup> "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether there is enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup> Otherwise, when a foundation has been laid and the builder is not able to finish the building, all who see it will begin to ridicule the builder, 30 saying, 'This person began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

HOMILY
\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Beverly Hoffman # 798

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

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 and 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 to 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.

BLESSING OF SCHOOL STAFF

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Children make your way to up front for a blessing and gift.

#### \*Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

#### A brief silence

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer**.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, **receive our prayer.** 

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.** 

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

#### Amen.

#### \*PEACE

Feel free to shake hands during Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** 

НMEALН

#### **OFFFRING**

An offering is collected in the plates located in the narthex and by the elevator. You may give electronically at http://newberlinlutherans.com/give.

\*Offertory # 188

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

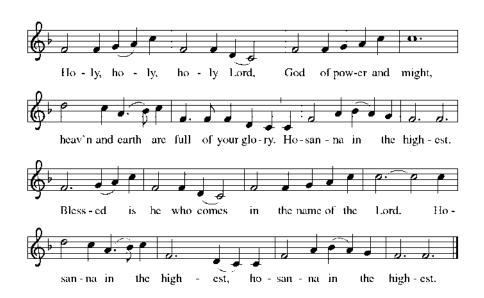
Amen.

#### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** 

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

#### Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we are bold to pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **DEDICATION OF WINE FLAGON**

Our new wine flagon was purchased with gifts given in memory of Harold Spangler, Charles Ritter, Frank Fetter and Carl and Helen Scholl.

#### \*COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Both sides process forward simultaneously by the center aisle. At the front pew are empty cups for wine. The cups that are filled are grape juice.



#### COMMUNION SONGS

OUR FATHER, BY WHOSE NAME # 640
O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED # 810

#### \*Prayer After Communion

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## ФSENDINGФ

#### \*BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### \*SENDING SONG

O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING

#880

#### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. Thanks be to God.

We hear "O God beyond all Praising" as we go forth to
LIVE GOD'S GRACE; SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE; SERVE THE LORD
All are invited for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the parish hall.

The flowers on the altar were placed to the glory of God by Robert and Jean Sauers In honor of their 59th anniversary.

## Fellowship After The Service

Today, we celebrate God's Work, Our Hands Day
With an All Church Brunch
All are welcome!

## Family Focused Faith Formation

Join the fun with our neighbors at United In Christ and Christ's Lutheran this Fall for Faith Lab! The program has something for all kids from grades K-6, as well as adult formation to accompany the lessons the kids are learning about! Plus, each gathering ends with

# A FREE MEAL! YOU READ THAT RIGHT PARENTS! A NIGHT YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING FOR DINNER!

We will gather every first and third Sunday of the month; first Sundays will meet at Christ's Lutheran in Lewisburg and the third Sundays will meet at United in Christ outside of West Milton.

Don't have kids in the age group but still want to help out? We'd be thrilled to have you sign up to host the meal portion of one of the monthly gatherings.

Just Scan the QR Code to Sign Up!



CarolAnn Miller is willing to provide transportation to Faith Lab for anyone who needs a ride from either the Mifflinburg area or can meet at Messiah Lutheran.

#### TONIGHT IS THE FIRST MEETING

## YOUTH GAME NIGHT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Group's first gathering for the new school year on Sunday, September 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Christ's Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. The theme is game night, so bring your favorite board game. We will spend some time getting to know each other, playing games, and enjoying some refreshments. This is a program of Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Initiative.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED!

JUST SHOW UP WITH A GAME!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

### Christian Education

Sunday School Classes for ages 4 years to 5th grade and Confirmation Classes will begin next Sunday, September 14. Both classes will be led by very fun teachers. The grade school kids will be taught by Miss CarolAnn Miller and Confirmation classes will be taught by Mrs. Fran Blatchley and Ms. Kathleen Ferster.

Ladies, Mark Your Calendar
W.E.L.C.A. begins again September 17th
@ 3:00 pm in the Church Library.
All Are Welcome

## Journey to Justice

On October 9th at 7:00 pm, Journey to Justice, a nonprofit whose mission is to facilitate the protection of elders from abuse, will be our featured guest presenters with a presentation titled, "Navigating the Challenging World of Dementia and Abuse Prevention". This evening is for anyone seeking further understanding of dementia and the challenges it presents. Discussion will also include resources available to help navigate the uncertain pathway as the disease unfolds, steps to follow, and questions to ask.

Light refreshments will be serve. Please feel free to invite your friends and family.

## LWR School Backpacks

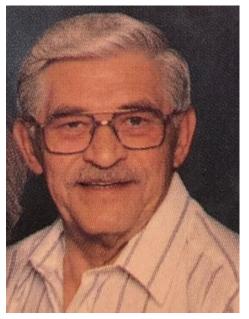
The date to help pack the Lutheran World Relief School Backpacks has been changed from September 7th to September 14. Join Linda Resseguie and our Sunday School students in helping pack these future blessings. Many hands make light work and before you can finish your Fellowship Snack and coffee, the backpacks will be finished and ready to send to a student who will be so happy to receive it.

## Have you missed the Choir?

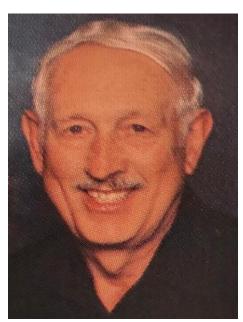
No need to fret. They will soon make their performance debut! Want a sneak preview? Join the choir. All are welcome!

Rehearsals begin September 21st.

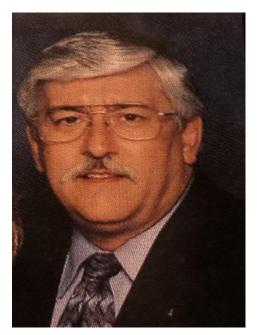




Frank Fetter



Harold Spangler



**Charles Ritter** 



Carl and Helen Scholl



Dedication of a new Communion Wine Flagon has been made possible through gifts given in memory of:

> Harold Spangler Carl and Helen Scholl Frank Fetter and Charles Ritter



Worship Leaders for Sunday, September 14, 2025

Presiding: Beverly Hoffman Greeter/s: Desiree Brown Lector: Katie Brobst

Acolytes: Mea Long and Desiree Brown

Cantor/s: Alicia Saxon Music Dir: Frank Shue Video Operator: Kay Trick

Communion Set Up: Ronald and Frances Blatchley

Communion Baker:

Altar Flowers: Kay Trick

## Last Week 8/31/25

Attendance: 23 Giving: \$460.00

#### Have a prayer request?

Fill out the yellow Prayer Request card and drop it in the offering plate or put it in the secretary's mailbox.

**Need immediate prayers?** Contact Tom Milbrand (272-305-0058), Diane Walter (570-966-0333), or Frances Blatchley (570-966-0288) to have prayers shared on the prayer chain.

Please remember to give Christine Rowe an update on the status of those on our prayer list.

## Remember to fill out at least one Communion card each year.

Can't make it to church in-person?

Attend remotely on Facebook, YouTube and the phone. To listen in on the phone, call 570-989-8899.

# In our **pr**ayers

## Healing, wholeness, and encouragement

Long Term

Alicia Saxon, Noah Navickas, Matthew Myers, Steve Boonie, Lori Haines, Jeffrey Ames, Oliver Auman, Aimee Erdley, Bev Fausey, Christine Koons, Darrell O'Bryant, Robert "Butch" Hestor, Betty Reber, Michael Callahan, Angela Golfieri, Todd Miller, John Hollenbach, Eric Brosious, Kay Fleming, Taryn Myers, Brantley Herman, Timothy Shomper, Jane Ohlidia, Weston Treas, Trudy Livingston, Mick Hauck, Lark Springer, Logan Roush, Katelyn Mattison, Tena Decker-Norman, Mary Hoover, Laurie Thomas, John Wagner, Beth Ann Troutman, George Hauck, Sandy Raymond, Kathy Spangler, Dianne Bailor, Doug Aikey, Loretta Weatherill, Melissa Boonie, Adam Guzenski, Julia Hauck, Ellie Crane, Jami and Dylan Crane, Tracy Sassaman, Paul Burkholder, Sue Ulrich, Charlie Stabler, Shawna St. Claire, Stanley St. Claire, Larry St. Claire, Daytona Wentzel, Tim Walsh, Ted Kolvich, Ron Trick, Cameron Osgood, June Bingaman, Michelle (Pam Erdley's friend), Grant Snyder, Robert Sauers, Rick Slear, Joe Hoffman, Tommy Ward

#### Short Term

Mary Wagner, Ken Walter, Carole Jacka, Deb Wetzel, Diane Walter, Randy Rim Fultz, Mary Lou Shoop, Mary Agnes Hackenberg, Bryce Johnson, Mim Keister

Providence and Protection for first responders and military service men and women Stanley Miller, Benjamin Pilko

Companionship, Prayer and Support for our Homebound Carol McJilton, Valda Sassaman, Julia Fetter, Mick and Mary Hauck, Nancy Hummel, Carole Jacka

Comfort for those who Grieve:

For the friends and family of Gary Keister, Brian D. Bryson

# This Week

Today, Sunday, September 7

9 am Service of Holy Communion

All Church Brunch and Fellowship

4:30 pm Faith Lab @ Christ Lutheran

Sunday, September 14

9 am Service of Holy Communion

**Fellowship** 

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Psalm for Monday-Wednesday is Psalm 101

Mon.	Sept. 8	2 Kings 17:24-41	1 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Tues.	Sept. 9	2 Kings 18:9-18	1 Timothy 4:6-16
Wed.	Sept. 10	2 Kings 18:19-25;19:1-7	Luke 18;18:30

#### Psalm for Thursday-Saturday is Psalm 51:1-10

Thurs.	Sept. 11	Genesis 6:1-6	1 Timothy 1:1-11
Fri.	Sept. 12	Genesis 7:6-10;8:1-5	2 Peter 2:1-10
Sat.	Sept. 13	Genesis 8:20-9:7	John 10:11-21

Sunday, Sept. 14 Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10