

THE MESSIAH HERALD



February, 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



February 2013

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, January 27th Bishop Robert Driesen met with congregational councils at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Lewistown.

The trends in the world today are reductions in the number of congregations that are able to support one pastor alone.

Only 20% of people today identify themselves as regular worshippers in the congregations.

One question the Bishop put before us is “What are the options we have to maintain healthy and viable ministries?”

Whatever the future holds the Bishop reminded us that it is the nature of the church, the Body of Christ, to be about the work of God.

On Sunday, January 27th Bishop Robert Driesen met with congregational councils at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Lewistown. His message was one about the changing face of the church and its impact on congregations and, particularly, the congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

The trends in the world today are reductions in the number of congregations that are able to support one pastor alone. It is a trend that we at Messiah can recognize as a potential reality and a challenge to overcome. What we may not realize is the breadth of this problem across the church. The number of congregations in the Upper Susquehanna has been reduced from 137 to 131.

Plus it is not a problem only for Lutherans but is a problem among Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Baptists, and independents, as well. The only religious body experiencing growth in the US are Roman Catholics but that is because the majority of immigrants coming into our country are coming from predominantly Roman Catholic cultures. Countering the overall statistical growth, however, is that worship attendance is not up overall in US Roman Catholic congregations.

Only 20% of people today identify themselves as regular worshippers in the congregations. Plus that definition of regular worshipper has shifted from weekly to twice a month. The fastest growing group of individuals spiritually in our country today is “non affiliated.” By 2050 it is projected that those self identifying as regular worshippers will be only 10% of the population. These statistics are a real indication for concern for the challenges of the future.

One question the Bishop put before us is “What are the options we have to maintain healthy and viable ministries?” The options are widely varied from more closing to merging as parishes to a pastor over seeing several congregations with Authorized Lay Worship Leaders helping to cover worship leadership to part-time pastors to bi-vocational pastors having a secular job to joining ministries with our ecumenical partners to attain financial viability. Whatever the solution in a given location what is clear is that the future is complex and the role of the pastor in ministry is going to be significantly changed. Lay people will need to be much more central to numerous types of ministries, especially, worship leadership and visitation.

Whatever the future holds the Bishop reminded us that it is the nature of the church, the Body of Christ, to be about the work of God. He, also, noted that we are a resurrection people and that belief in resurrection, also, means acknowledging that death is our constant companion in life and that the Body of Christ has experienced death in many forms in the past and has always continued to move forward I ministry proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and caring for God’s children. It indeed may look different in the future but we will still be God’s people doing God’s work.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

February	1: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
February	2: Luke 2:22-40
February	3: Luke 4:21-30
February	4: Jonah 4:1-11
February	5: Deuteronomy 9:6-14
February	6: Deuteronomy 9:15-24
February	7: Exodus 34:29-35
February	8: Psalm 99
February	9: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
February	10: Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
February	11: Isaiah 58:1-12
February	12: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
February	13: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February	14: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
February	15: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
February	16: Romans 10:8b-13
February	17: Luke 4:1-13
February	18: 1 John 2:1-6
February	19: Psalm 17
February	20: Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18
February	21: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
February	22: Psalm 27
February	23: Philippians 3:17—4:1
February	24: Luke 13:31-35
February	25: Daniel 3:19-30
February	26: Isaiah 5:1-7
February	27: Luke 13:22-31
February	28: Isaiah 55:1-9



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!



FEBRUARY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

3: Sam Leister
10: Ron Yorks
17: Cynthia Smith
24: Sam Leister

ALTAR GUILD

Jan. 28—Feb. 3	Linda Clark
Feb. 4—Feb. 10	Christie Holderman (Clint & Jamie Miller – cup communion)
Feb. 11—Feb. 24	Sandy Pines
Feb. 25—Mar. 3	Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

3: OPEN
10: Miller Family
17: OPEN
24: NO FLOWERS - LENT



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

Claire Mumma had a very interesting program about "Back in Jesus' Day" (houses and living space) and also "To Thai With Love" about Lutheran World Relief quilts (70,000 are shipped there every year). The quilts are very beautiful, but they can be too thin to be warm enough. We

are reminded that the batting or middle layer in the quilts really matters. Warmth is important in all countries! Quilts are used until they are threadbare.

We are challenged to make 25 more quilts this year for the Mission Quilt Campaign. LWR hopes to collect 500,000 mission quilts by December 2013. Dark colors are preferred because they don't show the dirt! Lutherans can answer God's call to love and serve all those in need by making more QUILTS.

Personal Care Kits are our project for the beginning of 2013. Needed for the project are the following items:

- dark colored bath towels approximately (52 x 27)
- adult toothbrushes (can be large packages of more than 1)
- sturdy combs with wide teeth

Please donate as many items as you are able. You can share God's grace and love by providing simple comfort, starting with a bath! Soap is always needed too! (any brand in original wrapping).

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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.



Thank you to Messiah Women of the ELCA and all who participated this year in the Christmas Angel Project to give gifts to 55 families in need.

You have touched the lives of 152

children and have helped them and their families to have a more enjoyable year. You have helped the parents provide gifts for their children, so they could, too, take pleasure in their children's excitement and see the joy in their faces.

Thank you again for all of your support in providing another enjoyable Christmas for these families. We, as well as the families, greatly appreciate your donations.

Sincerely,
Lucille Aldinger
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Social Committee

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.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The next Voters' Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17, 2013 following the worship service.

Business: quarterly reports of the boards and the 2012 audit.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2013.

They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care.

Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "help our neighbors" by dropping a dollar in the soup pot on February 3rd.

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES

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

Cost is \$24.00 each.



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



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.

CAMPING BROCHURES

The 2013 camping brochures and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or 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 for the early discount.



2013 LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Lenten Fish Dinners (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday beginning February 8th until March 22nd from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Mifflintown.

Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids 6—12 years old, and kids 5 and under FREE. Sponsored by St. Jude's Knights of Columbus.



2013 PORT ROYAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS

7:00 A.M. – PORT ROYAL COMMUNITY BUILDING

- February 16 Rev. Ken Hepner, Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church
February 23 Mr. Jerry O'Connell, Christian Counselor
March 2 Rev. Arthur Mott, Niemons Independent Church
March 9 Rev. Gary Krabill, Living Water Church
March 16 Rev. Casey Hostler, Heaven Bound Church
March 23 Ast. Pastor Phil Persing, First Baptist Church
March 30 Rev. Ken Kitzmiller, Port Royal United Methodist Church



2013 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS

7:00 A.M. – JP Pancake House

- February 16 Rev. William Esborn, Messiah Lutheran Church
February 23 Rev. Martha Carlson, Westminster Presbyterian Church
March 2 To be announced
March 9 To be announced
March 16 To be announced
March 23 To be announced
March 30 To be announced



2013 WOMEN'S LENTEN TEAS

The Women's Community Lenten Teas will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 13, 2013. This year's study will be from the book "Give Up Something BAD for Lent!" by author, James Moore who challenges us to give up something we are better off not doing. He invites us to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive.

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

- February 13, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
- February 20, St. Jude's Catholic Church
- February 27, Messiah Lutheran Church
- March 6, Westminster Presbyterian Church
- March 13, Trinity Methodist Church
- March 20, Aldersgate Methodist Church



2013 TWIN-BORO MINISTERIUM LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday (7:00 p.m.)
February 13th - Messiah Lutheran Church.
Preacher, Pastor Martha Carlson. Theme: Ash Wednesday

Lent 2 (7:00 p.m.)

February 20th - Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor Gary Krabill. Theme: By Faith: Noah.

Lent 3 (7:00 p.m.)

February 27th - Trinity United Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor James Wooster. Theme: By Faith: Abraham.

Lent 4 (7:00 p.m.)

March 6th - St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Preacher, Pastor William Esborn. Theme: By Faith: Moses.

Lent 5 (7:00 p.m.)

March 13th - Trinity United Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor Chris Mathiason. Theme: By Faith: The Israelites.

Lent 6 (7:00 p.m.)

March 20th - Westminster United Presbyterian Church. Preacher, Pastor Gay Irwin. Theme: By Faith: Jesus Our Perfector.

Maundy Thursday (7:00 p.m.)

March 28th - St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Preacher, Pastor Martha Carlson. Theme: Maundy Thursday.

Good Friday (12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.)

March 29th - Westminster United Presbyterian Church. Seven Last Words.

Welcome and Opening, 12:00 p.m.

Pastor

Martha Carlson.

Father Forgive them, 12:05 – 12:30 p.m.

Pastor Gay Irwin.

My God, My God, 12:30 – 12:55 p.m.

Pastor Chris Mathiason.

Today you will be, 12:55 – 1:20 p.m.

Pastor

James Wooster.

Mother, Behold thy Son, 1:20 – 1:45 p.m.

Pastor Anna Ritter.

I thirst, 1:45 – 2:10 p.m. Pastor William

Esborn.

It is finished, 2:10 – 2:35 p.m. Pastor Edd

Carlson.

Into thy hands, 2:35 – 3:00 p.m. Pastor

Martha Carlson.

Closing and Sending, 3:00 p.m. Pastor

Martha Carlson.

Easter Sunrise (6:30 a.m.)

March 31st - Messiah Lutheran Church.

Preacher, Pastor Gay Irwin.



Juniata County Food Pantry February Update

Happy New Year! As we wind down our joyous celebrations of the holiday season, many of our neighbors in financial difficulty have a different name for this season. They call it the "Season of Heat or Eat!" These families will have to make the difficult choice of whether to heat their homes or buy food. Please keep them in mind as you pack away Christmas decorations and finish off leftovers.

In November 2012, the Food Pantry served 323 families – 936 individuals! We thank St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for sending volunteers for the month of November. We are also thankful for all who shared their abundance with the Food Pantry during the food drives of November and December. Because it's flu season and many of our neighbors will be trying to battle illness as well as a lack of heat, if you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLU MEDICINES. WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS FOR LOCAL STORES.

***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: jfoodpantry@embarqmail.com**



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER

SPONSORED BY THE DISCIPLES CLASS



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012
4:00 to 7:00 P.M.
MESSIAH FELLOWSHIP HALL

COST: \$6.00 FOR ADULTS
\$3.00 FOR CHILDREN 6 to 12
CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE

DINNER INCLUDES:
SPAGHETTI (WITH PLAIN OR MEAT SAUCE)
SALAD, BREAD, BEVERAGE & DESSERT
(TAKE-OUT ORDERS ARE AVAILABLE)

DONATIONS OF SPAGHETTI SAUCE, DESSERT, OR MONETARY
DONATIONS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED
(HELPERS ARE ALSO NEEDED)

PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE
CENTRAL JUNIATA SWIMMING POOL

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ANY MEMBER
OF THE DISCIPLES CLASS OR AT THE DOOR