

THE MESSIAH HERALD



JANUARY, 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



January 2014

The season of Christmas does not officially end until Epiphany on January 6th. That is we when celebrate and remember the Magi bringing their gifts to the Christ child.

That story is another one of those challenges to hear the actual Biblical story beyond what we “remember.”

It is a story that continues not just to the twelfth day and the story of the Magi but still continues in us as we share the story in our homes, in our church, and in our lives as we live in the midst of community sharing the continuing Good News of the king who died that we and all the world might be healed.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the first week of January we are still in the midst of the 12 days of Christmas. The season of Christmas does not officially end until Epiphany on January 6th. That is we when celebrate and remember the Magi bringing their gifts to the Christ child.

What is interesting about the Magi is that no names are given for them in the Bible although Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar have become the traditional names. In fact, the Bible does not even say how many Magi there were. It simply states that there were three gifts; gold, frankincense, and myrrh. That story is another one of those challenges to hear the actual Biblical story beyond what we think we “remember.”

It seems to me the writing of the story in Matthew’s Gospel is meant to point us towards very particular insights through its choices. These points include that God prepares for us a witness to his works in the Magi, the Magi recognize that a new and special king has been born to the people of Israel, this new born king will be worshipped but both Jew and Gentiles (remember, the Magi are Gentiles, the powers of the world are threatened by the in-breaking of the kingdom of God and openly act to oppose it, the kingship of the Christ child is seen in the gift of gold, frankincense was a symbol of both healing and deity, and myrrh an incense used at death for anointing.

It is important for us to slow down in our reading of scripture and to see and reflect on these elements of this oft told story so that we do not miss what it confessed about Jesus and his life from the very beginning of his story. Jesus and his ministry were perceived by the powers of this world, both the power of the Romans and the power of the Temple, as a threat to their power and control. He is truly God among us bringing riches and healing to bear on our lives as both Jews and Gentiles and the manner by which this occurs will include his death. All this captured in the story of the Magi and the revelation of Epiphany.

Wow, so much hidden there in this opening story of the birth of Jesus. This is confessional language teaching us about what Matthew and we believe and bear witness to in the person of Jesus and everything to follow in his story.

As another Christmas day fades away into the past remember that we are still moving forward in the story of Christmas. It is a story that continues not just to the twelfth day and the story of the Magi but still continues in us and we share the story in our homes, in our church, and in our lives as we live in the midst of community sharing the continuing Good News of the king who died that we and all the world might be healed.

Go into the world following the light of Christ that many may come to believe.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

January	1: Luke 2:15-21
January	2: Jeremiah 31:7-14
January	3: Psalm 147:12-20
January	4: Ephesians 1:3-14
January	5: John 1:(1-9), 10-18
January	6: Matthew 2:1-12
January	7: 1 Kings 10:1-13
January	8: 1 Kings 10:14-25
January	9: Isaiah 42:1-9
January	10: Psalm 29
January	11: Acts 10:34-43
January	12: Matthew 3:13-17
January	13: Isaiah 22:15-25
January	14: 1 Kings 19:19-21
January	15: Isaiah 49:1-7
January	16: Psalm 40:1-11
January	17: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
January	18: 1 Corinthians 10:1-5
January	19: John 1:29-42
January	20: 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
January	21: 1 Samuel 15:34—16:21
January	22: Isaiah 9:1-4
January	23: Psalm 27:1, 4-9
January	24: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
January	25: Galatians 1:11-24
January	26: Matthew 4:12-23
January	27: Deuteronomy 16:18-20
January	28: Deuteronomy 24:17—25:4
January	29: 1 Peter 3:8-12
January	30: Micah 6:1-8
January	31: Psalm 15



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!

JANUARY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

5: Diana Wise
12: Linda Leister
19: Sam Leister
26: Andrea Cameron

ALTAR GUILD

Dec. 30—Jan. 5 Diana Wise (Clint & Jamie Miller – cup communion)
Jan. 6—Jan. 26 Kay Varner (Clint & Jamie Miller – cup communion)
Jan. 27—Feb. 2 Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

5: OPEN
12: OPEN
19: OPEN
25: OPEN

Women of the ELCA 

The next meeting of Messiah Women of the ELCA will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A First Communion Class will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 22, 2014 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, 2014.



FLOWER CHART

The 2014 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.

2014 CHURCH ENVELOPES

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

PATIENCE NEEDED

Our Messiah bulletin board is in a poor state of repair and has been for some time. We seriously need to consider a replacement as moisture continues to cause damage to the board and the letters.

In the coming months the Property Committee will research various options. Meanwhile we will try to make sure the old bulletin board has the church's pertinent information until a change can be made.

Please be patient as we resolve this ongoing issue. Your input is welcome. Stay tuned.....

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 in June, 2014 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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

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

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Junior Church kids, Andrea Cameron, and my family at Messiah for the wonderful Christmas gifts this year.

They all came at the absolute perfect time and gave me the "pick-me-up" that I needed for myself and for my family.

Also, thanks to everyone for prayers for my father who has recently gone through some major health problems this holiday season. It all has meant so much to me to have friends like everyone here to lean on and talk to.

God Bless each and every one of you this holiday season!

Bob St. Clair



HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR

We wish you a BLESSED NEW YEAR in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the year 2014 be filled with good health, happiness, peace and joy!

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: jfoodpantry@embarqmail.com**

