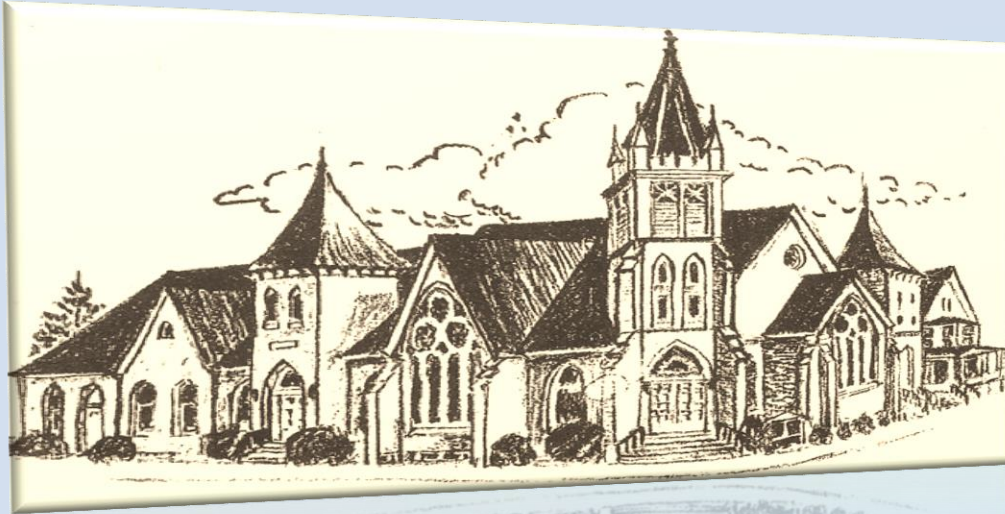


THE MESSIAH HERALD



JULY, 2015

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

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THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

35 SCENIC VIEW DRIVE

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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



July 2015

Recently some politicians have decried statements of the Pope Francis suggesting that he should tend to things spiritual and leave things political alone.

I am not sure how one separates faith and life in that way.

Christ’s whole ministry was spent impacting the everyday reality of people’s lives. He fed people, he healed people, and he taught people. He taught them about the practical realities of sin and grace and how to live their lives as caretakers of the least of these.

What the Pope sees and understands is that for the believers true faith touches every aspect of life. There is no way for it not to impact politics because it impacts life.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently some politicians have decried statements of the Pope Francis suggesting that he should tend to things spiritual and leave things political alone. Such suggestions were rarely heard when past popes had addressed topics, such as, abortion which were often exploited by some for political leverage. But behind the idea that the Pope should keep silent or should speak only to certain subjects is the issue of the intersection of faith and life.

I am not sure how one separates faith and life in that way. We teach that from the moment we are baptized God is the central reality in our life and that we have been freed from sin and death to be a new creation in the Body of Christ. Christ’s whole ministry was spent impacting the everyday reality of people’s lives. He fed people, he healed people, and he taught people. He taught them about the practical realities of sin and grace and how to live their lives as caretakers of the least of these.

Each Sunday we confess together that God is the creator of all. In Genesis we learn that as creator God has given us a tremendous responsibility as stewards of that creation. Such stewardship means a responsibility to care for, protecting and nurturing, this planet rather than exploiting and abusing it.

We confess Jesus as our Lord and Savior speaking of God incarnate and present to us in the midst of history. Jesus calls us to love God and neighbor showing us how by loving we are to set aside self interest for the good of all. Jesus shows us the power of the cross and how accepting the limits of life daily and the contrasting abundance of life with God sets us free to pour out our lives for others.

And we confess the Holy Spirit and all the ways through which God continues to support and nurture us. In the Holy Spirit God is continually reforming our lives by grace through faith, through the support of community, through the sacraments, and a promise that the end of this life is not the end of our relationship with God.

What the Pope sees and understands is that for the believers true faith touches every aspect of life. There is no way for it not to impact politics because it impacts life. It shapes how we interact with our world as creation, it opens our eyes to see the suffering and the needs of those around us, and it calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and keeps us in love with God and our neighbor.

If one’s faith is not impacting the choices one makes and the way in which one lives life why would one bother with attempting to claim the label, “Christian.” Just calling oneself a Christian means very little. Following Christ and living out our baptismal calling is what it means to be Christian. To be a Christian is to be continually reformed, “imago dei,” in the image of Christ. Being a Christian has consequences, it is what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called, “costly grace.”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

July 1: Ezekiel 2:1-5
July 2: Psalm 123
July 3: John 14:1-7
July 4: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
July 5: Mark 6:1-13
July 6: Amos 5:1-9
July 7: Amos 9:1-4
July 8: Amos 9:11-15
July 9: Amos 7:7-15
July 10: Psalm 85:8-13
July 11: Ephesians 1:3-14
July 12: Mark 6:14-29
July 13: Acts 17:16-31
July 14: Luke 15:1-7
July 15: Psalm 100
July 16: Jeremiah 23:1-6
July 17: Psalm 23
July 18: Ephesians 2:11-22
July 19: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
July 20: Philippians 4:10-20
July 21: 2 Kings 4:42-44
July 22: John 20:1-2, 11-18
July 23: Psalm 145:10-18
July 24: Ephesians 3:14-21
July 25: Acts 11:27--12:3a
July 26: John 6:1-21
July 27: Numbers 11:16-23, 31-32
July 28: Deuteronomy 8:1-20
July 29: Isaiah 55:1-9
July 30: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15
July 31: Psalm 78:23-29



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!

JULY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

5: Briley Holderman
12: Kate Swailes
19: Briley Holderman
26: Linda Bahorik

ALTAR GUILD

June 22—July 5 Sandy Pines
July 6—July 12 Barb Geedey
July 13—July 26 Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner

ALTAR FLOWERS

5: Guy Dillman Family
12: OPEN
19: OPEN
26: OPEN



WELCA met on Thursday, June 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with Jean Compton leading the group in devotions. She led the group in the second session of "Knitting the Scarf" based on Ephesians 4:11-16. She will continue with the Stitches and Scripture program in August or September when we will begin our next knitting session finishing the scarves and starting dishcloths.

Barb Geedey led the business meeting. Discussion was held regarding the Farm Project. Barb will bring in a farm display and reminder of the project, and will announce on Sunday that the project will begin Sunday, June 21. Checks or cash will be accepted. Checks should be made

out to WELCA with a note for the "Farm Project."

Everyone who attended the WELCA Convention last year received an application to register for this year on Saturday, July 25 at Camp Mt. Luther. Linda Leister and Cynthia Smith will attend from our group. Cynthia will go this year as our delegate as Barb will not be able to attend. If anyone is interested in attending the Convention they may contact Barb, Cynthia, or Linda.

We discussed the Seafarers Project and Linda will try to get the bags at Synod Convention.

We will begin collecting items for our School Kits in July as sales will be starting. Items needed are 4—70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper 8" X 10½", one 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, one pencil sharpener, one pair of blunt scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, 5 ballpoint pens, one box of 16 or 24 crayons, and one 2½" eraser. The items should be placed on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

Refreshments were provided by Barb Geedey and Velma Suloff.

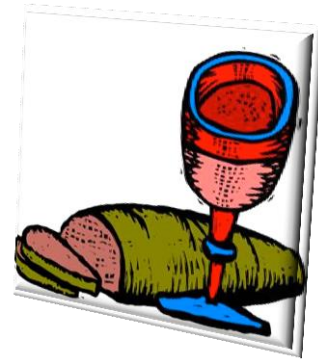
Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Cynthia Smith will lead the devotions.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Sam Leister on becoming an Authorized Lay Worship

Leader at the Synod Assembly at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove.



WEDNESDAY SUMMER COMMUNION

Wednesday evening "informal communion" will be held during the summer months at 6:30 p.m. in the Junior Church Room for those who cannot make it to the services on Sunday mornings and still wish to partake of the Lord's Supper.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank you, our congregational family here at Messiah for your love and support throughout the past months as I pursued the Authorized Lay Worship Leader program for the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

As I have served you through our worship times, so I anticipate serving those beyond our community. Thank you also for the book, "Introducing the Bible" by John Drane.

I would like to specifically thank our young folks who have helped as acolytes, crucifers, ushers, communion assistants and mentors of these children. You are our future worship leaders! And thank you to Pastor Esborn for the time and attention in meetings, discussions, and worship services during my training. Your mentorship was a huge aid in attaining the Authorized Lay Worship Leader designation.

Sam Leister

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone for supporting Vacation Bible School at Messiah on June 23-25. We had an ambitious crew of volunteers and a great group of kids.

Thank you also for donating items for the snacks and the Pool Party.

Kate Swailes



CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

Church service and picnic will be held on Sunday, July 12th at the Mifflintown playground beginning at 10:30 a.m. **NOTE**

THE CHANGE IN TIME FOR THE CHURCH SERVICE.

The picnic will follow the service. Please bring a covered dish/dessert (if you are able). Ham and chicken will be provided as well as drink and place settings. Anyone who would like to attend is asked to call the church office at 436-6213 **no later than July 8th.**

The Boyz will be singing between the end of church and the picnic. There will be games/activities for the children.

COME AND ENJOY GOOD FOOD AND SOCIAL TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS. BRING LAWN CHAIRS!



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Volunteer cooks, drivers, and people to help assemble meals are needed. **Cooks are especially needed for the 5th Tuesday and 5th Friday of the month.**

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

“JUMP-START” BLOG

As we progress in “jump starting” children’s and youth Sunday School at Messiah, the members of the Board of Christian Education have contacted all the parents of age eligible children and secured their commitment to support a Sunday School by assuring their children attend regularly. We believe over 30 children are to be enrolled. At our June 17th meeting some vital Sunday School dynamics were addressed:

1. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the traditional time for Sunday School will remain at 9:15 – to 10:15 AM.
2. Sunday School will break during the Summer and restart in the Fall for the obvious reason of allowing time for

both children and teachers to regenerate.

3. We hope to have four classes: Nursery, K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-12th. These cut-offs always involve a compromise of sorts. Our decisions were based on the actual numbers and ages of our children, the ease of adapting materials to span the ages, and the dynamic of older children opting for catechism training.
4. Our goal is to have TWO teachers assigned to each class so as to provide flexibility for them and ward off "burn-out."
5. There will be a facilitator (or head teacher) to test the pulse of the workings of the Sunday School who can identify trouble spots and either eliminate them or refer them to the Board for resolution.
6. Act 34 was discussed. This is the new PA law that requires background checks for public school teachers and any volunteers directly interacting with children. Sunday School teachers fall under the umbrella of this law. Across the State hundreds of thousands of people will have to comply – the greater number have complied already. The Governor has recently waived the costs of these checks for the vast majority of volunteers involved. Like the rest of the churches in the commonwealth, we will have to comply – a sign of our times.
7. We will soon be recruiting teachers by way of personal contacts. EVERYONE in the congregation should have a "church job." Being a Sunday School teacher is this and MUCH MORE. It is a calling and a privilege. It will require commitment and dedication. It is vital to the health of our church and to the spiritual growth of the next generation.

LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Gettysburg Seminary is again offering its Lay School of Theology this summer at Gettysburg Seminary, July 26 – August 1. This year's theme is Traveling Grace: Land and Spiritual Geographies.

Registrations for one day, several days or the whole week are available. Please see Ann Beaver if you are interested. Sign-up deadline is July 10, 2015.

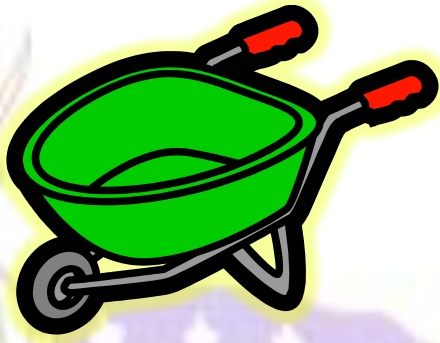
IN HOME SERVICES OF CENTRAL PA

In Home Services of Central PA – Helping Senior Citizens in **providing a MULTITUDE of services** such as:

- Housekeeping
- Meal Preparation/Catering
- Laundry Services
- Running of Errands
- Grocery/Personal Shopping
- Companionship
- Personal Assistance
- Home Maintenance/Painting
- Technology/Computer Assistance
- Gardening
- Bookkeeping/Banking Assistance
- Insurance Billing/Benefits Research
- Pet Care
- Assistance with Holidays/Parties/Yard Sales
- Assistance with Making a Move/Downsizing
- Beautician/Barber Services
- Alterations/Mending
- Medical Set-up & Monitoring by Nurse
- Transportation To All Appointments

Let us be **YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT!** For more details, please call 888-881-2046. Serving Centre, Mifflin and Juniata Counties (LOCALLY OWNED). Check out our website: InHomeServicesofCentralPA.com

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.

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Summer and vacation time are 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. If you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE,
PAPER SUPPLIES: TISSUES, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS,
OVER-THE-COUNTER ALLERGY MEDICATIONS

WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH AND
GIFT CARDS FOR GROCERY & DISCOUNT STORES.

**NOTE: WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING PLASTIC
GROCERY BAGS OR EGG CARTONS! THANK YOU!**

Address: P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone #: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tuesday 9-12 & 2-6, Saturday 9-12

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to accept donations

Visit our **Website:** www.jcfoodpantry.com

Like us on **Face Book!**

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATACOUNTY FOOD PANTRY. (CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH). Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com