

THE MESSIAH HERALD



MAY, 2014

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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“Proclaiming God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ and his People”

The Messiah Herald



May 2014

The last Sunday of April we heard the story of doubting Thomas and Jesus two appearances to the disciples as they were locked in the room hiding in fear for their lives from the religious powers of the day. Reading that story we can discover for ourselves strength to overcome our own fears of bearing witness to Christ.

In these events we learn many things important to us and our ability to overcome our fears surrounding our attempts to bear witness to God.

.It is God who has called you and God gives you the power of Christ’s Spirit for the task. Even in trial and tribulation, “Peace be with you.”

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are now in the midst of the season of Easter. During this season we have a series of readings from the Gospels related to the resurrection of Jesus and the mission he gave to his disciples to carry out.

The last Sunday of April we heard the story of doubting Thomas and Jesus two appearances to the disciples as they were locked in the room hiding in fear for their lives from the religious powers of the day. Reading that story we can discover for ourselves strength to overcome our own fears of bearing witness to Christ.

Following the resurrection the disciples were paralyzed with fear. They are fulfilling the struggle Jesus had warned them about at the end of John 16 where Jesus offers them his peace but warns them of the trials and tribulations of the days ahead. He then begins his prayer to his Father in the hearing of the disciples defining how he connects them to the Father and that he has made known to them God’s work in the world. With all of this given and revealed to them they are still hiding in that room.

Jesus comes into the room and offers to them the same peace he did at the end of chapter 16. He shows them his wounds giving evidence to the cross and his crucifixion and then offering peace yet again he breathes his Spirit upon them and gives them a sending call.

A week later we find the disciples still in the same room. Thomas had not been with them earlier and their initial attempt to witness to him concerning the resurrection cannot be called successful. Thomas resists their testimony proclaiming he will not believe until he sees for himself.

Then Christ appears again proclaiming his peace to the group and offering himself to Thomas. In that moment Thomas is moved to confession “My Lord and my God,” and faith is born. Jesus then asserts a new blessing upon all those who will believe because of those bear witness to the resurrection. “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

In these events we learn many things important to us and our ability to overcome our fears surrounding our attempts to bear witness to God.

- 1 Bearing witness to Christ and his grace is our calling as Christians. It is God given work.
- 2 Jesus himself intercedes with the Father for us in this work. (John 17)
- 3 Jesus repeatedly assures us that we receive his peace in the midst of our fears.
- 4 Jesus gives us the presence and power of his Spirit for this work extending his grace.
- 5 Not every attempt to bear witness will be successful. Thomas did not respond to the disciples initial witness.
- 6 Many will be blessed with the gift of faith confessing Christ as Lord despite not seeing.
- 7 Our calling is to simply bear witness and to allow the Spirit of Christ to bring forth faith wherever he wills.

Our task then is clear; we are called to manifest God’s grace and forgiveness in the world and to give testimony to Christ’s power in our lives. Do not be afraid. It is God who has called you and God gives you the power of Christ’s Spirit for the task. Even in trial and tribulation, “Peace be with you.”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

May	1: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
May	2: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
May	3: 1 Peter 1:17-23
May	4: Luke 24:13-35
May	5: Exodus 2:15b-25
May	6: Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20
May	7: 1 Peter 2:13-17
May	8: Acts 2:42-47
May	9: Psalm 23
May	10: 1 Peter 2:19-25
May	11: John 10:1-10
May	12: Exodus 3:1-12
May	13: Acts 7:1-16
May	14: Acts 1:15-26
May	15: Acts 7:55-60
May	16: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
May	17: 1 Peter 2:2-10
May	18: John 14:1-14
May	19: Genesis 6:5-22
May	20: Genesis 7:1-24
May	21: Genesis 8:13-19
May	22: Acts 17:22-31
May	23: Psalm 66:8-20
May	24: 1 Peter 3:13-22
May	25: John 14:15-21
May	26: 2 Kings 2:1-12
May	27: Acts 1:6-14
May	28: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
May	29: Luke 24:44-53
May	30: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
May	31: Romans 12:9-16b



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!

MAY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

4: Bob St. Clair
11: Randy Clark
18: Linda Bahorik
25: Sam Leister

ACOLYTES

4: Zane Hazard & Emma Hazard
11: Malin Kint & Marina Holderman
18: Livia Arentz & Emma Arentz
25: Tyler Rosenberry & Lilly Powell

ALTAR GUILD

Apr. 28—May 4 Pat Fisher
May 5—May 18 Christie Holderman
May 19—May 25 Michelle Stoner
May 26—June 8 Linda Leister
(cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)

ALTAR FLOWERS

4: Fairman Family
11: OPEN
18: Warren & Claire Mumma
25: OPEN



Messiah Women of ELCA met on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The program was presented by Jean Compton. Jean read a story about Julia from the book "Pew Sisters." All of these stories are true. Julia and her family survived Katrina with very few of their belongings, but through their faith and trust in God, the family recovered through the help of new found friends that God placed in their path. Secretary, Cynthia Smith, read a thank you letter from Ina King, the child our group

sponsors. The group discussed sending a box to Pine Ridge with some of the items that the congregation has donated. We will check on the rates through UPS and our group will pay for the shipping.

We also discussed the purchase of a new Advent banner for the sanctuary with funds given to Claire Mummah in memory of 2 members of our church. The banner that was chosen from an older catalog has gone up in price and we are going to need to seek some assistance. We discussed several options and Claire will look into one of the options first.

The WELCA Synodical Convention will again be held at Camp Mt. Luther on Saturday, August 2, 2014. Several of our members are planning to attend and welcome any women from the congregation who would also like to attend. It is a fun and informative morning and afternoon and we are home between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Please see Barb Geedey for registration forms if you are interested in attending or have questions pertaining to the event. The cost is \$40.00 for a brunch and lunch plus the use of the facility and speakers.

The In-kind gift this year are items for the Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. Messiah has been asked to bring nail clippers and we will be collecting them sometime before August 2.

There were 10 women present and we closed with our Purpose Statement.

Our next meeting will be held on May 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. The program will be led by Ann Beaver. Any women of the church are welcome to attend the meetings.

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.

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.

SPRING CELEBRATION

The Fellowship Committee has decided to have a Spring Celebration on Sunday, May 18, 2014 following the worship service.

It will be a picnic type celebration and the congregation is asked to bring picnic type foods such as macaroni/potato salad, fruit, desserts, pickles/olives, etc. The committee will provide beverage, chips, and meat. There will be a sign-up sheet to follow after Easter.

We will also have one senior this year to graduate and we are hoping that he and some of his family will be able to attend.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

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

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.

SUMMER WORSHIP

Summer worship services will begin on June 22, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. and end on August 31, 2014.

Regular worship services will begin on September 7, 2014.

JUNIATA COUNTY WORKCAMP

During the week of June 22-28, 2014, more than 400 Christian youth and their adult leaders will be coming to Juniata County under the direction of Group Cares. These campers will be doing repair and maintenance work at 73 local homes.

Juniata County is responsible for matching the \$20,982 Group Cares funds for supplies, building materials and organizational costs for the week. Please help us realize our goal that each congregation in Juniata County contributes \$200 or more toward the project. To date, we have received \$12,707 in contributions. Remember that 73 families will be helped by this endeavor in just one week. It is quite a task and an awesome outreach to our neighbors.

Contributions can be mailed to the following address by May 30, 2014:

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Attn. Juniata Co. Work Camp-2014
8489 Licking Creek Rd.
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Volunteers are also needed to prepare for camp, to assist with tasks and deliveries during camp, and to clean up at the close of camp. Volunteer job descriptions are as follows:

- Materials coordination team – help coordinate and deliver materials for the work sites.
- Ladder team – help obtain and move ladders to work sites as needed.
- Trouble shooter team – volunteer at the work sites to help retrieve materials and advise in construction as needed during the work week.

We need to have these funds and volunteers in place by **May 30, 2014**. Without your donations and volunteers, we may not be able to fully support all 73 projects.

Your prayers and support in this project are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Whitesel at 436-2401.



ELCA “BUCK-A-CHICK” PROGRAM

During Lent, the Sunday School students and Jr. Church attendees collected money towards the ELCA Buck-A-Chick program. They collected \$150 that will be used by World Hunger to purchase 150 chicks! When these chicks are just months old, they begin laying eggs, which make nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry. The many extra eggs are often enough to allow a family to start a small business by selling them for additional income. Way to go, Messiah kids! You can see some of the paper chicks that were colored by the kids, on display in the Adult Sunday School Room.

During the 50 days of Easter, the Sunday School and Junior Church offering money will go towards purchasing items for the Juniata County Food Pantry's Summer Backpack Program. We would like some help in collecting items for this program, too. Donations of the following are needed and can be placed in the bus box in the Adult Sunday School Room.

- Any single serving “meals” (Mac ‘n Cheese, Spaghetti, Ravioli, Lasagna, soups, cans of chicken, Vienna sausages, etc.).
- Fruit cups of all varieties (Applesauce and peaches were the most popular last summer).

- Pudding Cups.
- Chips, pretzels, popcorn, trail mix (HUGE favorite last summer), granola bars, cookies, any other single serving snack item.
- Juice boxes (any and all flavors).



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

Thrivent members, select our congregation the first time you direct Choice Dollars between April 1 and May 31, 2014, and our church will receive an extra \$20 grant from Thrivent Financial!

Through the “Direct Now ... and add \$20!” campaign, Thrivent will give an extra \$20 for each member who chooses to direct Choice Dollars to our congregation first.

For questions about this campaign or Choice Dollars, contact Stacie Kint at 436-6341.



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.



"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.



9th Annual Bishop's Open Golf Classic

Monday, May 12, 2014

Susquehanna Valley Country Club

Routes 11 & 15, Hummel's Wharf

Camp Mount Luther holds this event to have fun and raise funds to better our youth in a faith-based camping program. The rain-or-shine event features a four-person scramble with three flights; prizes for flights, hole in one winners, closest to pin, longest drive, straightest drive, team that has most fun and Bishop's Cup; a free putting contest, mulligans, and forward tees; the Camel Auction with a silent and chance auction.

SCHEDULE: 11:00 a.m. – **Registration begins;** 11:30 a.m. – Lunch; 12:30 p.m. – **Golfing Shotgun Start;** Immediately after all golfers are finished, there will be snacks, drinks, and prizes!

We are looking for sponsors and golfers for this event. For more information and a registration/sponsorship form, please visit our website at www.campmountluther.org.

Juniata County Food Pantry May Update

THANK YOU for the huge response to our plea for help! Our last update was a bit bleak, but YOU answered our prayers and helped us end March on a positive note.

In March, the Food Pantry served 351 families for a total of 1069 of your neighbors! Special thanks to Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Church for sending volunteers for March.

We are very excited to be gearing up for our **Summer Backpack Program!** We provide students in grades K-8 with a backpack, which they can bring in once per week all summer long, and fill with a week' worth of nutritious lunches, including fresh produce! To qualify, students must be eligible for free or reduced lunches and/or have an ACCESS card. Even though summer is a wonderful time of year, having the kids home from school can put an added strain on already-tight food budgets. Students must pre-register. Students do NOT have to be current FOOD PANTRY clients. Last year we served approximately 165 students, and we anticipate that number will double this year!

Help Needed: Volunteers for Summer Backpack Program. Volunteers for Fundraising Committee.

Did you know? We accept donations of fresh produce from your garden! As you plan and plant, consider adding a few extra plants and donating the excess harvest. (We regret that we cannot accept homemade or home-canned foods).

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY: **ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TOILET PAPER, TISSUES, PAPER TOWELS, STORAGE BAGS & WRAPS, TRASH BAGS**

For more information, visit our website at jcfoodpantry.com

OUR VESTIBULE (LOCATED ON THE RAMP SIDE OF THE BUILDING)
IS OPEN TO RECEIVE DONATIONS 24 HOURS A 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





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