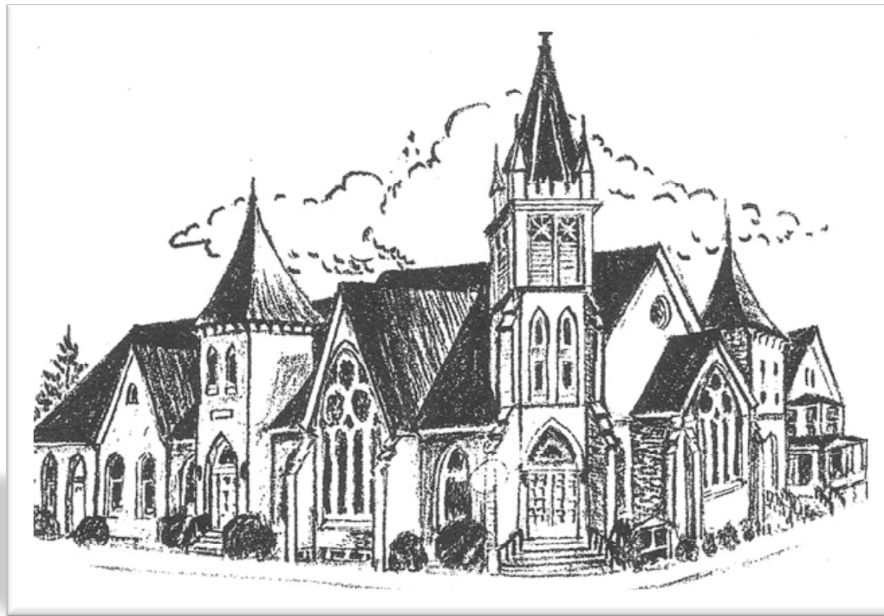


THE MESSIAH HERALD



January, 2013

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213
www.mlcmifflintown.org
mlcmifflintown@pa.net

THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

35 SCENIC VIEW DRIVE
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-9425
pastoresborn@pa.net

MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

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

The Messiah Herald



January 2013

“Comfort, O comfort my people says the Lord.” These words come to us from the prophet Isaiah, specifically, deuter-Isaiah, and are words spoken to the people from Judah in the Babylonian captivity.

Today we have been grafted into the stump of Jesse and join God’s Chosen People in long tested waiting as we wait for Christ’s return, Messiah for Jew and Gentile.

The history of humanity is rife with actions striking out to destroy others. In spite of that the people of God have responded again and again with faith and caring for the survivors and those who have borne the greatest loss.

It is in that moment of people responding and caring person for person that God is present.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Comfort, O comfort my people says the Lord.” These words come to us from the prophet Isaiah, specifically, deuter-Isaiah, and are words spoken to the people from Judah in the Babylonian captivity. They are words spoken to give comfort to a people far from home and scattered in the captivity. They are words promising that Yahweh has not forgotten his people and that he will sustain them in their captivity and even return them to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. In time when Cyrus conquered Babylon the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem. Israel’s history of trusting in the promises of God despite struggles and suffering in the present has a long, long history.

Those same words are a part of our tradition as Christians, as well. The promises of God to the people of Israel and Judah were understood by the early church to have been fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and were used to interpret and define his birth, life, and death. Today we have been grafted into the stump of Jesse and join God’s Chosen People in long tested waiting as we wait for Christ’s return, Messiah for Jew and Gentile.

God will not forget the people and families of Newtown, Connecticut. We may cry out where is God and wonder why he did not stop the chaos and the destruction of these precious young lives and those given to their care but the truth is that God has never stopped people when in hate and evil they sought to strike out against God’s will. The birth of Moses and Jesus resulted in immeasurable loss of young life. The history of humanity is rife with actions striking out to destroy others. In spite of that the people of God have responded again and again with faith and caring for the survivors and those who have borne the greatest loss. It is in that moment of people responding and caring person for person that God is present in divine will that bends towards life and love at great cost.

Scripture tells us that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to die for it. Think of that in the context of Newtown. God did not even spare the unjust death of the one and only Son as too great a price to bring us and the people of Newtown some comfort. God knows and has shared our pain, Jesus knew grief and wept at the loss of his friend Lazarus and in raising Lazarus from the dead gave us a fore taste of the promises we still cling to in the face of every evil.

As we continue in the Christmas season and onto the Epiphany of Christ revealed let us hold steadfast onto the story and the promises of God as God’s people have always done. Thanks be to God for the grace that gives us hope.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

January	1: Luke 2:15-21
January	2: Ephesians 1:3-14
January	3: Isaiah 60:1-6
January	4: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
January	5: Ephesians 3:1-12
January	6: Matthew 2:1-12
January	7: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
January	8: Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
January	9: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
January	10: Isaiah 43:1-7
January	11: Psalm 29
January	12: Acts 8:14-17
January	13: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January	14: Acts 8:18-24
January	15: 1 John 5:13-21
January	16: Isaiah 62:1-5
January	17: Psalm 36:5-10
January	18: Acts 4:8-13
January	19: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
January	20: John 2:1-11
January	21: Matthew 16:13-19
January	22: Isaiah 54:1-8
January	23: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
January	24: Psalm 19
January	25: Psalm 67
January	26: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
January	27: Luke 4:14-21
January	28: 1 Corinthians 14:1-12
January	29: Psalm 119:89-96
January	30: Jeremiah 1:4-10
January	31: Psalm 71:1-6



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

6:	Randy Clark
13:	Linda Leister
20:	Barbara S. Geedey
27:	Andrea Cameron

ALTAR GUILD

Dec. 31—Jan. 6	Kay Varner (cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)
Jan. 7—Jan. 13	Kay Varner (cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)
Jan. 14—Jan. 27	Kay Varner
Jan. 28—Feb. 3	Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

6:	OPEN
13:	Nancy Peters
20:	OPEN
27:	OPEN



Messiah Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, January 10, 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.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A First Communion Class will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 21, 2013 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 17, 2013.

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



FLOWER CHART

The 2013 flower chart is now 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.

2013 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2013 church offering envelopes are now in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please pick them up as soon as possible.

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.



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.

BLOOD DRIVES

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

Wednesday, January 9, 2013
Port Royal Community Building
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fourth Street, Port Royal

Saturday, January 12, 2013
Tuscarora Valley Elementary School
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
401 North 8th Street, Port Royal

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

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 Red Cross.



THANK YOU

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

Judy Armstrong



SOUP SALE FUNDRAISER

A soup sale fundraiser will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church to benefit the Central Juniata Park Pool.

Order forms are available for pre-orders in the Adult Sunday School Room. We are also soliciting for baked items to sell. Soup will be \$5.00 per quart (buyers are asked to bring their own containers). Walk-in orders will be filled as long as the soup lasts. Soup choices are: Ham Bean, Chicken Corn, Beef Vegetable, and Broccoli Cheddar.

If you would like to donate ingredients for the soup or help in any way, please contact Kathy Whitesel at 436-2401, Linda Leister at 436-8589, Shirley Hostler at 436-6371, or Tammy Ehrenzeller at 436-5583.

HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR

We wish you a BLESSED NEW YEAR in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the year 2013 be filled with good health, happiness, peace and joy!



Juniata County Food Pantry January 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 BASIC NEEDS FOR JANUARY:

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: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com**