

# **THE MESSIAH HERALD**



**MARCH, 2014**

## **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



**March 2014**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the most difficult things for us as human beings to do is to hear and take seriously the Bible and God’s Word when we disagree with it.

We are not literalists by any measure but that does not mean we take faithfulness to scripture lightly.

43 "You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

I wonder why no one wants to post those and the surrounding words in a courthouse.

One of the most difficult things for us as human beings to do is to hear and take seriously the Bible and God’s Word when we disagree with it. We find all kinds of ways to justify doing it. Too many too list. But for Lutherans it has been a particularly high standard and responsibility ever since Luther penned the words, "Sola Scriptura."

We are not literalists by any measure but that does not mean we take faithfulness to scripture lightly. In fact, if anything it means we take it so seriously that we study and wrestle with the word, its history and its application deeply and passionately. We do this not to find a way to work around a passage but to make sure that we are applying it faithfully and consistently with its original intended usage.

This past Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we read from the pinnacle of Jesus teaching in Matthew 5 and the Sermon on the Mount..It is forced me into some deep reflection on our responsibilities in contemporary American culture.

All across our nation we have heard of states installing "Stand Your Ground" laws. We have read regularly about issues these laws are raising concerning justice. We all know of the Trayvon Martin shooting and trial and probably the recent Jordan Davis murder trial, as well. Whatever we think of this politically or as gun owners and such if we embrace the name of Christ we must ask does scripture have anything to say.

The answer is, "Yes." Go get a Bible and read Matthew 5:38-48. Note verse 43, in particular, 43 "You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Those are words that are hard to swallow. Why? Because they demand of us that we accept being vulnerable.

I wonder why no one wants to post those and the surrounding words in a courthouse. We fight over whether the Ten Commandments should be there but in the era of Stand Your Ground laws no one is rushing to embrace these words of Christ.

I have loved to hunt. I have been a hunting safety instructor, a bow hunting instructor, and own numerous rifles and shotguns. I have even stared down the wrong end of a pistol held on me. But nothing echoes in my consciousness like these words of Christ from the Sermon on the Mount. The demand Jesus places on us seems too great to ask but Jesus doesn’t just ask he commands.

Jesus quotes the Old Testament law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth and its limits on vengeance and then he, specifically, says it doesn’t go far enough. He says, if you are hit accept the strike and stay vulnerable offering the other cheek, if you are conscripted to labor give more than what is demanded, if you are robbed give more than what is taken. More than that Jesus says, "Love you enemy." Jesus would have nothing of this idea of stand your ground. He implores us instead to risk loving that person. Jesus certainly has some wild ideas.

I don’t know how many of us can fulfill loving someone who truly intends us harm but it is pretty clear Jesus would not have us looking for ways to justify taking the life of someone whom we think might hurt us. There’s no working around that one not so long as it includes our physical safety, our labor, and our property. I’m pretty sure he wouldn’t us attempting to justify ourselves by laws that encourage violent reaction over accepting our vulnerable mortality.

Being faithful to scripture can be terrifying but if we don’t trust this word how can we then say we trust God’s grace given for you and the forgiveness of your sins.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Bill*

## DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

March	1: 2 Peter 1:16-21
March	2: Matthew 17:1-9
March	3: Jonah 3:1-10
March	4: Jonah 4:1-11
March	5: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
March	6: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
March	7: Psalm 32
March	8: Romans 5:12-19
March	9: Matthew 4:1-11
March	10: Micah 7:18-20
March	11: Isaiah 51:4-8
March	12: Romans 3:21-31
March	13: Genesis 12:1-4a
March	14: Psalm 121
March	15: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
March	16: John 3:1-17
March	17: Exodus 16:1-8
March	18: Exodus 16:19-21
March	19: Romans 4:13-18
March	20: Exodus 17:1-7
March	21: Psalm 95
March	22: Romans 5:1-11
March	23: John 4:5-42
March	24: 1 Samuel 15:10-21
March	25: Isaiah 7:10-14
March	26: 1 Samuel 15:22-31
March	27: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
March	28: Psalm 23
March	29: Ephesians 5:8-14
March	30: John 9:1-41
March	31: Revelation 10:1-11



## PRAYER CHAIN

Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at [dskint@nmax.net](mailto: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!*

## MARCH SCHEDULES

### LECTORS

2: Andrea Cameron  
9: Bob St. Clair  
16: Barbara S. Geedey  
23: Diana Wise  
30: Cynthia Smith

### ACOLYTES

2: Malin Kint & Marina Holderman  
9: Livia Arentz & Emma Arentz  
16: Tyler Rosenberry & Lilly Powell  
23: Nate Swailes & Gavin Kint  
30: Zane Hazard & Emma Hazard

### ALTAR GUILD

Feb. 24—Mar. 2 Linda Clark  
(cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)  
Mar. 3—Mar. 9 Christie Holderman  
Mar. 10—Mar. 16 Barbara S. Geedey  
Mar. 17—Mar. 30 Diana Wise  
Mar. 31—Apr. 6 Linda Clark

### ALTAR FLOWERS

2: OPEN  
9: OPEN  
16: NO FLOWERS - LENT  
23: NO FLOWERS - LENT  
30: NO FLOWERS - LENT



Collection continues for Lutheran World Relief baby care kits. Items needed are:

- 2 (6-24 months) lightweight cotton T-shirts
- 2 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers

(without feet)

- 2 receiving blankets—medium weight cotton or flannel, crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn (up to 52" square)
- 4 cloth diapers (flat fold preferred)
- 1 jacket, sweater (with buttons or ties down front), or sweatshirt with a hood, or (include a baby cap)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel (dark color recommended)
- 2 bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins

Place items on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WELCA Project for Friends of Pine Ridge Reservation for anyone who would like to help. Items needed are:

Toddler pants, teen p-j bottoms, sleepware for all ages, sun dresses and shorts, shirts and blouses, diaper bags, crib quilts, stuffed toys, bibs, cute colorful pillowcases, twin size bed sheets, crib sheets, Pack 'n Play size sheets, etc., sewn tote bags, knited or crocheted crib and smaller size baby blankets or afghans, slippers, cute scarves for the teens, mittens for the little ones, baby hats, booties, bunting, etc. Any colors, fibers and fabrics will work for any of the items that are made. The only restriction is (nothing with an owl print) as owls are a symbol of death in the Lakota culture.

Place items on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 16, 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.



## **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.



## **LENTEN FISH DINNERS**

Lenten Fish Dinners (all-you-can-eat) will be held every Friday beginning February 28, 2014 from 4-7 p.m. in the church social hall at St. Jude's Catholic Church.

Meals will include fried and baked fish, popcorn shrimp, fried clams, French fries, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, corn, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, rolls, puddings, and a selection of homemade desserts. Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children 6-12, and children under 6 are FREE (pay at the door). Sponsored by St. Jude's Knights of Columbus.

## ALTAR GUILD

The new Altar Guild schedule for July, 2014 through June, 2015 will be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are currently in need of more people to serve on Altar Guild, as a few of our long-serving members are no longer able to help. If you would like to serve, please either call the church office or contact Bob St. Clair.

All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

The new lector schedule for July, 2014 through June, 2015 will be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June.

Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.



## 2014 PORT ROYAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS 7:00 a.m. – Port Royal Community Building

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| March 8,  | Mr. Richard Burchfield, Faith Bible Church |
| March 15, | Rev. Alan Reiman, New Life                 |

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| March 22, | Assembly of God<br>Mr. James Bahorik, Messiah Lutheran Church |
| March 29, | Rev. George Swartz, Stoney Run Church                         |
| April 5,  | Mr. Ted Kepner, TK Freedom                                    |
| April 12, | Rev. John Gehman, Lauvers Mennonite Church                    |
| April 19, | Rev. Casey Hostler, Heaven Bound Church                       |



## 2014 MIFFLINTOWN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST SPEAKERS 7:00 a.m. – JP Pancake House

- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| March 8,  | Edd Carlson        |
| March 15, | Harold Oberholtzer |
| March 22, | Bill Esborn        |
| March 29, | Sam Leister        |
| April 5,  | (to be announced)  |
| April 12, | Charlie Stump      |



## WOMEN'S LENTEN TEAS

The Women's Community Lenten Teas will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014. This year's study will be from the book "Our Journey to the Cross" by Adam Hamilton.

Fellowship time is 9:30 a.m. followed by the Bible study at 10:00 a.m. Locations are listed below:

- March 5, Messiah Lutheran Church
- March 12, St. Jude's Catholic Church
- March 19, Aldersgate United Methodist Church
- March 26, Trinity United Methodist Church
- April 2, Westminster United Presbyterian Church
- April 9, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church



## **2014 TWIN BORO MINISTERIUM LENTEN/EASTER SCHEDULE**

Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Pastor Martha Carlson

Lent 2, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - Trinity United Methodist Church, Pastor Chris Mathiason

Lent 3, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Pastor Bill Esborn

Lent 4, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - St. Jude's Catholic Church, Pastor James Wooster

Lent 5, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - Messiah Lutheran Church, Father William Weary

Lent 6, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Pastor Gay Irwin

Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. - Messiah Lutheran Church, Pastor Chris Mathiason

Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon—3:00 p.m. - Aldersgate United Methodist Church

Easter Sunrise, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 a.m. - Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Pastor Bill Esborn



## **2014 TWIN BORO MINISTERIUM GOOD FRIDAY SCHEDULE - SEVEN LAST WORDS**

Welcome and Opening, 12:00 p.m. - Pastor James Wooster

Father Forgive them, 12:05 - 12:30 p.m. - Pastor Edd Carlson

My God, My God, 12:30 - 12:55 p.m. - Pastor Martha Carlson

Today you will be with me, 12:55 - 1:20 p.m. - Pastor Chris Mathiason

Mother, Behold thy Son, 1:20 - 1:45 p.m. - Pastor Bill Esborn

I Thirst, 1:45 - 2:10 p.m. - (to be announced)

It is finished, 2:10 - 2:35 p.m. - Father William Weary

Into thy hands, 2:35 - 3:00 p.m. - Pastor James Wooster

Closing and Sending, 3:00 p.m. - Pastor James Wooster



## **2014 CAMPING BROCHURES**

The 2014 camping brochures and registration forms for Camp Mt. Luther are available in the church office or you may register online at:

[www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org)

Please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor.

Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid a late fee.

## **VOTERS ASSEMBLY**

Voters Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, March 2, 2014 following the worship service.

Business: 2013 audit and quarterly board reports.

## **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](mailto:dskint@nmax.net) or 436-6341.

## **NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES**

New Membership Directories with updated addresses and phone numbers are now available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

## **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.



needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly on June, 20-21, 2014 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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

## **THANK YOU**

I wish to extend my appreciation to the members of Messiah for your thoughts and prayers, cards, and beautiful flowers in the loss of my mother.

A special thanks to Pastor Esborn for his visits with her in the nursing home.

Judy Armstrong

## **"THE NEEDLERS" NEED FABRIC**

If you have extra fabric or sheets that you will not be using, "The Needlers" would appreciate your donation. If you do not have any material, but would still like to help "The Needlers," \$5.00 will sponsor one sheet to back a quilt.

If you have fabric or wish to sponsor a sheet, please contact one of our "Needlers," or, come join us Tuesday mornings in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. No sewing skills are required.



## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES**

Two members of Messiah are





## **Juniata County Food Pantry March Update**

Dear Friends, we could use your prayers in this new year as donations remain low, and we still struggle to make ends meet here at the Food Pantry.

We do have good news, however, for those of you who follow the computer social sites. A wonderful volunteer has set us up a great website – check out [jcfoodpantry.com](http://jcfoodpantry.com). And if you're on Face Book, please LIKE the Juniata County Food Pantry! You can find updated information about the Food Pantry at both locations. How about an easy way to donate to the Food Pantry? If you shop on AMAZON, check out "Amazon Smile," ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) and have a portion of your purchase price donated to the Food Pantry every time you shop!

In January 2014, the Food Pantry served 339 families – 946 of your neighbors! We thank Matamoras United Methodist Church for sending volunteers for the month of January. If you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH:**  
**ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; DISH SOAP,**  
**ALL PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS,**  
**LAUNDRY DETERGENT**

**\*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](mailto:jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com)**

