

THE MESSIAH HERALD



MARCH, 2011

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213
www.mlcmissflintown.org
mlcmiffflintown@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

The Messiah Herald



March 2011

As we travel our Lenten journey together and are in the midst of considering our calling as baptized Christians and our purpose in life we must allow scripture and the Word of God to address and define our lives.

If we listen to the world it is easy to find numerous definitions of who we are and what our purpose is in life.

Turning to scripture, to the Word of God in Jesus Christ revealed in the Bible we can find God’s vision for human life, for my life, for your life.

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” Our purpose is to live in unity with Christ and to fulfill God’s love in the world.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we travel our Lenten journey together and are in the midst of considering our calling as baptized Christians and our purpose in life we must allow scripture and the Word of God to address and define our lives. We are confronting the question, “What is it that God has created you for and called you to be?” “What is God’s purpose for your life?”

If we listen to the world it is easy to find numerous definitions of who we are and what our purpose is in life. Defining ourselves by the modern American vision of success our purpose is to be successful in business, to gain economic independence, to have an ability to execute responsibilities and manage work for ourselves and others, and to avoid hearing those words at the end of every episode of The Apprentice, “You’re fired.”

Or we might define our purpose in terms of family and our family relationships; being a good spouse, a good parent, a good child, etc. Defining who we are and our purpose by our internal visions of what is right and good in each of those roles. In doing that fulfilling our purpose successfully can still be confused and distorted by measuring our success by our children’s or our parents or whoever. And worse, our failure by our inability to protect absolutely all our loved ones from disease, tragedy, or struggle. And in placing our purpose and measure of success and failure in these things we again become contorted and distorted from God’s vision and purpose for our lives and we struggle with pride and/or fear, sin and/or suffering.

Turning to scripture, to the Word of God in Jesus Christ revealed in the Bible we can find God’s vision for human life, for my life, for your life. Doing that we find ourselves empowered to confidently pursue all of our relationships in proper balance. Family becomes a responsibility and a gift from God but it is not the purpose of life in itself. Work becomes a gift from God but it is not an end in itself and does not define us.

Turning to the Word of God we find ourselves defined by lives called to be lived in unity with Christ. Lives filled with his grace and purpose handed on to us. *“John 17:19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. 20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”* Our purpose is to live in unity with Christ and to fulfill God’s love in the world.

Living in unity with Christ has a lot of implications for daily living; living in and among our family, living professionally in our workplace, living in the world but not of it. Allowing the Bible and the living Word of God in Jesus Christ to define our lives and our purpose restores relationships and labor to their proper places, gifts from God to be used and shared but things that cannot completely or ultimately define us. Rather we with God’s grace and through God’s Word define them.

As we move forward this Lent let us hear God’s Word and may it define us and give us purpose so that we can live with confidence, courage, and conviction as Christians.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

March	1: 1 Kings 17:1-16
March	2: Luke 12:22-31
March	3: Exodus 24:12-18
March	4: Psalm 2
March	5: 2 Peter 1:16-21
March	6: Matthew 17:1-9
March	7: Exodus 33:7-23
March	8: Acts 7:30-34
March	9: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
March	10: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
March	11: Psalm 32
March	12: Romans 5:12-19
March	13: Matthew 4:1-11
March	14: Hebrews 2:10-18
March	15: Genesis 4:1-16
March	16: Genesis 12:1-4a
March	17: Psalm 121
March	18: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
March	19: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
March	20: John 3:1-17
March	21: John 7:53—8:11
March	22: Psalm 128
March	23: Exodus 17:1-7
March	24: Psalm 95
March	25: Luke 1:26-38
March	26: Romans 5:1-11
March	27: John 4:5-42
March	28: Genesis 24:1-27
March	29: Genesis 29:1-14
March	30: John 7:14-31, 37-39
March	31: 1 Samuel 16:1-13



GOSPEL CONCERT

A Gospel Concert to benefit Juniata Agape Ministries (JAM House) will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 6:30 PM at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Mark your calendars and watch upcoming bulletins for more details.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

MARCH SCHEDULES

LECTORS

6: Cynthia Smith
13: Sam Leister
20: Barbara S. Geedey
27: Andrea Cameron

ALTAR GUILD

Feb. 21—Mar. 6 Linda Clark
Mar. 6—(cup communion), Clint & Jamie Miller
Mar. 7—Mar. 13 Linda Leister
Mar. 14—Mar. 20 Linda Dreibelbis
Mar. 21—Mar. 27 Michelle Stoner
Mar. 28—Apr. 3 Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

6: OPEN
13: OPEN
20: NO FLOWERS - LENT
27: NO FLOWERS - LENT



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, February 10, 2011 with Linda Leister as devotional leader. We listened to the reading of the day from "Christ in Our Home" titled "Making A Choice." Linda had attended a Thrivent gathering and the speaker was Kurt Senske who spoke about his book "The Calling: Live a Life Of Significance." He emphasizes that we all have a uniqueness that by listening to God's gentle whisper we can live a life of significance by putting others over ourselves. By listening, we can stay connected to God and allow the Holy Spirit to be inside us to guide us to use our brain, talent and hard work to make the choices to ease the burdens of others. Mr. Senske told the story

of an individual who, for 50 years, was as mean and nasty as could be and then for the next 25 years was a servant to others. The lesson from this story is "There are no erasers in life, but you can rewrite your story." We also listened to a humorous reading, "Voice-Mail in Heaven."

Thank you Linda.

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

Business discussed:

--Received thank you for Christmas gifts from Tyson LeCompte, our sponsored American Indian teen living in the vicinity of Rapid City, South Dakota.

--In gathering for Health Kit project for March is the continuation of hand towels and wash cloths in dark colors (as of Sunday, February 20, we have 26 hand towels and 26 wash cloths). In addition, we will also collect metal nail files or nail clippers with nail file attached.

--We are responsible for the Community Women's Lenten Gathering on March 30, 2011, a speaker, an opening, closing devotions and refreshments. The Gathering begins at 9:30 a.m. with fellowship time and the program at 10:00 a.m. The study for Lent is "Uphill Faith" and our topic is "A Full Tank for Hill Climbing."

--We have another opportunity for helping others. The USS Women's Convention on July 23, 2011 at Camp Mt. Luther is sponsoring an in-gathering of items for the Ronald McDonald House at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA. We agreed to provide items for this project. The items are: travel-size personal care toiletries, anti-bacterial hand soap, laundry detergent and socks of all sizes. Place the items on the blue table in the Sunday School room.

--Day of Learning is April 30, 2011 at Sharon Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove.

Love Project of Messiah Women:

We are taught in Matthew 25:31-46 that we

are to show our love by caring for those who are in need. We have chosen as our first project of 2011 to assemble Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. All we need to do is listen to the news about the upheavals in lives that people of the world experience from all sorts of disasters.

For March we will continue to collect hand towels, in the size of 15" or 16" x 23" or 25" and wash cloths in dark colors. In addition, we will also collect metal nail files or nail clippers with nail file attached.

Please place your love gifts on the blue table in the Sunday School Room. We have not set a goal, but last year we were able to put together 141 kits.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Claire Mumma as devotional leader and Margaret Guss as hostess.

The meeting adjourned with the reading of "The Purpose" of the Women of the ELCA.

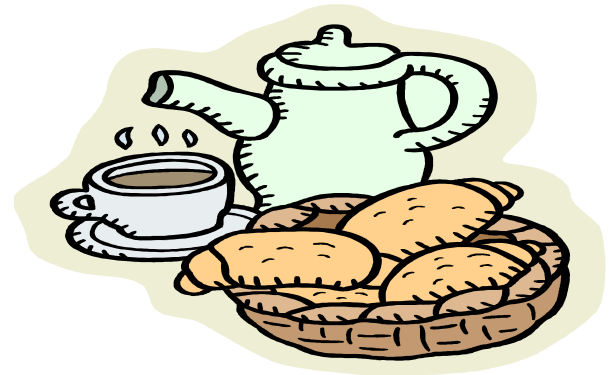
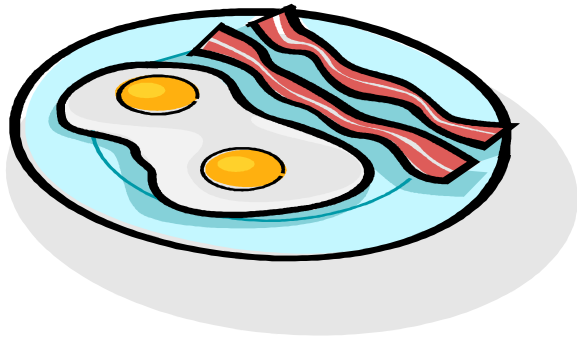
REMINDER: Women of the ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Sunday School Room.



CAMPING BROCHURES

The 2011 camping brochures and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or on our church website under the "publications" tab.

Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before **April 15th** for the early discount.



MEN'S 2011 PRAYER MEETINGS & BREAKFAST

7:00 a.m. at The Stop

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| March 12 | Russel Gobeille, speaker,
Beward Pharmacy |
| March 19, | Rev. Chris Mathiason, speaker,
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church |
| March 26, | Rev. Ed D'Agostino, speaker,
Pine Grove Methodist Church |
| April 2, | Greg Speece, speaker,
Bread of Life Restaurant |
| April 9, | Sam Leister, speaker,
Retired School Administrator |
| April 16, | Rev. Terry Smith, speaker,
Free Spring Church of the
Brethren |
| April 23, | William Rohm, speaker
Warden |



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.

2011 PORT ROYAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

7:00 a.m. at the Community Building

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 12 | Warren Wagner, speaker,
Free Spring Church of the
Brethren |
| March 19 | John Shirk, speaker,
Westminster Presbyterian
Church |
| March 26 | Rev. Gay Irwin, speaker,
Trinity Methodist Church |
| April 2 | Rev. Ron Shupe, speaker,
First Baptist Church |
| April 9 | Rev. Glen Hosler, speaker,
Delaware Mennonite Church |
| April 16 | Rev. Chris Mathiason, speaker,
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church |
| April 23 | Brent Stoner, speaker
Westminster Presbyterian Church |

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



2011 WOMEN'S COMMUNITY LENTEN TEAS

**Bible Study is on the book "Uphill Faith"
9:30 AM Fellowship – 10:00 AM Program**

March 9	St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
March 16	St. Jude's Catholic Church
March 23	Aldersgate Methodist Church
March 30	Messiah Lutheran Church
April 6	Westminster Presbyterian Church
April 13	Trinity Methodist Church



2011 COMMUNITY LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday, March 9 at Trinity Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor James Wooster. Theme: Forty Days of Lent (John 5:34-44)

Lent 2/March 16 at Messiah Lutheran Church. Preacher, Pastor Chris Mathiason. Theme: Forty Days of the Flood (Genesis 7)

Lent 3/March 23 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Preacher, Pastor Gay Irwin. Theme: Forty Days on the Mountain (Exodus 24:12-18)

Lent 4/March 30 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Preacher, Father Fidelis. Theme: Forty Years in the Desert (Acts 7:31-41)

Lent 5/April 6 at Messiah Lutheran Church.

Preacher, Pastor Martha Carlson. Theme: Forty Days of Fasting (Matthew 4)

Lent 6/April 13 at St. Jude Catholic Church. Preacher, Pastor William Esborn. Theme: Forty Lashes Minus One (2 Corinthians 11:19-29)

Maundy Thursday/April 21 at Trinity Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor Chris Mathiason. Theme: Forty Days of Repentance (Jonah 3)

Good Friday Noon/April 22 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pastors of the Community (to be announced)

Good Friday Tenebrae/April 22 at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Service of Lessons and Prayers.

Easter Sunrise/April 24 at Aldersgate Methodist Church. Preacher, Pastor Martha Carlson. Theme: Forty Days He Appeared to the Disciples (Acts 1:1-8)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to submit the weekly Messiah Herald article for the newspaper.

There are currently four individuals who submit the article each week. Each person is responsible for 3 months of the year. It can be completed at home on a computer and submitted to The Times and Juniata Sentinel via email: thetimes@nmax.net and csmith@juniata-sentinel.com.

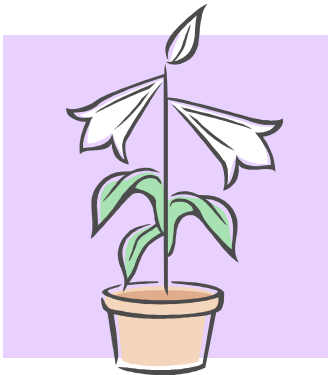
Coverage is needed for the months of June and October. Anyone who is interested can call the church office at 436-6213.



LENTEN FISH DINNERS

Lenten Fish Dinners (all-you-can-eat), will be held every Friday beginning March 4th through April 15th, 2011 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Mifflintown,

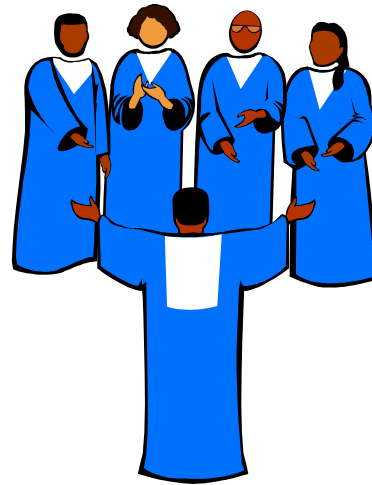
Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for kids 6 to 12 years old, and kids 5 and under FREE. Sponsored by St. Jude's Knights of Columbus.



EASTER LILIES

Easter Lilies to decorate the church on Easter Sunday, may be placed in memory or in honor of someone or to the Glory of God. Cost will be \$10.00 for a plant with 4 to 6 blooms.

You may call the church office at 436-6213 to place your order.



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

Messiah's adult choir is in need of singers!! If you can sing in the shower, if you can sing in the car, if you can sing yourself to sleep at night, please consider joining the choir! If you can only sing on certain Sundays or for certain other services, or can join us for an entire "season," such as the Easter season, please consider joining the choir!

We meet each Wednesday evening in the Alice Rearick Room from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

If you are interested and would like to enjoy the music, fun, and fellowship the choir brings to Messiah, please talk to any choir member, with our director, Andrea Cameron, or just show up for rehearsal on Wednesday evening! We look forward to hearing from you—literally!

(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY

Health Healing & Wholeness Article

March 2011

"He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray'..." (Luke 11:1)

If you have been raised in a faith tradition in which praying aloud by anyone other than the pastor or worship leader is not the norm, offering prayer and comfort to another via prayer (often called *Prayers of Intercession*), in his/her presence, can be very intimidating! However, bear in mind that there is no right or wrong way to pray – just many different approaches. Sometimes the old familiar prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, or the Jesus Prayer are most helpful. At other times just one word is sufficient: "Help!" "God." "Jesus!" "Savior." Paul reminds us that *the Spirit helps us with sighs too deep for words.*" (Romans 8:26) Rev. Deborah Patterson, in her book, Healing Words for Healing People, reminds us: "Pray on your knees, on your back, on your feet. Pray as you wake, or before you go to sleep. Pray in thanksgiving before you eat, or for guidance before you begin your work." She goes on to say, "Can you breathe? Can you think? Can you talk? If you can do any of these things, you can pray."

Whether you are a parish nurse, a lay visitor, or just someone visiting a friend who is ill, there are many prayer resources that can assist you. Several of my favorites are, The Hospital Handbook: A Practical Guide to Hospital Visitation, by Lawrence Reimer and James Wagner, Healing Words for Healing People by Deborah Patterson, and Prayers for Help and Healing, by William Barclay. You may also come from a faith tradition which has its own bound Book of Prayer or Book of Common Prayer. These resources offer prayers that can be adapted to fit many different situations, or can be used during personal devotional time.

If you have favorite scripture passages,

or prayers that have been of comfort to you, consider copying them onto one side of a plain post card, and place your signature on the back – if you are comfortable with a computer, design them to be printed as needed. Think of them as you would greeting cards; they can provide you with the words that you've always wished you could find in the midst of a difficult situation. These handy cards can then be left with the person(s) with whom you are visiting, to serve as tangible reminders that someone is praying for, and with them. They can also serve as "calling cards" for the times you may visit someone in the hospital, only to find that he/she has been taken for testing or a procedure.

One example of a personal-favorite, hope-filled scripture, is Romans 8:37-39, *"In all these things we have complete victory through Him who loved us! For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord."* Another is taken from 2 Corinthians 4:7-9, *"We who have this scriptural treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend, and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed."*

Rev. Patterson ends the first chapter of Healing Words... with these profound statements, "God loves us whether we pray or not. Always. No matter what. And prayer [just] might help us to believe it. Amen!"

Spring blessings to all!
Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MAH

Juniata County Food Pantry March Update

In January 2011, the Food Pantry served 250 families in need – a total of 703 individuals.

Many thanks to our faithful churches who supported us with donations of food, supplies and money in January. A special thank you to the many volunteers who spent a total of 274 hours helping out at the Food Pantry.

Please keep us in your prayers and on your hearts as you make a stop at the local grocery store! We thank you sincerely for whatever help you are able to give.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH:

ANY NON-PERISHABLE FOODS

**PAPER PRODUCTS: TOILET PAPER, FACIAL TISSUES
& PAPER TOWELS**

**WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH
AND WEIS OR SCHLEGELS'S GIFT CARDS**

PHONE # 717-436-9718

CONTACT PERSON: Kathy Queitzsch

ADDRESS: PO Box 44, 114 N. Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059

HOURS: Monday 1:00-4:00 PM,

Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 6:00 PM

Saturday 10:00 AM– 1:00 PM