

THE MESSIAH HERALD



APRIL, 2014

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213
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THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

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MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

“Proclaiming God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ and his People”

The Messiah Herald



April 2014

Annually, I remind you of the importance of keeping these days of Holy Week together because it is not possible to understand one without the other.

Good Friday without Easter has no hope but Easter without Good Friday is reduced to superficiality.

When we fail to understand the darkness of our lives without a vision of God and God’s willingness to die for us in the person of Jesus what can the resurrection mean.

When we understand the depth of our brokenness and sinfulness the importance and the necessity of Easter is all the more palpable.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This newsletter places us right in the midst of the Lenten season and steadily moving towards Easter. We will have one more Sunday in Lent then the Sunday of the Passion or Palm Sunday. Then we will be in the midst of Holy Week with the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Holy Saturday Triduum.

After these busy days of religious worship, reflection and our spiritual journey to the cross and the grave Easter breaks forth with the dawning of the eighth day. At Easter Sunrise in the dim light of dawn we will celebrate once again the promise of eternal life and our healing in Christ’s resurrection.

Annually, I remind you of the importance of keeping these days together because it is not possible to understand one without the other. Good Friday without Easter has no hope but Easter without Good Friday is reduced to superficiality of Easter egg hunts, new clothes, and no spiritual depth so that both become as forgettable as Groundhog Day.

Beginning with the Sunday of the Passion we are reminded how fickle human hearts are and how quickly we can go from the joyous celebration of the entry of Jerusalem to the screaming crowd, the hoi polloi, before Pilate screaming, “Crucify him!” because he has disappointed us and our expectations. It is this depth of betrayal by our own hearts for our Lord Jesus that lies directly at the root of the cross. We do not need to debate whether it is Rome or the Jews or the crowd or the disciples because at its root it is about us and all the ways we let our lives with Christ slip through our fingers in the name of relevance, of busyness, of convenience and why bother and we skip forward to Easter.

In that seemingly trivial choice of convenience we lose everything that Christ died for in our broken lives proving ourselves, you, me, as dependent as ever upon God’s love poured out on the cross.

What is Easter if one does not understand what it means that Jesus died for one’s sins and that the message of the whole season of Lent and repentant turning towards God is abandoned just short of the finish.

When we fail to understand the darkness of our lives without a vision of God and God’s willingness to die for us in the person of Jesus what can the resurrection mean. Resurrected from what? A bad day? A family squabble?

Or is celebrating Easter understanding that God raises Jesus and us with Christ to a completely new way of living? As Easter people we are encouraged to let go of all our fears and to engage God and each other in new ways that push us beyond inconvenience into pouring out our lives for God in worship and praise and in serving our neighbor in all their struggles and needs. Easter means that not only does God move us beyond bad days and family squabbles but God moves us even beyond the fear of death. Beyond a fear of cancer, ALS or MS. Beyond the loss of a spouse or even a child as Luther writes in A Mighty Fortress. God moves us forward to living in the midst of death, fearlessly and courageously.

When we understand the depth of our brokenness and sinfulness the importance and the necessity of Easter is all the more palpable. Stopping to see the emptiness we capture a glimmer of the real light and hope wrapped in the sunrise of Easter.

Don’t cheat yourself this year. Set apart time for Holy Week and the power of God’s story to remind you of how much you need God and God’s grace in Christ. It is a rich story with rich blessings when you experience it totality.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

April	1: Revelation 11:15-19
April	2: Ezekiel 36:8-15
April	3: Ezekiel 37:1-14
April	4: Psalm 130
April	5: Romans 8:6-11
April	6: John 11:1-45
April	7: Mark 10:32-34
April	8: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
April	9: Matthew 21:1-11
April	10: Isaiah 50:4-9a
April	11: Psalm 31:9-16
April	12: Philippians 2:5-11
April	13: Matthew 27:11-54
April	14: Psalm 36:5-11
April	15: John 12:20-36
April	16: Hebrews 12:1-3
April	17: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
April	18: John 18:1—19:42
April	19: Matthew 27:57-66
April	20: Matthew 28:1-10
April	21: Colossians 3:5-11
April	22: Psalm 114
April	23: Acts 2:14a, 22-32
April	24: Psalm 16
April	25: 2 Timothy 4:6-11, 18
April	26: 1 Peter 1:3-9
April	27: John 20:19-31
April	28: 1 Peter 1:8b-12
April	29: 1 Peter 1:13-16
April	30: Acts 2:14a, 36-41



PRAYER CHAIN

Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dskint@nmax.net or 436-6341.

If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

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

APRIL SCHEDULES

LECTORS

6: Randy Clark
13: Sam Leister
20: Linda Leister
27: Bob St. Clair

ACOLYTES

6: Malin Kint & Marina Holderman
13: Livia Arentz & Emma Arentz
20: Tyler Rosenberry & Lilly Powell
27: Nate Swailes & Gavin Kint

ALTAR GUILD

Mar. 31—Apr. 6 Linda Clark
Apr. 7—Apr. 13 Michelle Stoner
Apr. 14—Apr. 20 Linda Leister
(cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)
Apr. 21—Apr. 27 Barbara S. Geedey
Apr. 28—May 4 Pat Fisher

ALTAR FLOWERS

6: NO FLOWERS - LENT
13: OPEN
20: OPEN
27: OPEN



Messiah Women of ELCA met on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The program was presented by Cynthia Smith who read a chapter from the book Pew Sisters, entitled "Claire." Claire was a young mother suffering from "post-partum depression."

The business meeting was led by Barb Geedey. Barb thanked Jean Compton for presenting the first Lenten Tea program on Ash Wednesday, and thanked all who

helped with refreshments. Thirty three attended.

The group discussed the need for backpacks/bags for the foster children of the Pine Ridge Reservation. Barb will speak to the congregation regarding this need.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Jean Compton presenting the program. All women are invited.

Collection continues for Lutheran World Relief baby care kits. Items needed are:

- 2 (6-24 months) lightweight cotton T-shirts
- 2 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- 2 receiving blankets—medium weight cotton or flannel, crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn (up to 52" square)
- 4 cloth diapers (flat fold preferred)
- 1 jacket, sweater (with buttons or ties down front), or sweatshirt with a hood, or (include a baby cap)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel (dark color recommended)
- 2 bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins

Place items on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WELCA Project for Friends of Pine Ridge Reservation for anyone who would like to help. Items needed are:

Toddler pants, teen p-j bottoms, sleepware for all ages, sun dresses and shorts, shirts and blouses, diaper bags, crib quilts, stuffed toys, bibs, cute colorful pillowcases, twin size bed sheets, crib sheets, Pack 'n Play size sheets, etc., sewn tote bags, knitted or crocheted crib and smaller size baby blankets or afghans, slippers, cute scarves for the teens, mittens for the little

ones, baby hats, booties, bunting, etc. Any colors, fibers and fabrics will work for any of the items that are made. The only restriction is (nothing with an owl print) as owls are a symbol of death in the Lakota culture.

Place items on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4oz. to 5oz., 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 Adult Sunday School Room.



EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies to decorate the church on Easter Sunday, may be placed in memory or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God.

Cost will be \$10.00 for a plant with 4 to 6 blooms. You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.



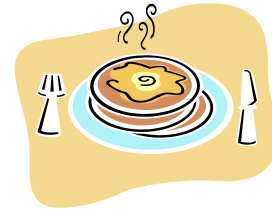
LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Lenten Fish Dinners (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday beginning February 28, 2014 from 4-7 p.m. in the church social hall at St. Jude's Catholic Church.

Meals will include fried and baked fish, popcorn shrimp, fried clams, French fries, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, corn, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, puddings, and a selection of homemade desserts. Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children 6-12, and children under 6 are FREE (pay at the door). Sponsored by St. Jude's Knights of Columbus.

Summer worship services will begin on June 22, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. and end on August 31, 2014.

Regular worship services will begin on September 7, 2014.



ALTAR GUILD

The new Altar Guild schedule for July, 2014 through June, 2015 will be completed by June 1st.

We are currently in need of more people to serve on Altar Guild, as a few of our long-serving members are no longer able to help. If you would like to serve, please either call the church office or contact Bob St. Clair.

All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

2014 PORT ROYAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS 7:00 a.m. – Port Royal Community Building

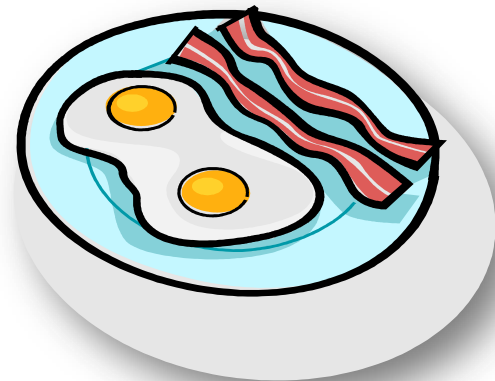
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| April 5. | Mr. Ted Kepner, TK Freedom |
| April 12, | Rev. John Gehman, Lauvers Mennonite Church |
| April 19, | Rev. Casey Hostler, Heaven Bound Church |

LECTOR SCHEDULE

The new lector schedule for July, 2014 through June, 2015 will be completed by June 1st.

If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June.

Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.



2014 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS 7:00 a.m. – JP Pancake House

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| April 5, | Pastor Esborn or (to be announced) |
| April 12, | Charlie Stump |
| April 19, | (to be announced) |

SUMMER WORSHIP



WOMEN'S LENTEN TEAS

The Women's Community Lenten Teas will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014. This year's study will be from the book "Our Journey to the Cross" by Adam Hamilton.

Fellowship time is 9:30 a.m. followed by the Bible study at 10:00 a.m. Locations are listed below:

- April 2, Westminster United Presbyterian Church
- April 9, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



2014 TWIN BORO MINISTERIUM LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

Lent 5, April 2nd, 7:00 p.m. - Messiah Lutheran Church, Father William Weary

Lent 6, April 9th, 7:00 p.m. - Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Pastor Gay Irwin

Maundy Thursday, April 17th, 7:00 p.m. - Messiah Lutheran Church, Pastor Chris Mathiason

Good Friday, April 18th, 12:00 noon—3:00 p.m. - Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Easter Sunrise, April 20th, 6:30 a.m. - Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Pastor Bill Esborn



2014 TWIN BORO MINISTERIUM GOOD FRIDAY SCHEDULE - SEVEN LAST WORDS

Welcom and Opening, 12:00 p.m. - Pastor James Wooster

Father Forgive them, 12:05 - 12:30 p.m. - Pastor Edd Carlson

My God, My God, 12:30 - 12:55 p.m. - Pastor Martha Carlson

Today you will be with me, 12:55 - 1:20 p.m. - Pastor Chris Mathiason

Mother, Behold thy Son, 1:20 - 1:45 p.m. - Pastor Bill Esborn

I Thirst, 1:45 - 2:10 p.m. - (to be announced)

It is finished, 2:10 - 2:35 p.m. - Father William Weary

Into thy hands, 2:35 - 3:00 p.m. - Pastor James Wooster

Closing and Sending, 3:00 p.m. - Pastor James Wooster

CARD SHOWER

Marian Gross will be celebrating her 90th birthday on April 21, 2014. For those who would like to send Marian a birthday greeting, her address is:

2 Manor Blvd.
Mifflintown, PA 17059



2014 CAMPING BROCHURES

The 2014 camping brochures and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or you may register online at:

www.campmountluther.org

Please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor.

Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1st to avoid a late fee.

JUNIATA COUNTY WORKCAMP

A meeting will be held on **April 6, 2014 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Licking Creek at 7:00 p.m.** for ANYONE interested in helping with the Juniata County Workcamp.

Whether it's preparing worksites several weeks before camp, helping with set-up the week before camp, or being part of the finishing crew that will complete sites not finished by the campers the week after camp is over, any and all help will be valued.

NEW TREASURER NEEDED

Messiah is in need of a new treasurer to replace Ken Eyer after his many years of service.

If you would like details, please contact Executive Director Guy Dillman or Pastor Esborn.



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Volunteer drivers and cooks are needed and people to help assemble meals.

If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to make a contribution to the Meals-On-Wheels program, your continued support would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent to:

Juniata Meals-On-Wheels
P.O. Box 251
Mifflintown, PA 17059

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES

New Membership Directories with updated addresses and phone numbers are now available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

LOCUST GROVE

Jean McNaight (Cottage #5)
Ethel Bossinger Sis Stetler
Florence Beasom

BROOKLINE

Flo Beale Virginia Feaster
Marian Gross

Jane Marhefka
351 Village Blvd.
Mifflintown, PA 17059
(Ph: 436-5332)

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

Carol Simonton

NORTH RIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING, McALISTERVILLE

Dorothy Cleck

HONNEMAN HOUSE, THOMPSONTOWN

Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

ELMCROFT OF REEDSVILLE

Helen Knox

VILLAGE AT WILLOW LANE, MACUNGIE, PA

Lura Aughey
6488 Alburdis Road
Macungie, PA 18062
(Ph: 610-421-8100)

AT HOME

Reba Sigler Cassie Smith
Kitty Walters Fay McCormick
Whitey & Mona Lawson

OTHERS OF CONCERN

Craig Walker
Dorothy Patterson, Richfield Senior
Living Center (Cindy Van Gavree's
Mother)
Evelyn Spriggle, Brookline (Ann
Beaver's Mother)

THRIVENT CHOICE

Thank you to everyone at Messiah
who has designated choice dollars to

Messiah.

If you are a Thrivent member and
have questions about Thrivent Choice,
please contact Stacie Kint at
dsaint@nmax.net or 436-6341.

HELP AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know needs
help with home repairs or yard work, there
are volunteers in our community who may
be able to help.

For more information, contact
Michael "Doc" Johnston at 436-9209 or
Cynthia Smith at 436-8512.



"THE NEEDLERS" NEED FABRIC

If you have extra fabric or sheets
that you will not be using, "The Needlers"
would appreciate your donation. If you do
not have any material, but would still like to
help "The Needlers," \$5.00 will sponsor one
sheet to back a quilt.

If you have fabric or wish to sponsor
a sheet, please contact one of our
"Needlers," or, come join us Tuesday
mornings in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.
No sewing skills are required.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

One member of Messiah is needed
to attend the annual Synod Assembly on
June, 20-21, 2014 at Susquehanna
University, Selinsgrove. Guy Dillman will be
attending and would be able to drive for
both days.

If you are interested in serving, please
contact the pastor or the church office.

LEWISTOWN HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE: THE BRIDGE

To share the gift of caring with those among us with end-stage illnesses, please register for the Spring Volunteer Training with HOSPICE: The Bridge, Lewistown Home Health. The training session will be held at the convenience of the participants and will be at the Hospice office, located at 305 Fourth Avenue, Pleasant Acres, Lewistown, PA.

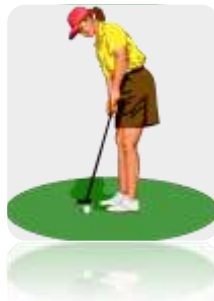
Our volunteer jobs include office work such as filing and helping with mailings. Volunteers also serve as a companion and support to the patient and his or her family by providing a listening ear and offering words of comfort, by reading to patients, and by running errands.

There are also opportunities to help with events such as our grief day camp for kids, our annual Memorial Service, our monthly support group luncheons and evening meeting, our Tree of Life Tree Lighting, and our Butterfly Release.

We are in particular need of volunteers who are available to provide companionship to patients while their family member runs errands or to go to doctor visits and also bereavement volunteers who contact family members on a bi-monthly basis by phone to offer support following the death of a loved one.

For more information or to register, please call our office at 242-5000 and ask for Hilary Harry.

9th Annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic **Monday, May 12, 2014** **Susquehanna Valley Country Club** **Routes 11 & 15, Hummel's Wharf**



Camp Mount Luther holds this event to have fun and raise funds to better our youth in a faith-based camping program. The rain-or-shine event features a four-person scramble with three flights; prizes for flights, hole in one winners, closest to pin, longest drive, straightest drive, team that has most fun and Bishop's Cup; a free putting contest, mulligans, and forward tees; the Camel Auction with a silent and chance auction.

SCHEDULE: 11:00 a.m. – **Registration begins;** 11:30 a.m. – Lunch; 12:30 p.m. – **Golfing Shotgun Start;** Immediately after all golfers are finished, there will be snacks, drinks, and prizes!

We are looking for sponsors and golfers for this event. For more information and a registration/sponsorship form, please visit our website at www.campmountluther.org.

Juniata County Food Pantry April Update

In February 2014, the Pantry served 311 families. This is an increase of nearly 10% over February of 2013, when we served 287 families. Unfortunately, our income for February has taken a whopping 60% nosedive from last year, while our expenses have risen considerably.

Friends, we're in trouble, and while we haven't hit the panic button quite yet, we desperately need your help.

There's no "pretty" or "polite" way to say it, but here it is: We need money.

We are suffering from the same strain that this hard winter has put on many families. The cost of heating and electricity has tripled from last year. Our roof is in disrepair and is being replaced. *(Thank you Rickenbaugh Building Supply for so generously re-roofing our building at cost!)* We are still paying off a huge bill for the installation of our cooler/freezer unit. More importantly, we are faced daily with an increase in clients. Taxes, insurance, and more expenses with every envelope that comes in the mail...

Unless we can bring significant funds into the Pantry, and quickly, we are going to have to consider the possibilities of cutting our hours, reducing or eliminating services, and reducing the amount of supplies we can offer. It breaks our hearts to even consider the possibility that some of our friends and neighbors that need fed could be turned away. Please help us prevent that from happening! Our entire purpose is to feed every person who comes our way.

We operate on donations, the bulk of which come from churches. We're pleading with you now – we need your help. Every dollar we get keeps us afloat, and keeps food on the tables of those who need it most. It costs approximately \$12,000 per month to operate the Pantry. If you would like to know more, we encourage you to ask!

In spite of these struggles, however, we are secure in God's provision, and our future is securely in His hands. We exist only by the grace of God, and we are praying that you, as churches and as individuals, will feel led to give generously to help us help the community. Our mission is to serve God by serving his children. This, we will do until every penny, and every avenue, has been exhausted.

We are so appreciative of all your support, and we ask not only for your donations, but for your prayers that our mission will not only eke by, but flourish and expand.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL: FUNDS

**OUR VESTIBULE (LOCATED ON THE RAMP SIDE OF THE BUILDING)
IS OPEN TO RECEIVE DONATIONS 24 HOURS A DAY!**

CASH OR GIFT CARD DONATIONS MAY BE DEPOSITED THROUGH THE MAIL SLOT.

**HOURS: MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 2:00 – 6:00 PM AND SATURDAY, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
CLOSED ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SUNDAY.**

***PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATACOUNTY FOOD PANTRY, P.O. BOX 44, 114 N. MAIN ST.,
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 436-9718 (CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH).
Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com**