

THE MESSIAH HERALD



NOVEMBER, 2011

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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"PROCLAIMING GOD'S LOVE REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE"

The Messiah Herald



For the last year there has been an increasing unrest within our nation and dissatisfaction with the political condition of our nation.

We are a nation deeply divided across numerous issues, social barriers, and political positions.

People around the world and within our country are feeling disenfranchisement from the powers, political and economic, that impact our lives.

Scripture points us towards a belief that in the fall in the Garden of Eden that disobedience and the emergence of sin that we became similarly cut off from God.

The whole story of the Bible is then the relationship of God and humanity across this separation.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November 2011

For the last year and more there has been an increasing unrest within our nation and dissatisfaction with the political condition of our nation. Globally, we have watched the events of the Arab Spring in places like Egypt, Syria, Iran, Libya and more as the citizenry of numerous places in the Middle East rose up to demand justice and fairness and the removal of governments dominated by dictators and power regimes. Some were successful and some less so.

We, too, are a nation deeply divided across numerous issues, social barriers, and political positions. We have seen groups rise and fade like the Tea Party and new ones arise like Occupy Wall St. Suddenly, in our country the Occupy movement seems to be gathering real momentum under the theme of, "We Are the 99%." But why is all this ferment and political action happening. One explanation that makes sense to me is that people around the world and within our country are feeling disenfranchisement from the powers, political and economic, that impact our lives. We watch, continually, as the economy moves in fits and starts and the market up and down and recognize that we have little ability to impact anything of consequence. We feel cut off. I believe that many people watching the courage of the public in places without democracy led the people to ask why not here and why are we not making ourselves heard.

Scripture points us towards a belief that in the fall in the Garden of Eden and with disobedience and the emergence of sin we became similarly cut off from God. Sin resulted in a separation between us and God who in divine perfection would not or could not tolerate the presence of sin. A humanity that had been created to be in constant relationship with God, as creature and creator, turned towards self-worship. The whole story of the Bible is the relationship of God and humanity across this separation. Ultimately, the separation is only bridged when God takes the action to become "God with us" in the person of Jesus.

Knowing the story of scripture we know and confess the followings things.

- 1) God created all things to be good and in relationship to God as creator.
- 2) Humanity turned toward self and self-interests in disobedience and away from God
- 3) God sought numerous ways to turn people away from their sin and back towards God and God's will include the law and the prophets.
- 4) God showed the world the path away from sin and self interest in the person of Jesus who saw even his own life as something to be given for others.
- 5) Jesus taught us that there are two great commandments and that all of the law and the preaching (of the prophets) are based on these commandments.
- 6) These commandments are: Love the Lord your God with all your being and love your neighbor like yourself.
- 7) God's answer to the experience of human disenfranchisement is to turn us away from self-interest and back towards God in and through Christ's Spirit and towards our neighbor overcoming disenfranchisement and separation.

The Christian prophetic voice of proclamation has a great deal to say to the present unrest in our country. What is has to say speaks of community and coming together instead of dividing and separating. The prophets called the community of faith away from self-interest to insure impartial justice and care for the poor and the outsider. We proclaim that God calls us to turn each from his or her own path and towards God's ways. God calls us to love God above everything including power, control, money, and more and to love our neighbor as our self. The calling means turning away from of self-interests to love our neighbor and economic justice for all; to speak out for equitable opportunity and a fair share in the market place and justice and hope for the 99 and to bring the 1 and the 99 back into community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

November 1: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
November 2: Matthew 23:1-12
November 3: Revelation 7:9-17
November 4: Psalm 34:1-10, 22
November 5: 1 John 3:1-3
November 6: Matthew 5:1-12
November 7: Amos 5:18-24
November 8: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
November 9: Matthew 25:1-13
November 10: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
November 11: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-12] 12
November 12: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
November 13: Matthew 25:14-30
November 14: Zechariah 1:7-17
November 15: Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4
November 16: Matthew 24:45-51
November 17: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
November 18: Psalm 95:1-7a
November 19: Ephesians 1:15-23
November 20: Matthew 25:31-46
November 21: Esther 2:1-18
November 22: Esther 8:3-17
November 23: 1 Timothy 2:1-7
November 24: Matthew 6:25-33
November 25: Isaiah 64:1-9
November 26: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
November 27: Mark 13:24-37
November 28: Revelation 15:1-8
November 29: Revelation 18:1-10
November 30: John 1:35-42



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!

NOVEMBER SCHEDULES

LECTORS

6: Diana Wise
13: Cynthia Smith
20: Barbara S. Geedey
27: Ed Beaver

ALTAR GUILD

Oct. 31—Nov. 6 Diana Wise (Clint & Jamie Miller – cup communion)
Nov. 7—Nov. 13 Linda Leister
Nov. 14—Nov. 20 Barbara S. Geedey (Clint & Jamie Miller – cup communion)
Nov. 21—Nov. 27 Ann Beaver
Nov. 28—Dec. 4 Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

6: Joe & Pat Forney
13: Sis Stetler
20: Reserved
27: Jim Yetter



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, October 13, 2011 with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader. At a previous meeting, we had a discussion concerning worry, this evening we learned about statistics concerning worry. Cynthia gave each of us a sheet of paper 8-1/2 x 11 which we tore into pieces as we learned about the percentage of time spent on worrying. The definition of worry is that worry is a behavior--a habitual way of thinking.

When it comes to worry, studies have shown the following statistics:

First tear of our paper--40% (40% of paper torn off) never happens--so in essence we are wasting our time by worrying.

Tear #2--30% of what we worry about has already happened. Learn to "let go" and forgive yourself and others. You cannot change the past--no one can. Accept it for what it is and go on.

Tear #3--12% are needless worries, such as what someone thinks of you.

Tear #4--10% are petty and unimportant such as we worry about what's for dinner, we worry about being late, we worry about what to wear.

Tear #5--8% of what we worry about actually happens. Of this percentage. . . (paper tear of 8% torn in half)

4% of our worries that happen are beyond our control. We cannot change the outcome. These worries may include our health, the death of a loved one or an impending natural disaster. Often times the reality of these events are more bearable than the worry.

4%--of what we worry about we have some if not all control over the results. Basically, this is the consequences of our action or inaction on the problems and challenges we face.

Two little pieces of paper shows that we have only a little to worry about.

HOW CAN YOU STOP OR REDUCE YOUR WORRIES?

- 1. Prepare for the worst--Hope for the best.**
- 2. Get busy.**
- 3. Distract yourself.**

From the book "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver we learned four lessons from the chapter titled "Lessons from Lazarus."

The lessons are:

1. God's will does not always proceed in a straight line.
2. God's love sometimes tarries for our good and his glory.
3. God's ways are not our ways, but his character is still dependable.
4. God's plan is released when we believe and obey.

Thank you Cynthia.

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

Business discussed:

- Received a letter from Tyson, our Native American teenager, thanking us for his seventeenth birthday gift.
- The Health and School Kits, soap and quilts for Lutheran World Relief were delivered Monday, to Lewistown by Barbara and Ken Geedey and Ann and Ed Beaver. We thank this group for sharing their time for this delivery.
- We have 2 families for the Christmas Angel Project. The poster with the information will be on the bulletin board in the kitchenette. Gifts are to be wrapped, labeled with the children's name and family number and returned to the Sunday School Room by December 4, 2011.
- The 25th year together as Women of the ELCA USS will be celebrated in 2012. The Executive Board would like a brief history of our unit. They are planning to make a Women of the ELCA Upper Susquehanna Synod Cookbook. Information to be submitted no later than May 1, 2012.
- Final plans for Thankoffering Sunday, November 13, 2011 to be completed at the November meeting.

The next meeting will be November 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Linda Leister as devotional leader.

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.

BLANKET SUNDAY REPORT

On Blanket Sunday, October 2, 2011, Messiah Women of the ELCA and the Needlers announced the gifts being sent to Lutheran World Relief. They are: 71 Health Kits, 134 School Kits, 56 pounds of soap, and 237 quilts. Two-hundred and thirty-seven quilts was 10 more than sent in 2010.

Other good news is that the Disciples Class and Messiah congregation are sponsoring the shipping costs in the amount of \$900.00 for the kits, soap and quilts that will be sent to the needy people.

Thank you to everyone who, in any way, contributed to these projects. Matthew 25:40: "And the King will 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' "

CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 2 families this year for the Christmas Angel Project. A poster with the information is on the bulletin board in the kitchenette.

Gifts are to be wrapped, labeled with the children's name and family number, and returned to the Sunday School Room by December 4, 2011.

Thanksgiving

THANKOFFERING SERVICE

The speaker for the Messiah Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service on November 13, 2011, will be Elizabeth Yenko, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

A special offering envelope is included in your November newsletters throughout the church (additional envelopes are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room).

Offerings help Women of the ELCA with their various projects and services to those in need. Please make checks payable to "Messiah Women of the ELCA."

CHURCH ORGANIST NEEDED

Church Organist for weekly services, beginning immediately, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 South Third Street, Mifflintown, PA. Allen Digital Electric Organ and Kurzweil Electronic Keyboard.

Candidates should contact Ed Beaver at ebeaver41@yahoo.com or at 436-9382 for information, including salary. Additional information about the church and congregation can be found at www.mlcmifflintown.org.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5, Relay For Life (George's Gee Bees) fund raising event, Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 1-3 p.m. in Messiah's Fellowship Hall. Various vendors will be offering items for sale.

November 7, Original Italian Pizza 20% day (10:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.) to benefit the Juniata County Food Pantry.

November 13, Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service at 10:30 a.m. Speaker, Elizabeth Yencho.

November 13, Messiah Fall Fest in Fellowship Hall following the Thankoffering Service

November 20, Voters' Assembly following worship service to vote on 2012 budget.

November 20, Community Thanksgiving Service at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 7 p.m.

November 27, Light lunch after worship service, prepared by the Fellowship Committee. Those attending are asked to bring 1-2 doz. Cookies. Decorating of the church following lunch.

December 3, Fellowship Hall reserved – afternoon & evening. Civil War re-enactors fashion show.

December 8, WELCA Christmas Festival at 7 p.m. in the Youth Area.

December 11, Hanging of the Greens Service, 10:30 a.m.

December 18, Children's Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Committee will provide cookies and beverage.

December 18, Christmas Cantata at 2 p.m. at Juniata High School.

December 24, Family/Youth Service – 7 PM; Prelude Concert with Louis Lynch – 9:30 PM; Candlelight/Communion Service – 10:00 PM

January 7, Undecorating the church (morning).

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas may be placed in honor or in memory of someone, or to the Glory of God. The cost is \$8.00 for a 6-1/2" plant with 3 to 4 blooms.

You may order by calling the church office at 436-6213.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2012 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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

CAN TREE

Donations of gallon-size canned food is again being collected this year, now through December, for the "can tree" in the Adult Sunday School Room to benefit Bethesda Mission.

Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able. Cans will be delivered to Bethesda Mission later in December.



COMMUNITY CHORUS

Community Chorus rehearsals will be held on the following dates from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Juniata High School music room. (Even if you cannot attend all of the rehearsals, please don't hesitate to join the group).

Monday, November 7
Tuesday, November 15
Tuesday, November 22
Monday, December 5
Tuesday, December 13

This year's 15th annual Christmas Cantata performance "*Dawn of Redeeming Grace*" will be held **Sunday, December 18, 2011** at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Juniata High School.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

The Ten Thousand Villages International Gifts Festival will be held at Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church on Friday, November 18 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Invest in the world. Shop fair trade. Discover unique home décor, musical instruments and jewelry at the festival. Your participation in this sale will help skilled artisans in 32 countries receive a fair price for their products. Featured items include hand loomed textiles, pottery, jewelry, baskets, toys and a variety of nativities and Christmas decorations.

Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit fair trade organization based in Akron, PA. For more information, contact Deb Richmond at 717-348-6364 or debrichmond@nmax.net.

FREE TUTORING

Free tutoring for adults is available at the Juniata County Learning Center (next to the Family Dollar). If you or someone you

know needs help to improve reading, math, and language skills or English as a second language, please call 436-2517 ext. 115 or stop by! Are you interested in becoming a volunteer tutor? Tutoring times are arranged by appointment.

If you would like more information about receiving free tutoring services or becoming a volunteer tutor, please call the number provided.

WOULD YOU DRIVE A MILE TO SAVE A LIFE?

The American Cancer Society's **Road to Recovery** program gives life-saving rides to patients. Volunteer to help by driving someone from your community to their treatment. There are no special skills needed, simply time to spare.

The next **Road to Recovery** training for Mifflin and Juniata Counties will be held on November 9th at 2 p.m. at the American Cancer Society office in Lewistown. To sign up, or learn more information, please contact your American Cancer Society office at 814-234-1023

THANK YOU TO OUR FRIENDS AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN

Thank you so much for your regular and generous donations to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

Your gifts are very much appreciated and will greatly bless the lives of your neighbors in need by providing them with well-balanced meals, and the means to promote personal health and cleanliness.

Your Friends at the Juniata
County Food Pantry

Juniata County Food Pantry November Update

In September 2011, the Food Pantry served 265 families in need – a total of 832 individuals. Many thanks to our faithful churches who support us with donations of food, supplies and money. A special thank you to Trinity UMC and Locust Run UMC for supporting the Food Pantry with volunteers in September

Fundraisers and Food Drives: In November, OIP-Tyson Hill will “Help Feed the Hungry.” Enjoy an excellent meal there on Monday, November 7, present the attached coupon, and a portion of your bill will be donated to the Food Pantry.

We thank you sincerely for whatever help you are able to give.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PAPER AND CLEANING PRODUCTS: TOILET PAPER, FACIAL TISSUES, PAPER TOWELS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, DISH SOAP, AND ALL-PURPOSE HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS. PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS ARE ALSO NEEDED.

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

PHONE #: 717-436-9718 CONTACT PERSON: Kathy Queitzsch

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

HOURS: Mon. 1--4 PM, Tues./Thurs. 3--6 PM Sat. 10:00 AM– 1:00 PM

ORIGINAL ITALIAN PIZZA

436-2184, Tyson Hill, Rte 75 North of Port Royal

Is Helping Feed the Hungry

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

10:30 AM—10:00 PM

**Present this coupon and 20% of your payment
will be donated to the**

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