

THE MESSIAH HERALD



JANUARY, 2012

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

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[MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR](#)

[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)

[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

January	1: Luke 2:22-40
January	2: Luke 2:15-21
January	3: James 3:13-18
January	4: Genesis 1:1-5
January	5: Psalm 29
January	6: Matthew 2:1-12
January	7: Acts 19:1-7
January	8: Mark 1:4-11
January	9: Judges 2:6-15
January	10: Judges 2:16-23
January	11: 1 Samuel 2:21-25
January	12: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
January	13: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
January	14: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
January	15: John 1:43-51
January	16: 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
January	17: 1 Samuel 15:10-31
January	18: Matthew 16:13-19
January	19: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
January	20: Psalm 62:5-12
January	21: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
January	22: Mark 1:14-20
January	23: Romans 9:6-18
January	24: Deuteronomy 13:1-5
January	25: Acts 9:1-22
January	26: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
January	27: Psalm 111
January	28: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
January	29: Mark 1:21-28
January	30: Numbers 22:1-21
January	31: Numbers 22:22-28



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!

JANUARY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

1: Bob St. Clair
8: Linda Leister
15: Andrea Cameron
22: Ed Beaver
29: Ron Yorks

ALTAR GUILD

Dec. 26—Jan. 29 Kay Varner
(Jan. 8) Clint & Jamie Miller
(Cup Communion)
Jan. 30—Feb. 5 Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

1: OPEN
8: OPEN
15: OPEN
22: OPEN
29: OPEN



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, December 8, 2011 for the annual Christmas Festival.

For a number of years, our program for the evening has been a sharing of Christmas stories, poems, fun quizzes or trivia, and a bountiful buffet of treats created by those gathered.

Barbara S. Geedey, Leader, welcomed the group and the program began.

We listened to:

--"Reasons to be Glad."

- "Eyes of Love."
- Davey and the First Christmas.
- History of Christmas Ornaments – The Christmas Ornament, Apple Ornament, The Fir Tree, the Rabbit.
- From Christmas in Many Lands: selection about Sweden's tradition of St. Lucia, as well as Germany and France.
- Jesus and the Fox.
- Christmas in Pennsylvania.
- The daily devotion for December 8 from Guideposts.
- From Reminisce "Santa's Cake."
- From Light for Today "Here's Your God."
- And in closing, A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson.

We adjourned to tables decorated with live greens and holly as well as a collection of beautiful Santas.

We enjoyed warm wassail, cocoa almonds, chocolate chip cookies, bongo bongo dip, spiced pretzels, Chex Mix, a tree of Hershey Kisses, gluten-free crackers and dill dip, and mint flavored divinity. The devotions, fellowship, and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be held on January 12, 2012 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.

BAPTISM

God created a new saint on Sunday, December 25, 2011 through His Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

We welcomed Blake Christian Pfeffer, son of Christian and Alycia (Leister) Pfeffer.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A First Communion Class will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 20, 2011 if you would like your child to attend.

Date and time for the class will be arranged with parents.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Baptismal and New Member classes will be held this winter.

If you wish to attend, please let the church office know by January 16, 2011.

CHURCH ORGANIST NEEDED

Church Organist for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard.

Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at ebeaver41@yahoo.com or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlc-mifflintown.org.

CAKES FOR MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Volunteers are needed to bake or buy a cake one time a year for Meals-On-Wheels and deliver the cake to Westminster Presbyterian Church where the meals are prepared for delivery.

You will be called only once a year to supply a cake. Please contact Pat Fisher at 436-9781 if you can help.



TO ALL CROP SUPPORTERS

By joining together, our county walkers and sponsors raised \$10,949.00 for CWS/CROP Walk this year. A great achievement!! Please mark **October 7th** on your calendars for the 2012 CROP Walk. We hope to see all of you again.

Also, if anyone is missing a pink scarf, it was left at the walk. We have not been able to find an owner. If it belongs to you, please contact Becky at 463-2309. Thanks again for your faithful support!

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

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

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

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2012 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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

FLOWER CHART

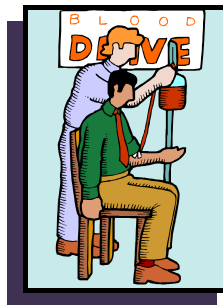
The 2012 flower chart has been placed in the Adult Sunday School Room.

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.

2012 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2012 church offering envelopes are now available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick-up.

Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2011 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:

Wednesday, January 11, 2012
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Port Royal Community Building
Port Royal, PA

Saturday, January 14, 2012
Tuscarora Valley Elementary School
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Port Royal, PA

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 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.



My sincere thanks to members and friends of Messiah for the monetary Christmas gift given to me. It was very much appreciated.

Judy Armstrong



My heartfelt thanks goes out to my friends and family of Messiah for the monetary gift given to me this Christmas. It was deeply appreciated.

May God continue to bless you all.

Andrea Cameron



HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR

We wish you a BLESSED NEW YEAR in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the year 2012 be filled with good health, happiness, peace and joy!

(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY **Health, Healing and Wholeness** **January 2012**

If as Herod, we fill our lives with things, and again with things; if we consider ourselves so unimportant that we must fill every moment of our lives with action, when will we have time to make the long, slow journey across the desert, as did the Magi? Or sit and watch the stars as did the shepherds? Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary? For each one of us there is a desert to travel; a star to discover, and a being within ourselves to bring to life.
~Michael Podesta~

For many, there is nothing quite as beautiful as the absolute silence of a

winter snowfall. The world looks as though God has taken a flour sifter, and gently tapped the show through, allowing it to kiss the surfaces of trees and shrubs. For those of us who live in urban and suburban areas, there is usually a small window of opportunity in which to enjoy this sacred time, for soon enough, the air will be filled with the sounds of snow plows, as they dredge through God's frosting to once again expose the dark ground. Unearthing these paths allows us to resume our lives of work, school, activities and busyness. For those in rural areas, the reprieve perhaps lasts a bit longer.

We are entering the liturgical season of epiphany –the awakening to the light of the presence of the Christ

come to earth. It was the time when the wise men slowly made their way across barren land to pay their homage to the new king they had heard whispers about. Herod had tried to detain them, to beg them to do his bidding by revealing the location of an infant who could threaten his seat of power. Were they wise because of their vast knowledge of the world, or because they would not allow themselves to be pawns in Herod's paranoia, and his quest for complete supremacy? The journey was slow, with little to distract their minds from anything but what lie ahead. To our lives today, what a gift, that silence could bring!

Elijah also knew the power of silence. God told him, *"Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."* Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind, an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire **a sound of sheer silence...then** there came a voice to him that said, *"What are you doing here, Elijah? He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'" Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus."* And God rolled out a plan for Elijah to anoint a new king.

Yes, it is January. We've just heralded in a new year. We've survived the well-intentioned noise and hustle of the holidays, made resolutions, and

perhaps already broken them. I would like to suggest that perhaps January first is not the time to chart our course for the coming year. Amidst all the noise, have we really listened to what God is calling us to do? The psalmist says, *"my soul in silence waits."* For some of us, the sheer silence of a winter snow may offer us the opportunity to hear what God is proposing. For those who do not experience snow, it may mean carving out some time to be alone; listening.

Here is a short exercise to help you open yourself to God. While sitting, take a break from whatever you're doing, and check your body for tension.

Relax your facial muscles and allow your jaw to fall open slightly. Loosen your tongue from the roof of your mouth. Let your shoulders drop. Let your arms fall to your sides. Allow your hands to loosen so that there are spaces between your fingers. Uncross your legs or ankles. Feel your thighs sink into your chair, letting your legs fall comfortably apart. Feel your shins and calves become heavier and your feet grow roots into the floor. Now breathe in slowly and breathe out slowly. Each time you breathe out, try to relax even more. Allow a simple phrase, such as *"My soul in silence waits,"* to drift through your mind as you relax.

Maintain this quiet for as long as you can. What is God saying in the silence?

Through these stops with God, we learn that life isn't about what we are doing or becoming. It's embracing what is, instead of resisting it, and opening ourselves to God's whispers of love and peace now and on the journey ahead.

A Blessed New Year to All!
Debbie Best

Juniata County Food Pantry January Update

Happy New Year! As we wind down our joyous celebrations of the holiday season, I would like to remind you that for many of our neighbors in financial difficulty, this season has a different name: "The Season of Heat or Eat!" There are many families during this season that will have to make the choice of whether to heat their homes or buy food and other necessities. Please keep them in mind as you pack away Christmas decorations and finish off leftovers.

In November 2011, the Food Pantry served 329 families as compared to 272 families at the same time last year! We thank St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for sending volunteers for the month of November. Food Drive season is here at last and we are so thankful for all who shared their abundance with the Food Pantry. For once our food shelves are full, but our personal care and cleaning shelves have been empty ALL YEAR. If you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY **DISH SOAP, ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT**

PHONE #: 717-436-9718 -- CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH

ADDRESS: PO BOX 44, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

LOCATION: 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA

HOURS: MON. 1--4 PM, TUES. & THURS. 3--6 PM, SAT. 10:00 AM-- 1:00 PM

