

# **THE MESSIAH HERALD**



**SEPTEMBER, 2011**

## **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**[MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR](#)**

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**[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)**

**“PROCLAIMING GOD’S LOVE REVEALED IN JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE”**

# The Messiah Herald



This month I am writing of the importance of studying the Bible Historically.

Because the writing of the books of the Bible stretches across a couple of thousand years we know intuitively from the experience of our own lifetimes that the world changes and our lives with it. History and the events of history affect how we understand ourselves and our place within the world.

To achieve deeper understanding of scripture it is important for us to understand how the events of the lives of the authors of scripture affected what they wrote about the experience of God.

So in our effort to study the Bible and overcome biblical illiteracy Historical study is an important part of the study, too.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the last three coverletters I have discussed the importance of Bible literacy in our lives as Christians and ways in which we can study scripture to strengthen our understanding and valuing God’s Word. In the last two coverletters I have addressed studying scripture Devotionally and then Literarily.

This month I am writing of n the importance of studying the Bible Historically. While this includes the historical reports contained within the Bible it is far, far more than that, also. Studying the Bible historically includes the history of the people and cultures of the times and places when and where it was written. Because the writing of the books of the Bible stretches across a couple of thousand years we know intuitively from the experience of our own lifetimes that the world changes and our lives with it. History and the events of history affect how we understand ourselves and our place within the world. It affects our optimism and our pessimism about life, our fears and or expectations. It changes how and what we write about including how and what we write about God.

To achieve deeper understanding of scripture it is important for us to understand how the events of the lives of the authors of scripture affected what they wrote about the experience of God. This history includes extended time in Egypt in the stories from Joseph, son of Jacob, through the story of Moses, the Exodus and the journey through the wilderness. The experiences in Egypt marked the history of Israel and the Jewish people forever to this day as it is retold and experienced in the Seder. There is the time of Israel in the Promised Land, the period of the judges and the kings, David and Solomon, the northern and southern kingdoms, the prophets, the exile and more and that is only the Old Testament. There is, also, the time and culture of Israel at the time of Jesus, occupation by the Rome Empire, and there is history of Paul’s missionary journeys and the impact of speaking the Good News of Jesus Christ into Greek cultures and cities. The breadth and depth of history in and around the Bible can seem almost unlimited at times and it all impacts by culture and events the telling the story of God and God’s people. To speak the story of Jesus to Jew or Greek impacted the story of Jesus in unique ways and we need to understand them to maximize our ability to learn from scripture and to avoid falling for the line of folks like Harold Camping who distort and manipulate the word of scripture to their own ends

Our church library has wonderful resources to aid in this historical study of scripture. To great resources are the multi-volume Anchor Dictionary of the Bible and the Interpreters’ Dictionary of the Bible both of which are filled with an enormous amount of information about almost any subject in the Bible. There is, also, the complete Interpreters’ Bible Commentary which provides insight into every biblical passage. And there is always the pastor. I do not have an answer in my head from my seminary training and reading that same training has taught great skills for going about finding you an answer.

One of the simplest and best resources you can have to aid you in your Bible Study is the Lutheran Study Bible which has excellent resource material in the margins and at the beginning of each book of the Bible. It includes, reading plans and devotional guides, but, also, includes maps, cultural insights, and more. Best of all, it has all these things gathered in one albeit large Bible.

So in our effort to study the Bible and overcome biblical illiteracy Historical study is an important part of the study, too.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Bill*

## DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

September 1: Ezekiel 33:7-11  
September 2: Psalm 119:33-40  
September 3: Romans 13:8-14  
September 4: Matthew 18:15-20  
September 5: 1 Peter 2:11-17  
September 6: Romans 13:1-7  
September 7: Matthew 21:18-22  
September 8: Genesis 50:15-21  
September 9: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13  
September 10: Romans 14:1-12  
September 11: Matthew 18:21-35  
September 12: Romans 14:13—15:2  
September 13: Mark 11:20-25  
September 14: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24  
September 15: Jonah 3:10—4:11  
September 16: Psalm 145:1-8  
September 17: Philippians 1:21-30  
September 18: Matthew 20:1-16  
September 19: Romans 16:1-16  
September 20: Romans 16:17-20  
September 21: Matthew 9:9-13  
September 22: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
September 23: Psalm 25:1-9  
September 24: Philippians 2:1-13  
September 25: Matthew 21:23-32  
September 26: Judges 16:1-22  
September 27: Judges 16:23-31  
September 28: Isaiah 5:1-7  
September 29: Revelation 12:7-12  
September 30: Psalm 80:7-15



## 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!**

## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

### LECTORS

4: Linda Bahorik  
11: Andrea Cameron  
18: Diana Wise  
25: Cynthia Smith

### ALTAR GUILD

Aug. 29—Sept. 11 Michelle Stoner  
Sept. 12—Sept. 25 Diana Wise  
Sept. 26—Oct. 2 Linda Clark

### ALTAR FLOWERS

4: Judy Armstrong  
11: Neil & Pat Fisher  
18: Rachael Diamond & Family  
25: Warren & Claire Mummah



Messiah Women of the ELCA met Thursday, August 11, 2011 in the Youth Area.

Before the business meeting, we joyfully packed 70 Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our goal was 70 kits and with the help of the congregation, we have been able to meet this goal. We are grateful for all the support that you, as a congregation, give to assist our projects to come to fruition. This enables us to help meet the needs of the suffering women, men and children of the world. 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.' "

The devotions for the evening were readings by those attending.

We listened to--

- "The Cookie Thief"
- "Be Happy Attitudes"
- "Up To Any Challenge"
- "Animal Crackers and Cocoa to Drink"
- "The Financially Exploitative Person and the Economic Person" The Rich Man and Lazarus from "Politically Correct Parables"
- "Good Things Come to Those Who Wait"
- "Zucchini, Zucchini Everywhere, But Give Me None To Eat"
- "God's Wife, Priceless"
- Quiz about the famous faces on the front and scenes on the backs of money
- A Prayer for the Service People who have died defending our country
- A Prayer for the victims and survivors of September 11, 2001

Thank you to all for the thoughtful, fun and prayerful readings.

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

Business discussed:

- Fall Cluster meeting will be at Allensville.
- Thoughts of possible topics for the Thank-offering Speaker.
- We have 30 School Kits ready to be assembled for Lutheran World Relief.

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area with Dottie Smith as devotional leader. We will also begin assembling the School Kits for the October shipment of Lutheran World Relief. Hostesses for quarterly refreshments are Cynthia Smith and Linda Leister.

The meeting was closed 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**

Blanket Sunday will be observed on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

Along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelopes that are attached to the newsletters throughout the church (envelopes are also available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room).

Please make checks payable to Messiah Women of the ELCA and take this opportunity to serve as Christ's helping hands in our world today!

## **PASTORAL ACTS**

- Wedding: 7/30/11, Erin Maugans & Matt Harris
- Funerals: 8/8/11, Floyd Covert  
8/17/11, Helen Coder  
8/28/11, Arlene McLain

## **SUMMER SCHEDULE ENDS**

Early summer services will continue through September 4, 2011 at 9:15 a.m.

Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. will resume on September 11, 2011.

## **“THE NEEDLERS”**

“The Needlers” will begin their sewing project on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Anyone interested in helping to make patch quilts for local and World Relief, please come and join us!

## **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS**

### LOCUST GROVE

Jean McNaight (Cottage #5)  
Ethel Bossinger     Sue Collins  
Sis Stetler

### BROOKLINE

Flo Beale                     Virginia Feaster  
Marian Gross  
Anna Mary Zimmerman

### BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

Goldie Kauffman     Carol Simonton

### HONNEMAN HOUSE, THOMPSONTOWN

Ruth Cisney             Ray Bramm

### ELMCROFT OF REEDSVILLE

Helen Knox

### LAKEVIEW SENIOR CARE CENTER, SMETHPORT, PA

Cathryn Renninger

### NORTH STREET MANOR

Florence Beasom

### AT HOME

Cassie Smith  
Reba Sigler

### OTHERS OF CONCERN

--Martha Hicks, Locust Grove (Barb S.  
Geedey's Aunt)  
--Craig Walker  
--Dorothy Patterson (Cindy Van  
Gavree's Mother)  
--Jane Marhefka, at home  
--Fannie King, at home  
--Bud Crawford, at Brookline

## **NEW MEMBER CLASSES**

New Member Classes will be held on Sundays September 18 and 25 during the Sunday School hour.

If you wish to attend, please contact the church office at 436-6213.

## **FALL BIBLE STUDY**

Anyone who would like to attend the Fall Bible Study on the Book of Revelation should notify the church office or Pastor Esborn by **September 4, 2011** so materials can be ordered.

Bible Study will begin on September 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. and will be a total of 6 weeks.

## **VOTERS ASSEMBLY**

The next Voters Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, September 18, 2011 following the morning worship service.

Business: Quarterly reports of the boards. **NOTE:** PPC Board Directors are asked to submit their proposed 2012 budgets to Ken Eyler by the next PPC meeting (October 16, 2011). You may place them in Ken's mailbox in the church office or by email to [keyler@nmax.net](mailto:keyler@nmax.net).

## **COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Juniata County Fair Community Worship Service will be held on Sunday evening, September 4, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at Frankhouse Field (Port Royal Little League Field), adjacent to Tuscarora Valley Elementary School.

Bring a lawn chair and possibly bug spray. Important suggestion – Arrive at 5:00 p.m. to secure a parking space and your lawn chair seating positions. In the event of wet weather conditions, the worship service will be held in the Port Royal Lutheran Church at 4<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets. A free-will offering will be collected.

## **RELAY FOR LIFE SPAGHETTI DINNER**

An all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by Joe's OIP of Lewistown, will be held on Sunday, September 25, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. in Messiah's Fellowship Hall.

Cost is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children (4-12), and children 3 and under FREE (take-out orders available).

Dinner includes spaghetti (with plain or meat sauce), salad, bread, beverage, and dessert. Monetary donations would be gratefully accepted. Tickets are available at the door.

## **CROP WALK**

The Juniata County CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at the Walker Township Park—**RAIN OR SHINE!**



Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the Walk at 1:30 p.m. The Short Walk will be 3 laps and the Long Walk will be 15 laps. There will be drawings for prizes periodically during the walk time. Games and activities will be provided throughout the afternoon and possibly some entertainment (but nothing confirmed as of this time).

Tee Shirts will be available for persons with pledges totaling \$100 or more. Tee Shirts will also be sold for \$10 each after registration time is over. Please bring all pledge money to turn in on walk day!

If you have any questions, call Becky Zeigler at 463-2309 or Kathy Whitesel at 436-2401. Sign-up sheets and donation envelopes are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

## **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](mailto: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](http://www.mlcmifflintown.org).

## **2011 NOMINATION(S) FOR FOOD PANTRY**

September is the time to nominate new members to the Food Pantry Board of Directors.

At the annual meeting on October 27, three seats will be filled on the 9-member board. Members agree to serve a 3-year term, and the board meets once a month on the first Tuesday.

If you know someone in your church or community who has a heart for feeding the hungry, please consider nominating them for a position on the board. Nomination forms are available in the Adult Sunday School Room. Please return the form no later than **September 15, 2011.**

## **APARTMENT FOR RENT**

A four-room apartment is available for rent to a Christian single or couple at the JAM House, 14 Cottage Road, Suite A, Mifflin, PA 17058 (phone 436-2163).

Apartment includes living room, kitchen, bedroom, and bath in a quiet lovely location (NO PETS). Rooms are nice sized and just recently painted and are located across the street from Locust Grove Retirement Community.

If you are interested in seeing the apartment or need more information, please call 717-320-3165.

## **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

### **(W)HOLY, (W)HOLY, (W)HOLY** **Health Healing & Wholeness Article** **September 2011**

Last night I watched the movie Marley and Me – the story of an incorrigible yellow Labrador Retriever, who defied all attempts to become a civilized member of his family. The only thing harder than trying to train Marley, is training a beagle! As the story progresses, we see that what has been said about pets is true – they love you unconditionally! You may have had a lousy day, but your pet doesn't hold that against you. You may have had to scold them, but they forgive in a matter of minutes. When you emotionally invest yourself into relationships with them, their passing is felt as deeply as if they had been two-, rather than four-legged, companions. So, this month's column is dedicated to Marley, and all pets who love unconditionally.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the website, MayoClinic.com, pets offer numerous health benefits.

- 1) *"Scientists have found that people who owned dogs were more likely to be alive, one year after suffering a heart attack than were people who didn't own dogs.*
- 2) *In comparisons of the heart rate and blood pressure of people without pets versus those of pet owners, people with pets had lower heart rates and blood pressure levels. An added benefit was that people with pets also had less increase in their heart rate and blood pressure when put under stress. Their*

*blood pressure also dropped faster after a stressful event.*

- 3) *Studies of older adults have found that those who shared their lives with pets were less likely to experience depression, were better able to tolerate living alone, and were more active than their counterparts who didn't have pets."*

Pets can increase your opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities, and your opportunities for socialization.

I'd like to share the following observations someone once made about life lessons from a dog....

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a ride with someone you love.
- On hot days, drink lots of water.
- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- Run, romp, and play daily.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.
- If someone scolds you, forgive quickly.
- If something you want is buried, dig until you find it.
- Never pretend to be something you're not.
- Be loyal.

Will there be pets in heaven? I think so, and to them I believe God will also say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done!"

If you have recently lost a beloved pet, and are having some difficulty adjusting, here are a few books that may be helpful:

Pet Loss: A Thoughtful Guide for Adults and Children by A. Fischer & A. H. Nieburg.  
Joy in a Woolly Coat: Living with, Loving and Letting Go of Treasured Animal Friends by J. A. Church. Good books for children, The Tenth Good thing About Barney by Judith Viorst, and Mr. Roger's First Experience: When a Pet Dies by Fred Rogers.

Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA



**Juniata County Food Pantry**  
**September Update**

Thank you so much for your faithful support as we struggled through the tough summer months. In July 2011, the Food Pantry served 267 families in need—a total of 751 individuals.

Many thanks to our faithful churches who supported us with donations of food, supplies and money in July. A special thank you to Port Royal Lutheran Church for providing volunteers for the month of July.

**Fundraisers and Food Drives:** Watch for local restaurants hosting a “Help Feed the Hungry” fundraiser each month for the next 3 months. Eat there on the specified date and present the attached coupons (extra sheets of coupons available in Adult Sunday School Room), and a portion of your bill will be donated to the Food Pantry. First in the line-up is the Red Zone on Saturday, September 24. Watch the Penn State game on big screen TV while enjoying an excellent meal and helping the Food Pantry at the same time! The Weis Market is also holding a “Fight Hunger” Food Drive the month of September with donations benefiting the Food Pantry, and don’t forget Agway’s 5% of sales fundraiser on September 16-17.

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

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER**

**FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, SHAMPOO, TOOTHBRUSHES,  
TOOTHPASTE, AND DEODORANT**

**WE ALSO 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**

<p><b>THE RED ZONE</b> <b>Sports Bar &amp; Grille</b> 436-0240, 34 Envision Dr. Rte 35 N. Mifflintown <b>Is Helping Feed the Hungry</b> SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 11:00 AM—1:00 AM Present this coupon and 20% of your payment will be donated to the <b>JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY</b></p>	<p><b>THE RED ZONE</b> <b>Sports Bar &amp; Grille</b> 436-0240, 34 Envision Dr. Rte 35 N. Mifflintown <b>Is Helping Feed the Hungry</b> SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011 11:00 AM—1:00 AM Present this coupon and 20% of your payment will be donated to the <b>JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY</b></p>
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