

THE MESSIAH HERALD



FEBRUARY, 2014

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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[MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR](#)

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

The Messiah Herald



February 2014

Which is the most spiritually significant holiday in February?

You have Groundhog Day, you have Valentine’s Day, and you have Presidents’ Day. It is an interesting assortment. Which do you think is the most spiritually significant?

For me there is now a spiritual significance tied up in the movie by Bill Murray of Groundhog Day.

Ever since I saw Groundhog Day two decades ago it has been a wonderful metaphor for baptism. In baptism we rise each day in the promise of God’s grace and forgiveness with the opportunity to start again.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Which is the most spiritually significant holiday in February? You have Groundhog Day, you have Valentine’s Day, and you have Presidents’ Day. It is an interesting assortment. Which do you think is the most spiritually significant?

Most of you may jump quickly to Valentine’s Day remembering that it is named for St. Valentinus. His feast day as a martyr is on February 14 the day of his death and is recognized by Catholics, Anglicans, Lutherans, and Eastern Orthodox traditions. However, spiritually today Valentine’s Day is more about selling cards, candy and flowers and the martyrdom of St. Valentine is largely forgotten. I don’t think it is spiritually powerful today as much as it is commercial.

Presidents’ Day has some possibilities but really doesn’t quite get the most spiritual label because although many presidents have been men of faith and a breadth of faith among denominational traditions the day is almost entirely lost any more. Tell me the last time you paused to give thanks for those men (to date) who have led our country and freely tool on the burdens of the nation. Presidents should always be among our prayers.

What about Groundhog Day? There can’t be anything about Groundhog Day that might point us in a spiritual direction, can there? Well, in Punxsutawney the Groundhog celebration takes on religious proportions with many people in attendance plus it gathers TV cameras and even national media. More than that it is spreading as other communities offer local champions to dethrone Phil as chief marmot of prognostication. It is a cult like witness gathering around the idea of knowing when winter will end.

For me, however, there is real spiritual significance tied up in the movie by Bill Murray called “Groundhog Day.” Murray’s character through a series of incidents keeps reliving Groundhog Day in Punxsutawney again and again and again. It is an assignment he hates and considers beneath him but in the course of the film he is transformed from a narcissistic pain in the butt to a despondent hopeless individual to person completely renewed as he learns about himself and life through Rita and is transformed to a touching and caring for the community where he seems trapped. Then after one last night Phil (Bill Murray) wakes up on February 3rd the loop broken realizing he has come to love Punxsutawney and the community.

Ever since I saw Groundhog Day two decades ago it has been a wonderful metaphor for baptism. It has in that way become an amazing spiritually significant day. In baptism we rise each day in the promise of God’s grace and forgiveness with the opportunity to start again. We rise from the darkness of the knowing of God’s love for us and we risk it all again trying to be more like Jesus; more loving, more caring, more giving. As we live in that baptismal loop we become transformed from the sinner who is self absorbed, who struggles, who snips and snaps into an expression of God’s grace and optimism like Rita and like Jesus. It happens in the midst of community, in the midst of relationships. We learn to love even the unlovable like ourselves.

So for me I can celebrate the Feast of St. Valentine’s and his dying for his faith and remember with thanksgiving the lives of our presidents and their service but for me Groundhog Day has become the most spiritually significant because it reminds me of my baptism and that God is not done with me yet and every day I rise to a new opportunity to live in faithfulness to Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

February	1: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
February	2: Matthew 5:1-12
February	3: Hebrews 2:14-18
February	4: 1 John 5:1-5
February	5: James 3:13-18
February	6: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)
February	7: Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
February	8: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)
February	9: Matthew 5:13-20
February	10: 1 John 2:2-17
February	11: Deuteronomy 30:1-9a
February	12: Matthew 15:1-9
February	13: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
February	14: Psalm 119:1-8
February	15: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
February	16: Matthew 5:21-37
February	17: Genesis 22:1-19
February	18: 1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1
February	19: Matthew 7:1-12
February	20: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
February	21: Psalm 119:33-40
February	22: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
February	23: Matthew 5:38-48
February	24: Matthew 6:24-34
February	25: Matthew 7:21-29
February	26: Mark 9:9-13
February	27: Exodus 24:12-18
February	28: Psalm 2



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!

FEBRUARY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

2: Ron Yorks
9: Diana Wise
16: Cynthia Smith
23: Sam Leister

ACOLYTES

2: Malin Kint & Marina Holderman
9: Tyler Rosenberry & Lilly Powell
16: Nate Swailles & Gavin Kint
23: Zane Hazard & Emma Hazard

ALTAR GUILD

Jan. 27—Feb. 2	Diana Wise
Feb. 3—Feb. 9	Pat Fisher
Feb. 10—Feb. 23	Sandy Pines
Feb. 24—Mar. 2	Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

2: OPEN
9: Miller Family
16: OPEN
23: OPEN



Messiah Women of the ELCA met on January 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting began with devotions and 9 members attended.

The group has decided to begin another project helping the Friends of Pine Ridge Reservation. This follows a program presented to the group in 2012 by Ann Beaver on the Pine Ridge Lakota Indian Tribe which was a documentary presented by Diane Sawyer.

Marilyn McCoy is going to gather information on a knitting project and Linda Leister is gathering information on books needed by the different schools. More information will follow for those of the congregation who would like to help with either project.

Our first project for this year for Lutheran World Relief will be baby care kits. Items needed are:

- 2 (6-24 months) lightweight cotton T-shirts
- 2 longer 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.

Jean Compton has graciously volunteered to present the Lenten program for the Wednesday morning our group will be assigned.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Program leader will be Cynthia Smith.

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.

THANK YOU

Dear Sponsors of the Christmas Angel Project....We have had another successful year in providing 155 children and 54 families with gifts.

You have touched the lives of many people this year at Christmas. The parents got to experience the joy of watching their children open presents Christmas morning with excitement because of your generosity. Without you, their Christmas might not have been as joyful.

Thank you to Messiah Women of the ELCA and members of Messiah Lutheran Church for all your donations and for supporting the families that could not afford to put presents under the tree this Christmas.

Have a blessed New Year!

Lucille Aldinger, Social Ministry
Committee
Trinity Lutheran Church,
McAlisterville



THANK YOU, '2013' **CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROGRAM**

I wanted to let you know that the gifts my children received were greatly appreciated. With the help of the Christmas Angel Program, my children were able to have a good Christmas.

Thank you for providing help to our family. You are angels and greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Family #19



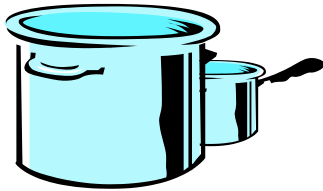
2014 CAMPING BROCHURES

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.



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

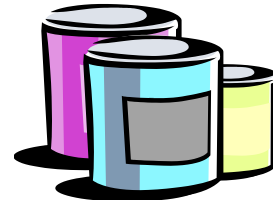
Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Sunday, February 2, 2014 (Super Bowl Sunday).

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. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

PPC MEETING

The next PPC meeting will be Sunday, February 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.



SOUP COLLECTION

The Showers Sunday School Class is collecting cans of soup for the Food Pantry on Super Bowl Sunday.

We invite the congregation to join us by bringing a can of soup on February 2nd.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY

Voters Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2014 following the worship service.

Business: 2013 audit and quarterly board reports.

NEW TREASURER NEEDED

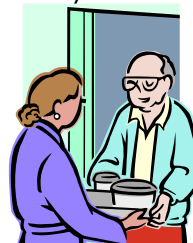
Messiah is in need of a new treasurer to replace Ken Eyer after his many years of service.

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

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A First Communion Class will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library area.

Please register with the church office if you would like your child to attend.



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 DIRECTORIES

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

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASS

Baptismal and New Member class will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Library area.

Please let the church office know if you plan to attend.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study on Lutheranism 101, Part 2 will be held beginning Sunday, February 2, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour) and Monday, February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library area.



CROP COORDINATORS NEEDED

New 2014 CROP Coordinators are needed. The coordinators duties include securing a site to hold the walk, distribute materials to churches and walkers, advertise, prepare the site for the walk, organize volunteers to receive walker forms and count money, file reports with Church World Services, and thank the churches for their participation.

A notebook is available with step by step instructions on how to run a successful CROP Walk and includes a thumb drive with files.

One or more people are needed who have a passion for hunger ministries (and the CROP Walk in particular), are self-starters, and are good at organizing and following through on projects.

If you are interested in the job, or

would like to suggest someone, please contact Graham Fowler at pastor.lostcreekpres@gmail.com.

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 on June, 20-21, 2014 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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

THANK YOU

The family of Sue Collins would like to extend our appreciation to the members of Messiah for your thoughts and prayers during the loss of our mother.

May God keep you all in His care.

Ken Collins/Lois Kennedy and families

PREVENTION HEALTH SCREENINGS

Begin 2014 on the road to good health! As seen on NBC's "The Biggest Loser" there is a way to tell how "old" your arteries are and if you are at risk for a stroke or heart disease.

The Prevention Health Screenings group has the ability to tell you this by offering a quick, painless, non-invasive health test to see if you are at risk for serious health problems.

On Saturday, February 15, 2014 beginning at 9:00 a.m. you and community members are invited to Messiah Lutheran Church to participate in the available health screenings. Along with the heart disease screening, there will be 7 other tests you can choose from. The costs vary depending on how many screenings you have done.

You must have an appointment and appointments are on a first-come-first-served basis, so register early. Call 1-800-257-3516 or go to www.preventionhealth.org for more information.

Juniata County Food Pantry

***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**