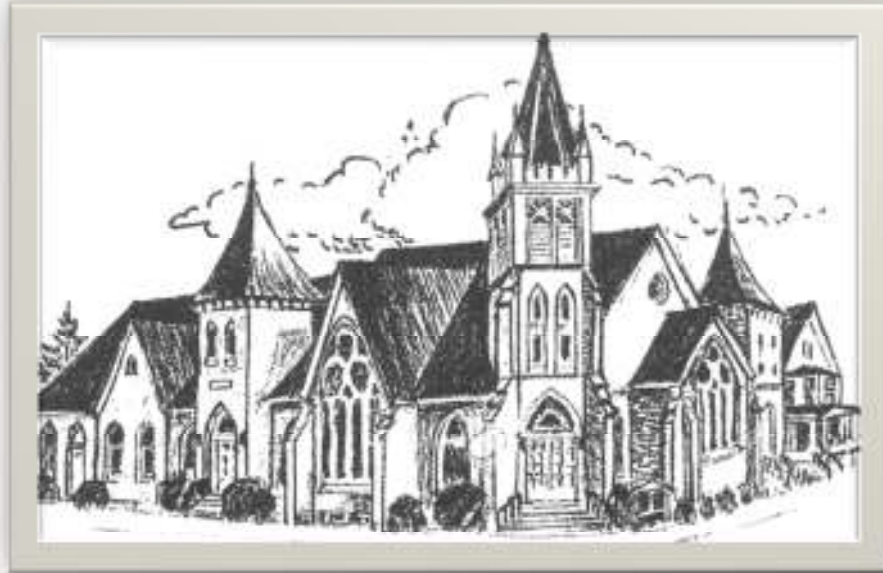


# **THE MESSIAH HERALD**



**JULY, 2012**

## **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



***July 2012***

Summer is now in full swing. We are in our summer schedule with worship each week at 9:15 am. Life takes on a different rhythm without school schedules to order life.

While we have no absolute dress code at Messiah we do tend to become a little more relaxed during the summer.

Shorts, golf shirts, and sandals are welcome but the hallmark of how we dress and come before God in worship and praise should always be centered in presenting our best to God.

We do these things to encourage all of us to attend and to be faithful in our praise of God and in celebrating God’s numerous gifts. We do it so that we can continue to feed in God’s grace. We do it exactly so that we can come to church and not avoid it.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer is now in full swing. We are in our summer schedule with worship each week at 9:15am. Life takes on a different rhythm without school schedules to order life.

These changes, however, are not indications that we should, also, take a vacation from God and worship. Nor should they be a vacation from giving our best to God. Rather the changes of the summer rhythm may offer us some moments for reflection that get lost at other times of the year. Instead of abandoning church in the heat of summer we as a congregation make adaptations.

As we have no absolute dress code at Messiah we do tend to become a little more relaxed during the summer. Shorts, golf shirts, and sandals are welcome but the hallmark of how we dress and come before God in worship and praise should always be centered in presenting our best to God. This need not mean a three piece suit but instead our best shorts, golf shirts, and sandals can do nicely. Many of us grew up with the phrase “our Sunday best.” It is a phrase that can still serve us well as we adapt.

Today living in homes that are more and more often air conditioned the experience of an old red brick church in the heat of summer can be a challenge. The property committee has been looking into the costs of air conditioning the sanctuary and nave but that is a big challenge when one considers the cubic footage involved in that space and the limited number of oppressive mornings.

The easiest short term adaption is fans and is to wear clothes that enable one to be as comfortable as possible within the real limits of the present. For that reason we do encourage you to dress comfortably. For the same reason I, also, forgo the usual vestments during the summer.

If the goal of the Christian community gathered together is a celebration of Word and sacrament then communicating Word and sacrament within worship is our primary purpose and goal. When we allow ourselves to be dominated by and distracted by the heat we undermine that work.

When both you and I are more comfortable we can sing with more energy, speak with more clarity and listen and hear with more focus. It is for these reasons that we make our summer adaptations. The building is cooler at 9:15am in the morning, we are cooler when we wear shorts and summer wear, and we are less distracted by the pastor’s excessive layers of robes and overheated demeanor. We do these things to encourage all of us to attend and to be faithful in our praise of God and in celebrating God’s innumerable gifts. We do it so that we can continue to feed on God’s grace. We do it exactly so that we can come to church and not avoid it.

So come, let us worship the Lord, but let us join in embracing a cooler way in the summer as we gather for Word and sacrament.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Bill*

## DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

July	1: Mark 5:21-43
July	2: Jeremiah 7:1-15
July	3: John 14:1-7
July	4: Jeremiah 7:16-26
July	5: Ezekiel 2:1-5
July	6: Psalm 123
July	7: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
July	8: Mark 6:1-13
July	9: Amos 2:6-16
July	10: Amos 3:1-12
July	11: Amos 4:6-13
July	12: Amos 7:7-15
July	13: Psalm 85:8-13
July	14: Ephesians 1:3-14
July	15: Mark 6:14-29
July	16: Colossians 1:15-23
July	17: Jeremiah 10:17-25
July	18: Jeremiah 12:1-13
July	19: Jeremiah 23:1-6
July	20: Psalm 23
July	21: Ephesians 2:11-22
July	22: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July	23: John 20:1-2, 11-18
July	24: Colossians 1:9-14
July	25: Mark 10:35-45
July	26: 2 Kings 4:42-44
July	27: Psalm 145:10-18
July	28: Ephesians 3:14-21
July	29: John 6:1-21
July	30: 1 Corinthians 11:17-22
July	31: 1 Corinthians 11:27-34



## 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!**

## JULY SCHEDULES

### LECTORS

1: Sam Leister  
8: Cynthia Smith  
15: Barb S. Geedey  
22: Bob St. Clair  
29: Andrea Cameron

### ALTAR GUILD

June 25—July 1	Ann Beaver
July 2—July 15	Linda Leister
July 16—July 22	Barb S. Geedey
July 23—Aug. 5	Ona Stoner

### ALTAR FLOWERS

1: George & Kay Varner  
8: Ernest Family  
15: Nancy Yocum Kreiner  
22: Warren & Claire Mummah  
29: Carole Nace



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, June 14, 2012 with Claire Mummah as devotional leader, beginning by using a reading from "Christ in Our Home" based on Ezekiel 17:22-24. After listening to Ezekiel 37:1-14, "The Valley of Dry Bones" we discussed an article from the March issue of "Gather," the magazine of the Women of ELCA, "Your Amazing Body" by Molly M. Ginty.

We learned that:

When born, the first sense experienced is touch and when you die, the last sense to leave is hearing.

You are born with 350 bones, at the end of life you have 206 bones due to some

fusing together as the body matures.

Your brain is shaped like a giant, wrinkled walnut, and consumes 20% of your energy, though it accounts of only 2% of your weight.

Your stomach produces a new mucus lining every four days because otherwise, it would digest itself. Stomach acid can dissolve a steel razorblade.

Each day, you need to drink at least 8 cups of water.

More than 600 muscles twist and wind their way through your body.

Every day, you shed about 14 million skin cells and 100 strands of hair, which regenerate each day and we have about 6 pounds of skin and 100,000 hair follicles to spare.

Walt Whitman, the poet says "If anything is sacred, the human body is sacred."

#### *On the Lighter Side:*

At a Bible School, storefronts of Nazareth with slogans or names were scattered around the church. See if you can name the type of store from the slogan or the name. Answers will be located later in the newsletter.

1. "Never leave yourself in the dark."
2. "Daily specials: "fish sandwiches."
3. "Small parties welcome."
4. "Carpentry Shop."
5. "M & M Bed and Breakfast."

Thank you, Claire.

The business meeting was in charge of Barbara S. Geedey, Leader.

Business discussed:

- Received a letter and picture from Tyson thanking us for his Christmas gift. He used the money to purchase summer clothes and hygiene products. He also mentioned that he has 7 credits to finish high school. Tyson is our Native American child that we support through the Rapid City Project affiliated with the Child Fund International.
- Also received a flyer from Child Fund

International that the Northern Plains Area Office is committed to giving our sponsored child every opportunity possible to be involved in the special programs that are happening in the Rapid City Project. Some activities include Family Portraits, Literacy Corner, instilling the love of reading and Cultural Arts, exploring children's creativity through crafts and strengthening connections to Lakota culture.

- There may be four or five members going to Convention on July 28.
- A challenge was issued from the Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA to increase the number of quilts, sent to Lutheran World Relief by 25% to a total of 500,000 quilts for 2012. With this in mind, "The Needlers" are extending an invitation to anyone to join their Quilting Bees at anytime. If you can only come now and then, that is OK.
- The Fall Cluster of the Juniata Valley Unit of the WELCA will be held October 14, 2012 at Messiah. We will be responsible for light refreshments, following the meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Everyone is to bring a favorite poem, story or reading for the devotional time.

After the reading of "The Purpose," we adjourned to a Patriotic red, white and blue decorated table and tasty refreshments prepared by Ona Stoner. We enjoyed a layered dessert, pretzels, assorted candies, peanuts and beverage of punch or ice water. The fellowship added a glow to the evening. Thank you, Ona.

#### SALES FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES BEGIN IN JULY!!!!

Education is important for any community, especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to

reach their potential. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and some adults—continue learning despite the hardships they face. And that learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brethren of mine, you did for me.' "

The last Messiah Women of the ELCA project for the year is collection of items to fill 60 back packs for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. We have some supplies but need the congregation to help to add needed items. Collection will continue until September 9, 2012.

- Ballpoint Pens (5 needed for each kit)
- Pencil Sharpener
- Blunt Scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Unsharpened #2** pencils with erasers (5 needed for each kit)
- A box of 24 crayons
- 2½ inch erasers

Please place the items on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

AN INVITATION TO  
THE MESSIAH CONGREGATION  
TO PARTICIPATE IN A PROJECT  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

At the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Unit of the Women of the WELCA, July 28, 2012, there will be an ingathering of items for "Christmas at Sea" sacks which will be given to seamen who cannot be with family for the holidays. These items will be gathered from May until Sunday, July 22, 2012

Matthew 25:40; And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you,

inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to me."

Items needed: (No substitutes, please)

- Sweatshirt—hooded or unhooded in size L or XL.
- Thermal or white gym socks, groups of three pairs.
- Casual pull-over T-shirts, size M and L.
- Knit heavy winter cap.
- Cans of nuts or candy.
- Christmas card signed by you.

The sacks will be completed and filled at a board meeting of the WELCA Synodical Board before Thanksgiving.

These gifts may be placed on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.

**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.

## **MEALS-ON-WHEELS**

Meals-On-Wheels needs a head cook and team for the fourth Tuesday of the month (beginning in November). Also needed, at least two people to help assemble the meals for delivery on the second Friday of the month (needed immediately). Drivers are also needed for several routes.

If you 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

## **(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY**

### **Health, Healing and Wholeness**

**July 2012**

The fifth chapter of Mark contains the stories of two miracles, the healing of the bleeding woman (Vs. 25-34) and the raising of Jairus' daughter (Vs. 21-24; 35-43). Both serve as a testament to the power of Jesus over sickness and death. They are not just stories about healing, but also the power of personal connection to others. Coming to truly know one another as the church – the body of Christ – can be intimidating, even frightening, yet that is exactly what he is calling us to do – to plant ourselves at the intersection of human contact and healing. Ann Weems, in the book *Reaching for Rainbows* (Westminster Press, 1980) says it better than I ever could, so this month's article, is her poem titled "Touch in Church"....

*What is all this touching in church? It used to be a person could come to church and sit in the pew and not be bothered by all this friendliness, and certainly not by touching. I used to come to church and leave untouched. Now I have to be nervous about what's expected of me. I have to worry about responding to the person sitting next to me. Oh, I wish it could be the way it used to be; I could just ask the person next to me: How are you? And the person could answer: Oh, just fine, and we'd both go home ... strangers who have known each other for twenty years.*

*But now the minister asks us to look at each other. I'm worried about that hurt look I saw in that woman's eyes. Now I'm concerned, because when the minister asks us to pass the peace, the man next to me held my hand so tightly I wondered if he had been touched in years. Now I'm upset because the lady next to me cried and then apologized and said it was because I was so kind and that she needed a friend right now. Now I have to get involved. Now I have to suffer when this community suffers. Now I have to be more than a person coming to observe a service.*

*That man last week told me I'd never know how much I'd touched his life. All I did was smile and tell him I understood what it was to be lonely. Lord, I'm not big enough to touch and be touched! The stretching scares me. What if I disappoint somebody? What if I'm too pushy? What if I cling too much? What if somebody ignores me? "Pass the peace." And mean it. Lord, I can't resist meaning it! I'm touched by it, I'm enveloped by it! I find I do care about that person next to me! I find I **am** involved! And I'm scared. O Lord, be here beside me. You touch me, Lord, so that I can touch and be touched! So that I can care and be cared for! So that I can share my life with all those others that belong to you! All this touching in church – Lord, it's changing me!*

Have a blessed summer! Your fellow member in the body of Christ,  
Debbie Best, RN, FCN

ANSWERS: 1. "Seven Maidens' Oil," 2. "Little Boy Eatery" 3. "The Upper Room" 4. Joseph's  
5. "Mary and Martha's"

## **Juniata County Food Pantry July Update**

Dear Friends,

Your prayers and support would be greatly appreciated. **We remain short of funds.** July and August is always a lean time for food and monetary donations, and this summer the squeeze has hit particularly hard. With children home from school, as well as the weak economy, the number of people needing food is high. About 300 families a month are being served at the Food Pantry. We would be very grateful for cash, check or gift card donations (monetary donations can be used by the Food Pantry to purchase food at wholesale prices). We are in need of **ALL** non-perishable foods, personal care and paper products. We would also gladly accept any extra vegetables and fruits from your gardens.

In May 2012, the Food Pantry served 288 families in need – a total of 828 individuals. A special thank you to Free Spring Church of the Brethren for providing volunteers for the month of May.

**\*OUR NEW 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)*



