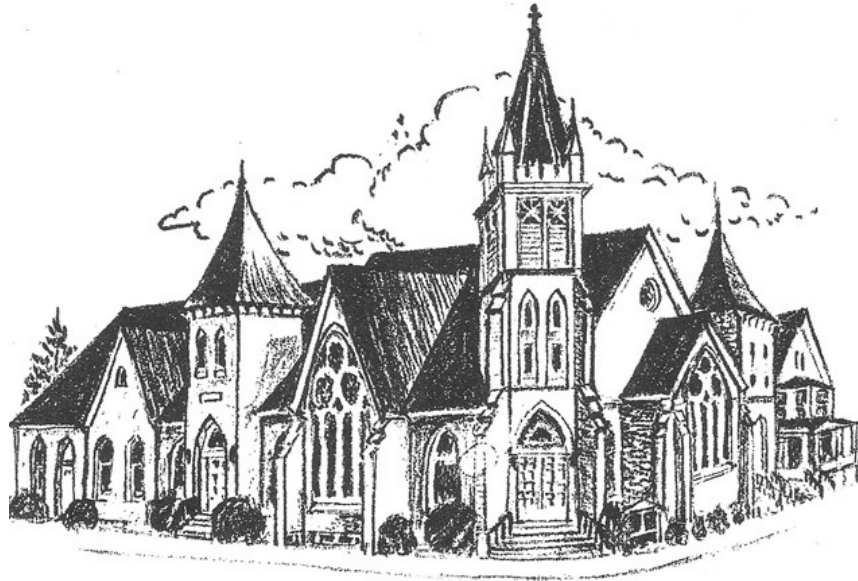


THE MESSIAH HERALD



MAY, 2012

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213
www.mlcmifflintown.org
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THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

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MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
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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



Scripture says in 4:32,
“Now the whole group of
those who believed were
of one heart and soul,
and no one claimed
private ownership of any
possessions, but
everything they owned
was held in common.”

As I said on April 15th,
that passage can be hard
for us to swallow as
American capitalists. And
just in case we think we
can find a work-around
all one needs to do is
read the verses following
it.

When we read or hear a
story like this from
scripture most often our
response is to look for
ways out of the demand
we sense in the passage.
We feel ourselves captive
to and convicted under
the Word.

According to Peter the
judgment that fell upon
Ananias and Sapphira
was a sin against the
Spirit of Christ. They
remained captive to
their self-interest and
died as the result.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are now full swing in the midst of the Easter
season and each week our lectionary lessons have been
challenging us to see the ways in which the Good News of the resurrection calls us to new life
and new ways of living. Hearing that message often stirs within us a classic response of law and
gospel as Luther framed it within his theology.

I shared with you on the Second Sunday of Easter that the lessons were ones we returned to
every year since they are the scheduled lessons for the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the A,
B and C cycles of the lectionary.

I, also, noted that the passage from Acts, also, makes this set of lessons one that can be
particularly uncomfortable for American Christians. In Acts 4:32-35 we read that the early church
lived in a way that can only be described as communal or socialistic. Scripture says in 4:32, “Now
the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private
ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.” As I said, that
passage can be hard for us to swallow as American capitalists. And just in case we think we can
find a work-around all one needs to do is read the following passages. And if that is still not
enough the opening story in Acts 5 is about Ananias and Sapphira who sell a piece of property
and only give a portion of the proceeds to the Apostles and end up dying for their faithlessness.

It seems to me that the core message of this passage is that the Good News of Jesus Christ
and his resurrection completely transforms our lives into one heart and mind with Christ and his
community. It is an expression of fulfillment of the story of the rich young ruler who was told to
sell everything and to give it to the poor and who ended up leaving in despair. The point of the
story of Ananias and Sapphira is exactly that they did not have that Spirit in selling their property
and only giving a portion of the sale to the community of faith. In other words they were still
living in a dead way of seeing the world and had not given themselves over to fully living life
dependent upon and in unity with God.

When we read or hear a story like this from scripture most often our response is to look for
ways out of the law’s demand we sense in the passage. We feel ourselves captive to and
convicted under the Word. We hear it as judgment and law over us. But this is not the only way
to hear the passage we can, also, hear it as Christ calling us out from our lives that are far too
often dependent on the things of our lives for identity and status, or else, the self-centered way
in which we elevate our needs over the needs of others. Sometimes that even includes how we
share our gifts with the community of faith. Rather than truly being like Christ who poured out
his whole life for all upon the cross or even like Joseph/Barnabas who had sold a field and given
all the proceeds to the community. Instead Ananias and Sapphira wanted to have both the
appearance of being generous towards the faith community and to hedge their bets by
withholding a portion for themselves.

According to Peter the judgment that fell upon them was a sin against the Spirit of Christ.
They had remained captive to their self-interest and died. Their dying in the passage, physically,
is only a revelation of the death that is already in them, spiritually.

Jesus calls us into the community of faith so that we may learn to be dependent upon each
other. We are urged to be givers so that we can know the joy of generously supporting and
caring for our brothers and sisters. In this manner, we fulfill being a joyful giver in what Paul calls
our giving freely. 1 Corinthians 13 reminds us that even giving everything if it is given without
love we gain nothing. God calls us into the freedom of new life so that we live joyfully like Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

May 2012

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

May	1: John 14:8-14
May	2: Psalm 95
May	3: Acts 8:26-40
May	4: Psalm 22:25-31
May	5: 1 John 4:7-21
May	6: John 15:1-8
May	7: Isaiah 65:17-25
May	8: Acts 10:1-33
May	9: Acts 10:34-43
May	10: Acts 10:44-48
May	11: Psalm 98
May	12: 1 John 5:1-6
May	13: John 15:9-17
May	14: Acts 1:15-26
May	15: Ephesians 1:15-23
May	16: Luke 24:44-53
May	17: Acts 1:1-11
May	18: Psalm 1
May	19: 1 John 5:9-13
May	20: John 17:6-19
May	21: John 16:16-24
May	22: Exodus 15:6-11
May	23: Ezekiel 37:1-14
May	24: Acts 2:1-21
May	25: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
May	26: Romans 8:22-27
May	27: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May	28: Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20
May	29: Isaiah 2:1-5
May	30: Isaiah 6:1-8
May	31: Luke 1:39-57



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!

MAY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

6: Ron Yorks
13: Sam Leister
20: Linda Leister
27: Ed Beaver

ALTAR GUILD

Apr. 23—May 6 Michelle Stoner
May 7—May 13 Ann Beaver
May 14—May 20 Sandy Pines
May 21—May 27 Ann Beaver
(Cup Communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)
May 28—June 3 Linda Clark
(Cup Communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

ALTAR FLOWERS

6: Barbara Fairman
13: In honor of our Choir
20: Beward Family
27: Warren & Clair Mummah



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, April 12, 2012 with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader, using the book "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" and an article "Seven Highly Effective Traits of Godly Men." We listened to the traits that lend strength to Christian lifestyle and had to identify the biblical man holding a particular trait. See if you can identify that person. *(Answers are elsewhere in this newsletter!)*

Trait One: PURITY

A spoiled woman tried to destroy him.

He ran away from this sin.
Potifers wife.

His coat is famous.

Trait Two: WISDOM

His grandfather was Manasseh.

He tore his clothes upon hearing
Book of Law.

God said "Because your heart is tender and you humbled yourself, I have heard you."

Became king at age of 8.

"To fear God, whose justice, will pour forth harsh against the wicked—that is wisdom."

Trait Three: RESPONSIBILITY

Clan leader—whose workers respected him.

Kind to widows.

Earned his place in royal lineage of Jesus.

Trait Four: HONESTY

"If my foot has hastened to deceit, let me be weighed on honest scales, that God may know my integrity."

Pure in heart to family, friends, wife and God.

Stayed away from lying tongue, proud look, hand that shed innocent blood, devising wicked plans, feet that run to evil, false witness, lips that incite discord among the brethren.

Trait Five: COURAGE

Second in suffering only to Jesus.

Many dangerous travels.

Faced each day with joy in the Lord.

Flogged, stoned and thrashed three times by Romans.

Trait Six: FORGIVING

Saul traveled to Damascus in order to persecute those who believed in Jesus.

Saul was blinded for 3 days and while he was praying, he had a vision that someone would come to him.

In a vision, Jesus ordered an early Christian to go to Saul and pray

with him.

This early Christian was _____, who called Saul Brother and told him that Jesus had sent him so that he could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Trait Seven: COMPASSION

Politically incorrect.

Firm against societal wickedness.

Once he met a young man, who claimed to have followed all commandments.

This man knew that we all slip, but he forgave the young man's arrogance.

Thank you, Cynthia.

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

Business discussed:

--Women of the ELCA Synodical convention will be July 29, 2012 at Camp Mt. Luther, Mifflinburg. Barb Geedey is planning to go. Anyone else interested in going, see Barb for registration form. Cost is \$40.00 due by June 18, 2012. This is the 25th Year convention.

--Theme is "Come As You Are," based on Luke 14:7-14.

--Each WELCA unit is asked to bring a "Theme Gift Basket" for a Chinese Auction, proceeds to be given to Camp Mt. Luther.

--A special personal in gathering for convention are items for "Christmas at Sea" sacks which are gifts for seamen who will not be able to be with their families at Christmas. It is under the direction of the Seafarers International House. The sacks will be completed by the Synodical

Board of WELCA at a meeting before Thanksgiving. Congregation to be invited to participate.

--The fabric and thread for the Fabric Kits for Lutheran World Relief ended in April.

Thank you to all for your contributions.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area.

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

We moved to tables adorned with Spring colors and refreshments prepared by hostesses Linda Leister and Cynthia Smith. We enjoyed non-gluten foods of Bongo Bongo dip and crackers, chex mix, Reeses peanut butter eggs, cocoa dusted almonds, mints and jelly beans. Foods containing gluten were bread, sugar cookies, and brownies. The beverages were iced tea and water.

Thank you, Linda and Cynthia.

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

At the 25th 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 Mand 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



BISHOP'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

The seventh annual Bishop's Open Golf Tournament is set for May 14, 2012, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam.

The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp's annual fund. A flyer/bulletin insert containing information and registration form is available on the camp's website at www.campmountluther.org. The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, door prize sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please contact the camp office.

Congregations are also encouraged to become a hole sponsor this year. Get involved and help our synod's outdoor ministry!

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

The new Altar Guild schedule from June, 2011 through June, 2012 will be completed soon. If you are not already on the Altar Guild and you would like to serve, please notify the church office. If you no longer wish to serve, again let the office know. All Altar Guild members will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in May.

Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

The new Lector Schedule from June, 2011 through June, 2012 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a Lector (the lay person who reads the scripture lessons at the worship service) and you would like to do so, 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 May. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship services.

WALK FOR SIGHT

The

Pennsylvania Council of the Blind, Carl Shoemaker Chapter, and Radio Reading Service (formally CARRS), will hold its annual Walk For Sight Walkathon on Saturday, May 19, 2012 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Walk will be a state-wide Walkathon again this year and will be a distance of approximately 6 miles.



Registration will be from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Walk will begin and end at Messiah Lutheran Church. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments will be provided. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Your support for this annual event would be greatly appreciated.

To obtain a sign-up sheet or for more information, call Geraldine Zeigler at 436-2746.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

Summer Worship Services will begin on June 10, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. (Sunday School at 8:15 a.m. if classes are being held) and end on September 2, 2012. Regular worship services will begin on September 9th.

FREE DAY CAMP



There will be arts and crafts, free T-shirts, music by KJ Smiles and a puppet show by Adam Swartz. A light breakfast and a lunch will be provided.

For more information and to register, please contact Scott Davidson, LPN, Community Liaison Hospice: The Bridge at 717-242-5000.

Hospice: The Bridge will be offering a free day camp for grieving children. It is called Camp Morningstar. Camp will be held at Hartman Center in Milroy, PA on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hospice: The Bridge has been providing Camp Morningstar for several years at Hartman Center and is excited to be able to include the Tides program again this year. Camp will be offered to a limited number of grieving children ages six to fourteen, and is free of charge.

Camp Morningstar is designed to be a fun and educational day filled with activities that will entertain your children, as well as provide them with some tools that can help them to cope with their loss.



(ANSWERS to "Trait" questions - Joseph, Josiah, Boaz, Job, Paul, Ananias and Jesus).

(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY **Health, Healing and Wholeness** **May 2012**

"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate." (Romans 7:15, NRSV)

A recent posting on Facebook really brought to my attention, the broad impact that Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) have on daily life. The individual shared a recent article by John O'Neil titled, *Learning to Drive with ADHD* (www.nytimes.com/2012/03/27/health). In the article, the author cites a 2007 study by Russell A. Barkley of the Medical University of S.C. and Daniel J. Cox of the University of VA Health System, which indicates that young drivers with ADHD are "two to four times as likely as those without the condition to have an accident, meaning that they are at a higher risk of wrecking the car than an adult who is legally drunk." Researchers say that many teenagers with attention or learning problems can become good drivers, but not as easily or quickly, and that some will be better off not driving until they are older – or not at all." They go on to say that, "When a driver takes his eyes off the road for two seconds or more, he's doubled the risk of a crash." With both ADD and ADHD, often

come distractibility, impulsivity and risk-taking. Add to all this, the distractions from within the vehicle, by stereos, cell phones and passengers, and you've got the recipe for problems.

There are numerous things parents can do to help their child with ADD or ADHD ease into learning to drive. It begins by honestly assessing the maturity of your child – have there been ongoing behavior problems or multiple instances of poor judgment? If your child is very oppositional or defiant, he/she probably should not be driving. Other considerations include:

- Has he/she had medical treatment – the study's authors go so far as to propose that “medication should not really be optional.”
- Schedule an eye exam; does he/she have problems with visual processing?
- Give serious consideration to formal one-to-one driver training, and recognize that this training should take as long as necessary for the learner to develop confidence – plan for more than the 40-50 hours set by the state.
- Parents should also seek coaching tips from the trainer, since mom or dad will be handling the bulk of the child's training time.

Let your teen know that driving is a privilege, not a right, and that the privilege goes hand-in-hand with safe driving skills. Although the state may not take away this privilege, you will not hesitate to do so if you feel his/her driving is unsafe. In addition:

- Make sure that the driver knows the route needed to get to his/her destination.
- Discourage driving during peak times such as rush-hour and after dark.
- Limit passengers to one friend, and confine it to a friend that you trust to not become a distraction.
- No eating while behind the wheel.
- If you cannot get your teen to agree to not listen to music while driving, set the expectation that he/she pick one CD or radio station before putting the car in gear and that no changes will take place until the car is stopped.
- Instead of eliminating the cell phone, make sure it is turned off, and is out of reach – put it in the trunk.
- Above all, model good driving habits, and begin discussing driving skills long before your child comes of age.

ADD and ADHD are chronic issues that follow us into adulthood, and according to The Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, may be manifested by: not properly observing signs/signals – slowness in responding to traffic lights – slowing/stopping on green or going on red; failure to yield the right-of-way; drifting from the lane of traffic; fluctuating or inappropriate speeds; impaired eye/hand/foot coordination and, the inability to focus or deal with distractions while driving.

Getting a driver's license is a huge milestone for most teens. Celebrate the occasion by asking you pastor or priest to offer a “blessing of the keys” for all new drivers in the congregation, and get into the habit of saying a prayer for safe travel with every click of the seatbelt!

May blessings!

Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

Juniata County Food Pantry May Update

Summer and vacation time are almost upon us! However, summer is HARDLY a vacation at the Food Pantry! With children home from school the need for food increases, and typically donations decrease as people get too busy with summer plans to think about us. Please don't forget about the Juniata County Food Pantry and your neighbors in need as you go about your summer activities. In March the Food Pantry served 293 families – a total of 862 residents. If you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful. We also gladly accept donations of cash, check and gift cards. Please see the donation form below. **PLEASE DON'T LET OUR CARTS GO EMPTY!**

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY:
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
DIAPERS (SIZES 4-6), TOILET PAPER, TISSUES
***WE ALSO NEED GROCERY BAGS!**

***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.

I WANT TO HELP MY NEIGHBORS IN NEED! ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____

**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)*



*LOCAL GROCERS AND DISCOUNT STORE GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

PLEASE DESIGNATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- ____ FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED
- ____ BABY, PERSONAL CARE & CLEANING ITEMS
- ____ BUILDING FUND FOR OUR FUTURE
- ____ WHEREVER NEED IS GREATEST

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans - Let's thrive

Identity theft happens ...

Sign up today!

If your identity is stolen, it's more than an inconvenience. It puts your finances and credit rating at risk—and that's just the beginning.

Find out what steps you can take to help ensure your identity isn't stolen. Join us for this educational workshop:

Identity Theft: What you need to know

During the workshop you'll learn:

- How identity theft can occur.
- Tips to protect yourself.
- Steps you can take if identity theft does happen to you.

Cost: **Free!**

When: Sunday, May 20th at 12:00 PM. (Lunch is provided.)

Where: Messiah Lutheran Church (Social Hall) in Mifflintown.

Register: Call Esther Bratton at 436-8856 or Francene Zimmerman at 436-5566 by Sunday, May 6th.

The Identity Theft workshop is intended only to educate you about financial decisions. It is broad in scope and does not consider your individual personal financial situation, which is unique. The information and advice may not be appropriate in all cases. No products will be offered for sale.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.