

THE MESSIAH HERALD



NOVEMBER, 2012

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

The Messiah Herald



November 2012

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

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.

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.

The Christian prophetic voice of proclamation has a great deal to say to the present unrest in our country.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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 now live in a period of uncertainty as to what comes next in places where newly emergent governments struggle to gain the confidence of the people.

We, too, are a nation deeply divided across numerous issues, social barriers, and political positions. We have seen groups rise like the Tea Party and other new ones arise like Occupy Wall St. Suddenly, in our country the Occupy movement seemed be gathering real momentum under the theme of, “We Are the 99%,” but now has cooled. 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 seemingly 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 including 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 with each other.

The Roman Catholic Pastoral letter "Economic Justice for All" from 1986 says the following:

28. *The basis for all that the Church believes about the moral dimensions of economic life is its vision of the transcendent worth—the sacredness—of human beings.*

"The dignity of the human person, realized in community with others, is the criterion against which all aspects of economic life must be measured. All human beings, therefore, are ends to be served by the institutions that make up the economy, not means to be exploited for more narrowly defined goals. Human personhood must be respected with a reverence that is religious. When we deal with each other, we should do so with the sense of awe that arises in the presence of something holy and sacred. For that is what human beings are: we are created in the image of God (Gn 1:27). Similarly, all economic institutions must support the bonds of community and solidarity that are essential to the dignity of persons. Wherever our economic arrangements fail to conform to the demands of human dignity lived in community, they must be questioned and transformed. These convictions have a biblical basis."

Faithfulness to God's Word is not just about what is good for me and my family. It transforms our vision of how we use our time, talents and treasure and how we use them to minister in our daily lives and build our relationships and our community. It changes our whole basis for Thanksgiving, small "t" and capital "T."

Living Word of God grant us the eyes and the ears and the heart to understand the truth and power of your word among your prophets past and present and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill



DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

November	1: Isaiah 25:6-9
November	2: Psalm 24
November	3: Revelation 21:1-6a
November	4: John 11:32-44
November	5: Numbers 36:1-13
November	6: Deuteronomy 15:1-11
November	7: Deuteronomy 24:17-22
November	8: 1 Kings 17:8-16
November	9: Psalm 146
November	10: Hebrews 9:24-28
November	11: Mark 12:38-44
November	12: Daniel 4:4-18
November	13: Daniel 4:19-27
November	14: Daniel 4:28-37
November	15: Daniel 12:1-3
November	16: Psalm 16
November	17: Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
November	18: Mark 13:1-8
November	19: Daniel 8:1-14
November	20: Daniel 8:15-27
November	21: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
November	22: Matthew 6:25-33
November	23: Psalm 93
November	24: Revelation 1:4b-8
November	25: John 18:33-37
November	26: Daniel 7:19-27
November	27: Revelation 11:15-19
November	28: Jeremiah 33:14-16
November	29: Psalm 25:1-10
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

4: Ed Beaver
11: Cynthia Smith
18: Andrea Cameron
25: Linda Bahorik

ALTAR GUILD

Oct. 29—Nov. 4 Ann Beaver
(cup communion) Clint & Jamie Miller
Nov. 5—Nov. 11 Sandy Pines
Nov. 12—Nov. 18 Christie Holderman
Nov. 19—Nov. 25 Linda Leister
(cup communion) Clint & Jamie Miller
Nov. 26—Dec. 2 Diana Wise

ALTAR FLOWERS

4: Don & Barb Geedey
11: Sis Stetler
18: Vance & Wendy Varner
25: Jim Yetter



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, October 11, 2012 with Claire Mummah leading devotions. For her topic, she used readings from the book, "The American Patriot's Almanac." We listened to readings about the bald eagle. As we know, there is a nest and a pair of eagles near Rt. 22-322 on the way to Lewistown and every so often the single or both eagles will be perched on a dead tree on the left of the road, on the hill at the cut soon after the Arch Rock interchange. A member reported that they had recently seen them sitting on the tree between the hours, 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.

Another member thinks that one of the young bald eagles was sitting in a tree on their property, which is not far from the river.

An American legend says that during one of the first battles of the Revolutionary War the noise, of early gunfire woke sleeping eagles, which flew from their nests and circled overhead. "They are shrieking for freedom," the Patriots said.

The bald eagle has been a national emblem since June 1782, when congress adopted the Great Seal of the United States, which features a wide spread eagle. Congress chose the bald eagle because it is native to only North America, and because eagles have long symbolized strength, courage, freedom, and long life. You can find the eagle, among other places, on quarters, dollar bills, half-dollars, the president's flag, and the mace of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The term "bald" does not mean the eagle lacks feathers. It comes from "piebald," an old word meaning "spotted with white," and refers to the white feathers on the bird's head and tail.

By the mid-twentieth century, much of the bald eagle population had been wiped out by hunting, trapping, loss of forestland, and pollution from pesticides. In 1963, the Lower 48 states were home to only about 400 nesting pairs.

The bald eagle first gained federal protection in 1940, and in 1967 it was listed as an endangered species. Since then, it had made a remarkable comeback. By 2007, the Lower 48 were home to some 10,000 nesting pairs. The eagle has never been listed endangered in Alaska and in 2007, the population there was estimated between 50,000 and 70,000 birds.

In June, 2007 the Interior Department took the bald eagle off the Endangered Species List. Killing or harming these majestic eagles remains a federal crime.

On July 20, 1969, "Appollo II" astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buss Aldrin floated high above the lifeless moon surface in the landing vehicle named "Eagle." After numerous computer red light warnings, Armstrong took over the landing from the computer and after a time, Neil Armstrong's voice crackled to Earth across a gulf of space: "The 'Eagle' has landed."

We also listened to references to eagles in the Bible found in Exodus 19:4, Psalm 102:1-5, and Isaiah 40:28-30.

Devotions ended with the refrain of "On Eagle's Wings:" And I will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand."

Thank you Claire.

The short business meeting was conducted by Barbara S. Geedey, Leader.

Business discussed:

- Final plans were made for the Cluster Meeting we are hosting this Sunday, October 14, 2012.
- We will probably have 6 children for the Christmas Angel Project. A poster will be placed in the kitchenette for sign-up for the gifts.
- Final plans for Thankoffering Service on November 11, 2012 will be at the next meeting.

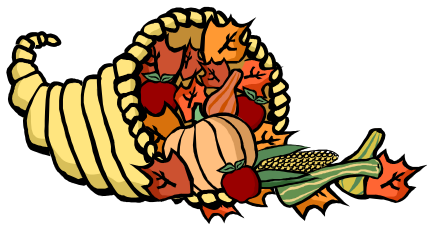
The next meeting will be Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Cynthia Smith as devotional leader.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the reading of "The Purpose."

The evening concluded with the packing of 62 school kits, 14 fabric kits and 42 pounds of soap. The quilt packing was completed Sunday, October 14 making a total of 240 quilts. All these projects will be delivered to

the Lutheran World Relief pick-up point at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lewistown to be later transported to Baltimore, Maryland.

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.



THANKOFFERING SERVICE & FALL FEST

Messiah Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service will be Sunday, November 11, 2012.

A special offering envelope is included in the November newsletters throughout the church and 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."

The Fall Fest will be immediately following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Home-made vegetable soup and beverage will be provided.

Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish if they are able. If you are unable to bring something, there is always plenty of food. Mints, chips, etc. are always needed and don't need to be prepared.

If you have not already signed-up on the reservation slips included in the bulletins, you may call the church office for reservations.

VOTERS ASSEMBLY

The next Voters Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, November 18, 2012 following the morning worship service.

Business: Quarterly reports of the boards and voting on 2013 proposed budget.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June, 2013 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

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

HEATING OIL PROGRAM

For every gallon of heating oil purchased by a member of Messiah Lutheran Church from Nittany Oil Company or Hilltop Oil, they will donate five cents per gallon back to the church's heating oil account.

If not already participating in this program, contact the Hilltop office at 436-2647 if you wish to participate.



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 6½" plant with 3 to 4 blooms.

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

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.

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

INTERNATIONAL GIFTS SALE

The International Gifts Sale will be held at Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church on Friday, November 16, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, November 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year's sale offers baskets, jewelry, toys, pottery, Christmas ornaments, and international foods by organizations like Ten Thousand Villages, SERRV, Women at Risk International, and BeadForLife. By shopping fair trade you will help skilled artisans in third world countries receive a fair price for their handcrafted wares, create employment

opportunities and assist them in being able to pay for uniforms and books in order to send their children to school and provide better opportunities for their future.

For more information, visit our website at www.juniatainternationalgiftssale.com.



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 5
Tuesday, November 13
Tuesday, November 13
Monday, December 3
Tuesday, December 11

This year's 16th annual Christmas Cantata performance "Season of Wonders" will be held Sunday, December 16, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School auditorium.



CHRISTMAS ANGEL PROJECT

Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 6 children this year for the Christmas Angel Project. A 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, 2012.

FREE PINNACLEHEALTH HEART HEALTH SEMINAR IN BURNHAM

PinnacleHealth is happy to announce that heart surgeon, Mubashir Mumtaz, MD, FACS, is coming to the Quality Inn & Suites, 13015 Ferguson Valley Road in Burnham on Wednesday, November 7th for a free informational session on some common heart problems.

Learn about heart conditions such as atrial fibrillation, coronary artery disease, valve disease, and leading-edge treatments from Dr. Mumtaz, chief of cardiothoracic surgery at PinnacleHealth.

Refreshments will be served. Space is limited. Please register in advance by calling the PinnacleHealth oneLine at 1-877-499-3299.

BLOOD DRIVES

The American Red Cross will be holding blood drives at the following locations:

Tuesday, November 6th
Juniata Mennonite School
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
289 Leonard Hill Rd., McAlisterville

Friday, November 30th
Walker Grange Hall
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm
William Penn Hwy., Mexico

Individuals who are in general good health, are age 17 or older and weigh at least 110 pounds are eligible to donate blood safely every 56 days. Donors should bring their Red Cross donor cards, photo ID, or two other forms of identification to the donor site. The need for blood never diminishes because blood is a perishable medicine.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 Red Cross.

(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY Health, Healing and Wholeness November 2012

"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' " (NRSV; Revelation 5:13-14)

I'll admit, I was a bit skeptical when I first met Guinevere. As soon as she walked into the room all eyes were on her as she eagerly moved from person to person, her blond hair bouncing with every movement. As the support meeting began, she worked her way around the perimeter of the room and came to sit by one of the evening's participants. Periodically, she would look into his face as he spoke about his struggle with mental illness, and every so often, he would pat her on the head. A change came over this gentleman – a calmness that was not present at the beginning of the meeting. Later, the woman who had accompanied Guinevere that evening spoke of their years of partnership, in providing therapy to people of all ages, and in a variety of different settings.

Guinevere is a trained, certified therapy dog. Her handler, a behavioral health therapist, is employed by a local elementary school. Along with Guinevere's joy of

soothing frightened, sometimes angry children, she was also a non-judgmental listener to youngsters who were struggling with learning to read. Perhaps you have encountered one of Gwenny's colleagues when you've visited a long-term-care facility, or even the local emergency department.

In the past, I wrote of the many health benefits of owning a pet. The positive effects of animal assisted therapy have been studied, and are now generally accepted in medical settings around the globe. So how does a puppy become a therapy dog? It all begins with meeting the basic requirements of good manners and good health. A therapy dog must:

- Be at least one year of age
- Be good around other dogs
- Listen to their handlers
- Allow strangers to touch them all over
- Not jump on people when interacting
- Walk on a leash without pulling
- Not mind strange noises or smells
- Be calm for petting
- Not be afraid of people walking unsteadily
- Be current on all vaccines required by local law
- Have a negative fecal test every 12 months
- Be clean and well groomed
- Pass multiple tests and evaluations "in the field" [supervised visits]

Many people confuse Therapy Dogs with Service Dogs. Service Dogs provide assistance to the differently-abled, such as alerting their human of an impending seizure, bringing or carrying objects for their partner, leading the blind, opening doors, etc.

Therapy dogs are family pets that are trained and registered or certified through therapy organizations, and are only half of the therapy team – the handler is the other half. Unlike service dogs, which are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act, they are only allowed into institutions by invitation or prior approval.

Therapy dogs can be any size or breed; he/she must be easygoing, patient, and comfortable with strangers. Handlers keep an eye out for signs of stress – excessive panting, tucked-under tail, or erratic behavior – to make sure the dog is not overburdened by his work. The esteemed Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN has utilized therapy dogs since 2002, and has more than a dozen certified dogs as part of Mayo Clinic's Caring Canines program. In an August 25, 2012 article on the subject, they report, "It's [also] important to note that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has never received a report of infection from animal-assisted therapy.

www.mayoclinic.com/health/pet-therapy/MYO2122). The dogs make regular visits to various hospital departments and even make special visits on request."

What is it about dogs that create such a powerful effect? No one can say for certain, but once again, dogs prove their worth as good and faithful servants, and beg the question, "Will we see our four footed friends in heaven?"

Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

Juniata County Food Pantry November/December Update

We continue to request foods to support our goal of providing 350 of our Juniata County families in poverty with both a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal this year. In order to accomplish this, the Food Pantry has joined forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, Salvation Army and **YOU**. If you could help us to stockpile the following foods for the holidays, we would really appreciate it, but please don't forget that we are still trying to provide the basic necessities for our neighbors in need. It won't do much good if we give a holiday meal to a family who doesn't have anything to eat the next day or the products to keep themselves clean and healthy.

FOOD PANTRY BASIC NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, PERSONAL AND BABY CARE PRODUCTS, PAPER AND CLEANING SUPPLIES.

HOLIDAY MEAL NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER:

TURKEYS, CRANBERRY SAUCE, STUFFING, CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, CANNED SWEET POTATOES, GRAVY MIX, CAKE MIX AND READY MADE ICING.

***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**

