

THE MESSIAH HERALD



DECEMBER, 2013

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



I hope you were with us for the first Sunday in November.

Something really exciting took place at Messiah.

On November 3rd, we had 17 kids, that’s right 17 (seventeen) kids, robed and singing in the Junior Choir.

We owe a big round of thanks to Linda Clark for the way in which she has helped us to touch these children’s lives through the ministry of Junior Church and the Junior Choir.

We, also, owe Bob St. Clair special thanks, as well, for the time he puts in playing the music for the Junior Choir and their rehearsal during Junior Church.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December 2013

I hope you were with us for the first Sunday in November. Something really exciting took place at Messiah. It isn’t something new, in fact, it is something that has been part of the rhythm of life at Messiah what seems like forever. It was the Junior Choir.

On November 3rd, we had 17 kids, that’s right 17 (seventeen) kids robed and singing, in the Junior Choir. It was wonderful; bright faced “old” pros, nervous little ones, all singing together upfront. Wow.

Some people refer to our kids and each new generation as the future of the church. That is a self-deception. Every generation is the present of the church, “NOW!” The excitement these children share with us each time they sing breathes the life of the Spirit into the Body of Christ. They’re young, they’re fun and they are witnesses to the Good News of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

We owe a big round of thanks to Linda Clark for the way in which she has helped us to touch these children’s lives through the ministry of Junior Church and the Junior Choir. She tells me that if everyone would show up together we could have as many as 22 kids. Think about that 22 kids to stand up and sing for us as worship leaders touching our hearts with the signs of God’s loving gifts.

We, also, owe Bob St. Clair special thanks as well for the time he puts in playing the music for the Junior Choir and their rehearsal during Junior Church. Bob, generously, gives of his time in so many ways to the ministry here at Messiah and we thank for his faithfulness.

Lastly, we need to thank all of the parents, moms and dads, who bring their kids to church fulfilling their baptismal promises for their kids. Getting kids to church each week for junior Church to practice and bringing them to sing for us at the first Sunday of the month Family Worship service brings such joy to us when we see those smiling faces and the multitude of kids in all those choir gowns. Wow! Isn’t it wonderful?

Lastly, a special thanks goes out to Cate Swailes who has accepted the responsibility to help us organize an ongoing plan of family and children’s activities. So far this fall we organized with the help of Tawny Mummah the children’s project for God Work Our Hands making fruit baskets for the shut-ins and then in October went to the Butcher Corn Maze and Halloween Farm. These are things to celebrate. Thank you one and all and a very special thanks to every child singing for us about God’s kingdom and Jesus’ love.

Join us for the Christmas program during Sunday School the Sunday before Christmas and let these kids tell you the Christmas story once again.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

December 1: Matthew 24:36-44
December 2: Romans 6:1-11
December 3: Matthew 24:23-35
December 4: Acts 13:16-25
December 5: Isaiah 11:1-10
December 6: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
December 7: Romans 15:4-13
December 8: Matthew 3:1-12
December 9: Ruth 1:6-18
December 10: Ruth 4:13-17
December 11: 1 Samuel 2:1-8
December 12: Isaiah 35:1-10
December 13: Psalm 146:5-10
December 14: James 5:7-10
December 15: Matthew 11:2-11
December 16: Jude 17-25
December 17: John 3:31-36
December 18: Acts 5:12-16
December 19: Isaiah 7:10-16
December 20: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
December 21: Romans 1:1-7
December 22: Matthew 1:18-25
December 23: Matthew 1:1-17
December 24: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
December 25: John 1:1-14
December 26: Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60
December 27: John 21:20-25
December 28: 1 Peter 4:12-19
December 29: Matthew 2:13-23
December 30: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
December 31: John 8:12-19



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!**

DECEMBER SCHEDULES

LECTORS

1: Randy Clark
8: Sam Leister
15: Linda Leister
22: Bob St. Clair
29: Barbara S. Geedey

ALTAR GUILD

Nov. 25—Dec. 1 Linda Clark
Dec. 2—Dec. 15 Linda Leister
Dec. 16—Dec. 22 Sandy Pines
Dec. 23—Dec. 29 Barbara S. Geedey &
Pat Fisher
Dec. 30—Jan. 5 Diana Wise (Clint &
Jamie Miller – cup
communion)

ALTAR FLOWERS

1: Jr. Church
8: Don & Barb Geedey & Velma Suloff
15: Judy Armstrong
22: Vance Varner
29: NO FLOWERS



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, November 14, 2013.

Program was presented by Ann Beaver regarding a previous presentation on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This led to a discussion on different charities that our group might choose from to help. Ann gave information to all in attendance to review and discuss in January. Several members are going to look into specific donations for the Pine Ridge School.

Business meeting: Thank you to all who helped with the Thankoffering Service and meal.

The Seafarers bags were completed. We had a total of 16 kits. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project.

For the December 12th meeting, everyone is asked to bring a reading, poem, etc. for the program as well as cookies, candy, bread, etc. for refreshments. Beverage will be provided.

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.

NEW TREASURER NEEDED

Messiah is in need of a new treasurer to replace Ken Eyler 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

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 dskint@nmax.net or 436-6341.

NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Sample copies of the new updated membership directory are on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Before final copies are made, members are asked to check their address, phone number and email address to be sure they are correct.

Please make any corrections or additions to be included in the directory on the correction sheet provided or call the church office at 436-6213.

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I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR

12-14-2012



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

LOCUST GROVE

Jean McNaight (Cottage #5)
 Ethel Bossinger Sue Collins
 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 Alburfis Road
 Macungie, PA 18062
 (Ph: 610-421-8100)

AT HOME

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

OTHERS OF CONCERN

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



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 Adult Sunday School Room by **December 1, 2013.**



COMMUNITY CHORUS REHEARSAL

The final Community Chorus rehearsal will be held on Monday, December 9th from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room.

This year's 17th annual Christmas Cantata performance "JOY TO THE WORLD" will be held Sunday, December 15, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium with live tableaux as an enhancement to the overall presentation.

A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS auditorium.



FLOWER CHART

The 2014 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.

2014 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2014 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 2013 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.



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).



ATTENTION ALL KIDS!

We will begin reading through the Christmas program in preparation for the Sunday School performance December 22, 2013 at 9:15 a.m.

Please join us each Sunday in November and December during Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. in the church basement to read parts, sing songs and celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

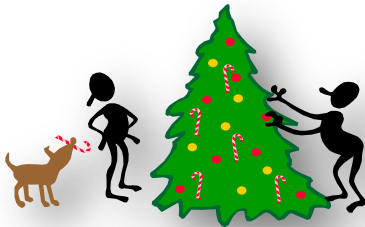
We have many speaking and non-speaking parts to fill as well as special musical performances! See Christie or Stacie with any questions.



“THE NEEDLERS” CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

“The Needlers” Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 12:00 noon in Messiah Church Social Room.

This will be the last day of sewing until Tuesday, January 7, 2014.



CHURCH DECORATING

Decorating of the church for Christmas will be held on Sunday, December 1, 2013. A light lunch will be provided following the worship service prepared by the Fellowship Committee.

Those attending are asked to bring 1-2 dozen cookies. Decorating will follow lunch.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Hanging of the Greens Service (Chrismons) will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 during the worship service.

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.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2014 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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



CROP WALK UPDATE

CROP/CWS thanks Messiah Lutheran Church for participating in the 2013 CROP Walk. The 9 participants and their generous sponsors contributed \$724.00 to help fight world hunger.

By joining together, our Juniata County Walkers and sponsors raised \$11,285.45—a great achievement!

The Juniata County Ministerium is looking for a few people who would volunteer to organize the 2014 CROP Walk. Have you been looking for a new way to help your community? Do you have organizational skills? Do you like to work with others to make a difference in the world? If so, please contact Graham

Fowler at 463-3138 for more details on how you can help!

Thanks again for your faithful support!

The CROP Committee,
Graham Fowler, Kathy Whitesel &
Becky Zeigler



POINSETTIAS

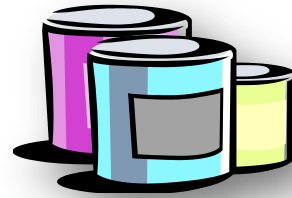
Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas may be placed in honor or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. The cost is \$8.00 for a 6½" plant with 3 to 4 blooms.

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

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I WANT TO GET GOD SOMETHING AWESOME FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR, BUT WHAT DO YOU GET THE GUY WHO MADE EVERYTHING?



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.



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.



Juniata County Food Pantry December Update

The Food Pantry will be working with the Mifflintown Kiwanis Club, local churches and the Boy Scouts to help provide Christmas meals for every person in Juniata County who needs one. We are again asking this month for help to provide holiday meals. For every \$7.00 donated we can provide a complete holiday meal for a family of four. Or we will gladly accept donations of turkeys, hams, stuffing, sweet potatoes, fresh potatoes, fresh fruit (apples & oranges), rolls, and cake and icing mixes.

If you will be alone for the holidays, please talk to your local pastor and they will be glad to match you up with a family to enjoy a Christmas meal.

***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**

