

THE MESSIAH HERALD



DECEMBER, 2012

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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



Each year as we
approach

Christmas and enter
the Advent season
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Frequently our
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of Christ for the less
fortunate around us.

We have and even
greater gift to share
than we might ever
imagine. The central
message of
Christmas is that God
chooses to enter this
world through what
are to some people
the most opaque of
circumstances. God
in Jesus Christ,
Emmanuel, God with
us, is born for you
and me through an
unwed mother who
might easily have
been numbered
among the least of
these. Remember to
share Christ this
Christmas.

December 2012

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each year as we approach Christmas and enter the Advent season our minds turns towards the ideas of gift giving and the ways in which we can celebrate the birth of the Christ child. In many of our homes we have all of what we need to live comfortably and more. Frequently our thoughts then turn to the ways in which we can express the love of Christ for the less fortunate around us. At Messiah we have the #10 cans of fruits and vegetables that we gather for Bethesda Mission, we have the Angel Network families for whose children we buy clothing and other items and we have the Matthew 25 Fund that allows us to aid people stressed financially by events or circumstances. All of this is a wonderful expression of Matthew 25 and Jesus teaching that as we do for the least of these so we do it to Christ.

Besides these ministries we have, also, done Mitten Trees, gathered coats and shoes, and cell phones, printer cartridges and other items. All of this is helpful and helps us to reflect Christ's love into the lives of others. But all of this is still just a dim reflection of the real message we are to carry forward in this season.

The central message of Christmas is that God chooses to enter this world through what are to some people the most opaque of circumstances. God in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, is born for you and me through an unwed mother who might easily have been numbered among the least of these. Mary might well have been turned out by Joseph her betrothed but both, Mary and Joseph. Say yes to God and bring to life the greatest gift the world has ever known. God incarnate, God in the flesh in the Christ child, born and guarded from the hostilities of the world and all of those who would have discounted mother and child, all those who lived in fear for their earthly kingdom, and all those who would have ignored such a child as meaningless in a world filled with so many agendas and hate.

In many ways the world has changed much. There is still plenty of hate to go around. There are plenty of people who think the only way to fight hate is to be bigger, meaner, and more aggressive than the next person. God's answer to this is still the same answer, a child and the hope that a child represents.

You and I worship a God, Jesus Christ, the very Son of God, begotten not made and one being with the Father. That vulnerable child continued to willingly remain vulnerable throughout his life and even accepted death, the humiliating death of the cross for us. He refused every temptation to seize what was is by power and force and when falsely judged and crucified, died and buried, rose from the grave showing to us that hope and new life conquers death. This is the gift that has been given to you.

How will you use this gift? What difference will believing and trusting in this gift make in your life this year? Will you be captured in the fear and hostilities of the world? Or will you live like Christ recognizing that the most important thing you have to share this year is your love and your hope and a powerful belief that God is calling us forward into his kingdom and His grace abounds.

I saw a sign that said "Friends Don't Let Friends Die ... Without Christ." You are the Christ who has been sent to them invite them to join us for Christmas Eve for the first chapter in the greatest story ever told. God bless us all, every one.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE

December 1: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
December 2: Luke 21:25-36
December 3: Philippians 1:12-18a
December 4: Philippians 1:18b-26
December 5: Malachi 4:1-6
December 6: Malachi 3:1-4
December 7: Luke 1:68-79
December 8: Philippians 1:3-11
December 9: Luke 3:1-6
December 10: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15
December 11: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
December 12: Amos 9:8-15
December 13: Zephaniah 3:14-20
December 14: Isaiah 12:2-6
December 15: Philippians 4:4-7
December 16: Luke 3:7-18
December 17: Hebrews 10:10-18
December 18: Hebrews 10:32-39
December 19: Isaiah 42:10-18
December 20: Micah 5:2-5a
December 21: Luke 1:46b-55
December 22: Hebrews 10:1-10
December 23: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
December 24: Luke 2:1-14
December 25: John 1:1-14
December 26: Acts 6:1-7, 7:51-60
December 27: John 21:19b-25
December 28: Matthew 2:13-18
December 29: Colossians 3:12-17
December 30: Luke 2:41-52
December 31: John 8:12-19



PRAYER REQUESTS

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.

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

DECEMBER SCHEDULES

LECTORS

2: Diana Wise
9: Sam Leister
16: Bob St. Clair
23: Linda Leister
30: Barbara S. Geedey

ALTAR GUILD

Nov. 26—Dec. 2 Diana Wise
Dec. 3—Dec. 9 Linda Leister
Dec. 10—Dec. 16 Barbara S. Geedey
Dec. 17—Dec. 23 Sandy Pines
Dec. 24—Dec. 30 Ann Beaver & Kay
Varner
Dec. 31—Jan. 6 Kay Varner
(cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

ALTAR FLOWERS

2: OPEN
9: Don & Barb Geedey
16: Judy Armstrong
23: Vance & Wendy Varner
30: NO FLOWERS



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, November 8, 2012 with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader. The topic was "Thankfulness." Scripture for the evening came from Thessalonians 2:13-14 which, was written by Paul, as a model for the church to be grateful for God's grace, give thanks for that grace and pray for others.

The Christian writer G. K. Chesterton had the right idea when he said we need to get in the habit of "taking things with

gratitude and not taking things for granted." Gratitude puts everything in a fresh perspective; enables us to see the many blessings all around us. And the more ways we find to give thanks, the more things we find to be grateful for. Giving thanks takes practice.

Look around you and everyday give thanks for something. This is the Thanksgiving season and a good time to daily thank God for something in your life.

Examples to practice might be:

- On Veteran's Day, give thanks for peace and the peacemakers in your life.
- Write a letter to a relative in which you acknowledge the special role he or she plays in your family circle.
- Thank a person at work for doing his or her work well.
- On Thanksgiving Day, say grace before your meal. Give thanks for the food, the fellowship of the company around the table, and the presence of the Spirit among you.

We listened to several humorous Thanksgiving stories and the devotions ended with Psalm 136:1 "O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."

Thank you, Cynthia.

The business meeting was in charge of Barbara S. Geedey, Leader.

Business discussed:

- The Christmas Angel sign-up poster is in the kitchenette. Packages need to be wrapped with family number attached and returned to church by December 2.
- Agreed that the next project for Lutheran world Relief will be "Personal Care Kits" and will begin in January and the in-gathering will be announced in the newsletter and bulletins.

The next meeting will be our "Christmas Festival" Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Please bring a Christmas or favorite reading for devotions and a "goodie" for the refreshment table.

We adjourned the meeting with the reading of "The Purpose."

REMINDER: 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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2013 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas may be placed in honor or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. The cost is \$8.00 for a 6½" plant with 3 to 4 blooms.

You may order by calling the church office at 436-6213.



CAN TREE

Donations of gallon-size canned food is again being collected this year, now through December, for the "can Tree" in the Adult Sunday School Room to benefit Bethesda Mission.

Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able. Cans will be delivered to Bethesda Mission later in December.



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

LOCUST GROVE

Jean McNaight (Cottage #5)

Ethel Bossinger Sue Collins

Sis Stetler

BROOKLINE

Flo Beale Virginia Feaster

Marian Gross

Anna Mary Zimmerman

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

Goldie Kauffman Carol Simonton

NORTH RIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING, McALISTERVILLE

Dorothy Cleck

HONNEMAN HOUSE, THOMPSONTOWN

Ruth Cisney

Ray Bamm

ELMCROFT OF REEDSVILLE

Helen Knox

NORTH STREET MANOR

Florence Beasom

AT HOME

Reba Sigler

Cassie Smith

Fannie King

Jane Marhefka

Fay McCormick

OTHERS OF CONCERN

--Craig Walker

--Dorothy Patterson (Cindy Van Gavree's Mother)



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2, Light lunch after worship service, prepared by the Fellowship Committee. Those attending are asked to bring 1-2 dozen cookies. Decorating of the church following lunch.

December 4, "The Needlers" Christmas Lunch. (Last day of sewing until January).

December 9, Christmas Greens (Service of the Manger) 10:30 a.m. (Please bring a crèche figure to place in the manger).

December 13, WELCA Christmas Festival at 7 p.m. in the Youth Area.

December 15, Civil War Christmas Event from 1-8 p.m. at Messiah.

December 16, Christmas Cantata at 2 p.m. at Juniata High School.

December 23, Children's Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:15 a.m.

December 24, Family/Youth Christmas Service at 7 p.m. Prelude Concert at 9:30 p.m. with Louis Lynch. Candlelight Service at 10 p.m.

January 5, 2013, Undecorating church.



FLOWER CHART

The 2013 flower chart will be in the Adult Sunday School Room by the end of December.

If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come-first-served basis.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas envelope in your packet, plus the loose plate offering at the Christmas Eve Service goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help needy people and situations throughout the year.

Please be as generous as you can.

2013 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2013 church offering envelopes will be available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick up later in December.

Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2012 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.



BLOOD DRIVES

The American Red Cross will be holding the following local blood drives:

Thursday, December 6, 1:00-7:00 p.m.
St. John's United Methodist Church,
675 Red Bank Road, McAlisterville.
Double reds technology will be featured.

Friday, December 28, Noon to 6:00 p.m.
Richfield Community Building,
30 South Walnut Street, Richfield.
Sponsored by Richfield Lions Club.
Double reds technology will be featured.

The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine. Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood every 56 days. Individuals should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID or two other forms of identification to the donor site. To schedule an appointment call 1-800 Red Cross.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

A Longest Night Service will be held on December 21, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church for those who are having a difficult time as a result of a death, job loss, health concern, or general sadness this Christmas season.

You do not need to be alone in your pain. Come join us and hear prayers, scripture and music that acknowledge God's presence with us.



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE PASTOR

Again this year the congregation is collecting a monetary Christmas gift for the pastor.

If you wish to contribute, you may do so during Advent or Christmas Eve by putting your gift in the special box in the Adult Sunday School Room, or in the offering plate (designated "Pastor's Christmas Gift"), or to the church office any weekday. (Please make checks payable to the pastor).



COMMUNITY CHORUS

The final two Community Chorus rehearsals will be held on Monday, December 3 and Tuesday, December 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room.

This year's 16th annual Christmas Cantata performance "Season of Wonders" will be held Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES

Lutheran Study Bibles by Augsburg Fortress are available in the church office for anyone who would like one.

Cost is normally \$35.00 but we were able to get them at the sale price of \$18.75 plus shipping.



ST. JUDE COOKIE JAR CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

Check baking cookies off your list—we've done it for you! Pick up your cookies on December 8, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to ? at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Mifflintown, PA. Come early and have a cup of coffee on us, and shop our White Elephant Table for some unique holiday items. Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Cookie boxes will be \$9.00 each with approximately 4 dozen cookies. Sponsored by St. Jude's Women's Guild.



CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 6 children this year for the

Christmas Angel Project. A poster with the information is on the bulletin board in the kitchenette.

Gifts are to be wrapped, labeled with the children's name and family number, and returned to the Sunday School Room by December 2, 2012.



HAVE A HAPPY & JOYOUS CHRISTMAS SEASON

We wish all of you a Christmas filled with blessings from God and His peace which passes all understanding.



BELL RINGERS NEEDED

The Juniata County Branch of the Salvation Army needs bell ringers for the holiday season.

Individuals, Sunday School classes, or youth groups who are willing to help may call Sylvia Kepner at 527-2386.

(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY

Health, Healing and Wholeness

December 2012

"Hold me up, that I may be safe..." Ps. 119:117a, NRSV

When my son was a toddler, he suffered from recurrent ear infections. At one point, our physician referred us to an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist to determine if Andrew should have tubes surgically inserted. In the waiting room, the surgeons had assembled shadow boxes containing some of the more unusual items they had removed from the ears, noses and throats of kids throughout the years. I don't recall seeing any "button" batteries then, but I'm sure they have since been added to the collections. According to Safe Kids USA, in 2010 alone, more than 3400 swallowing cases were reported in the US. Nineteen children sustained life-threatening or debilitating injuries – others died.

Button batteries are those small, disc or button shaped batteries that are being used in a wide variety of electronic items. They can be found in laptops, TV remotes, remote car keys, calculators, cameras, bathroom scales, digital thermometers, talking books, video games, hearing aids, insulin pumps, watches, and greeting cards – even in children's toys. Their resemblance in size and shape to candy appears to be tantalizing to toddlers. Meanwhile, at the other end of the age spectrum, elderly hearing aid users have been known to accidentally swallow them because of their closeness in shape and size to medication tablets.

Lodged in the nose or inner ear, the battery can burn through cartilage leading to difficulty breathing and hearing loss. If swallowed, they can become fatal, as the battery's chemicals, burn through or tear the esophagus – leading to internal bleeding and/or the formation of fistulas in delicate tissue and blood vessels. All this can begin within the first two-to-two-and-a-half hours of swallowing. Unfortunately, the majority of ingestions are un-witnessed, and the signs of ingestion are not specific. Webmd, quoting data from the National Battery Ingestion Hotline, indicates that 54% of fatal cases were misdiagnosed. Non-specific symptoms include, vomiting, fever, lethargy, sore throat, irritability, cough, wheezing or drooling.

Safe Kids USA provides the following tips for battery safety
(www.safekids.org/safety-basics/safety-spotlight/battery-safety):

- Search your home, and any place your child goes for gadgets that may contain coin/button batteries. Place heavy tape over the compartment containing the battery.
- Secure battery-controlled devices out of sight and reach of children and keep loose batteries locked away.

Share this life-saving information with caregivers, friends, family members and sitters.
In Case of Emergency – Keeping batteries out of reach and secured is key, but **if a child swallows a battery, parents and caregivers should follow these steps:**

- Go to the emergency room immediately. Tell doctors and nurses that your child may have swallowed a battery. If possible, provide the medical team with the identification number found on the battery's package.
- Do not let the child eat or drink until a chest x-ray can determine if a battery is present.
- Do not induce vomiting.
- Call the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 for additional treat-

ment information.

According to the CDC, "given the increasing use of such batteries, public health and health care providers should include warnings of the dangers of button cell battery exposures when routinely counseling parents. Legislation is under consideration requiring that child resistant battery compartment closures are used on all consumer products using button cell batteries." Until then, however, education and preventive action are vital.

Advent and Christmas Blessings
Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

Juniata County Food Pantry December Update

We continue to request foods to support our goal of providing 350 of our Juniata County families in poverty with a Christmas meal this year. In order to accomplish this, the Food Pantry has joined forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, Salvation Army and **YOU**. If you could help us to stockpile the following foods for the holidays, we would really appreciate it, but please don't forget that we are still trying to provide the basic necessities for our neighbors in need. It won't do much good if we give a holiday meal to a family who doesn't have anything to eat the next day or the products to keep themselves clean and healthy.

SHOEBOXES FOR CHRISTMAS – If there is a youth group or Sunday School class looking for a special project for Christmas, the Food Pantry is asking area churches to collect children's gifts packed in shoeboxes to distribute to the children of the families who come to the Food Pantry for help. There are about 350 children each month. If you would like information on what items to pack, please contact Kathy Queitzsch at the Food Pantry at 436-9718 or email at jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com.

FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL AND BABY CARE PRODUCTS, PAPER AND CLEANING SUPPLIES.

HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR DECEMBER:

TURKEYS, CRANBERRY SAUCE, STUFFING, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, CANNED SWEET POTATOES, GRAVY MIX, CAKE MIX AND READY MADE ICING.

***REMEMBER, OUR VESTIBULE (LOCATED ON THE RAMP SIDE OF THE BUILDING)
IS OPEN TO RECEIVE DONATIONS ANY HOUR, ANY 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**

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

presents

GROW in the SNOW

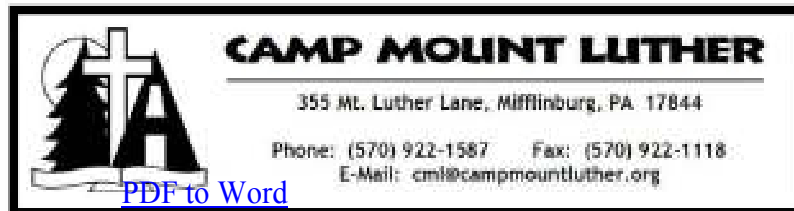
A Winter Camp for Youth, Grades 6-12



**Friday, Dec. 28- Saturday, Dec. 29, 2012
at Camp Mount Luther**

- Gather and Reflect On the Word and play games like snow dodge ball and build snow castles.
- Experience your Creator and find refreshment in the peace of a winter wonderland.
- Meet up with fellow summer campers and staff (who are planning this event).

Cost is \$55.00. We ask that you bring a snack to share on Friday night. Partial scholarships are available through by contracting Chad Hershberger at chad@campmountluther.org. Make checks payable to Camp Mount Luther and send to the address below, or register at www.campmountluther.org. ADULT CHAPERONES ARE ALSO WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!



GROW IN THE SNOW 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

All participants need a signed registration form

Congregation: _____

Youth Grade: _____ or Adult _____ (circle gender) Male Female

Adults are asked to pay the full registration fee (we encourage churches to pay for their leaders). It is requested that adults have their PA State Police Criminal Background and Childline Child Abuse Clearances.

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Permission to take part in program: I am interested in the policies, goals, and programs of Camp Mount Luther and hereby give consent and give permission to participate in this program. My child may be driven by an insured adult and will be restrained while in the vehicle by a seat belt. Any photos or video recordings taken in which I or my child might appear may be used for promotion of the camp/synod free of any claims. I authorize emergency treatment as necessary in the event that I cannot be contacted immediately, should the need arise. Prescription medicine will be handled by the person designated by a child's parent or legal guardian. Adult Supervisors cannot give other medications or medical treatment, other than that which may be deemed necessary in an emergency, and will not be held liable. If my child misbehaves, I authorize the adult supervisor to contact me and I will pick up my child from the activity.

Emergency Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Health Insurance Provider _____

Policy/Group Identification Number _____

Known Allergies/Restrictions:

Signature (of parent/legal guardian if under 18):

_____ Date _____

Total registration fee needs to be paid when you register.