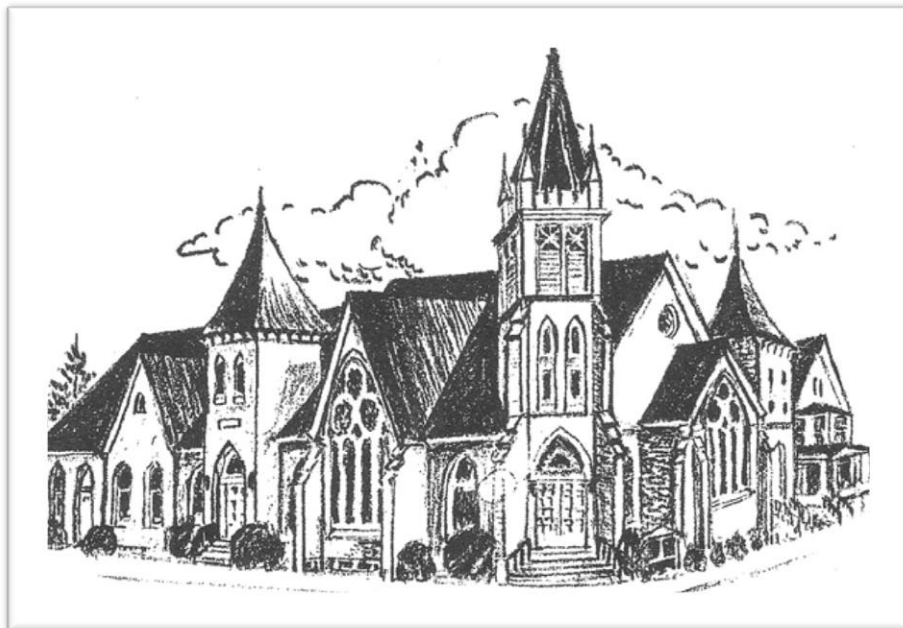


THE MESSIAH HERALD



JUNE, 2015

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

www.mlcmifflintown.org
mlcmifflintown@pa.net

THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

35 SCENIC VIEW DRIVE
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-9425

pastoresborn@pa.net

MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

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

The Messiah Herald



June 2015

Ten Biblical Marks of a Missional Congregation

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A great deal has been made out of recent PEW Foundation survey concerning spiritual and religious trends in the U.S.. The percentage of Christian but unaffiliated persons, meaning those not attending and not identifying connection to any specific Christian denomination grew by 6.7% from 16.1% to 22.8%. Every other category of Christian denomination including, Roman Catholic, Evangelical Protestant and Mainline Protestant (including the ELCA) all decreased from 2007 to 2014. At the same time non-Christian faith traditions grew from 4.7% to 5.9%. <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

Clearly, the American religious landscape is changing. The trends above are most pronounced among 20-30 somethings but it is not limited to those age groups. I, also, cuts across racial lines.

What does this mean for us as a Christian community and as a Lutheran community? It means that we need to continue to recognize that the faith community grows internally and needs to move outside the doors of the church as I noted in a previous coverletter. It means we, also, need to consider how we do things internally. Sunday school has been a program dying across much of the church for a full generation. It is statistically being diminished quicker than worship participation. I am presently reading a book by Rev. Dr. Rich Melheim entitled, “Let’s Kill Sunday School (Before It Kills the Church).”

What Rich Melheim is saying is that we as the church, the Body of Christ, need to recognize is that the same old, same old no longer works in our present culture. We can whine and complain about that, we can lament that, we can fear that or we can step out of our comfort zone and take risks seeking to find new ways and new opportunities to do ministry.

What this means is that we must learn new ways of listening, seeing and engaging the world. Note that I began that sentence with listening. Just like the old political saw, “People need to know you care before they care what you know,” our path into the unknown begins with listening. It begins with listening to the challenges our families, our neighbors, our neighborhoods, and our world. Listening means more than hearing the words it means hearing the emotions and hearing the realities of their lives. It means having genuine interest in them as persons and children created by God whether they know the story of Jesus or not.

I am presently part of a synodical task force working to create an 18-24 month program for congregations across the synod based on Dr. Stephen Bouman’s book, “The Mission Table” because more than at any time in the last two generations we need to discover new ways of serving Jesus in our world.

Bob Dylan sang, “The Times Are a Changing.” For this reason we, too, must be transformed by the Holy Spirit. In the column to the left are Rev. Dr. Stephen Bouman’s marks of a congregation in mission. Read them, learn them they can help to lead us out the door and into the world. Jesus said to his disciples, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” Hear those words, “preach the good news to all creation.” itis all outside our doors.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

A congregation in Mission is always listening

A congregation in mission reroots in community.

A congregation in mission is propelled by the resurrection of Jesus.

A congregation in mission is shaped by Word and sacraments.

A congregation in mission mentors and trains its leaders

A congregation in mission nurtures communal leadership.

A congregation in mission makes all decisions based on its mission

A congregation in mission is clear about money and relationships.

A congregation in mission makes all decisions based on its mission.

A congregation in mission is clear about money and relationships.

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

June	1: Romans 12:9-16b
June	2: 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
June	3: Numbers 6:22-27
June	4: Genesis 3:8-15
June	5: Psalm 130
June	6: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
June	7: Mark 3:20-35
June	8: Galatians 6:11-18
June	9: Revelation 21:10, 32-22:5
June	10: Ezekiel 17:22-24
June	11: Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3
June	12: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
June	13: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
June	14: Mark 4:26-34
June	15: Acts 20:1-16
June	16: Acts 21:1-16
June	17: Job 37:1-13
June	18: Job 38:1-11
June	19: Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
June	20: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
June	21: Mark 4:35-41
June	22: Acts 27:13-38
June	23: Acts 27:39-44
June	24: Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]
June	25: Lamentations 3:22-33
June	26: Psalm 30
June	27: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15
June	28: Mark 5:21-43
June	29: John 21:15-19
June	30: Jeremiah 16:1-13



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!

JUNE SCHEDULES

LECTORS

7: Bob St. Clair
14: Barb S. Geedey
21: Ron Yorks
28: Cynthia Smith

ALTAR GUILD

May 25—June 7 Linda Leister
(cup communion – Clint & Jamie Miller)
June 8—June 21 Michelle Stoner
June 22—July 5 Sandy Pines

ALTAR FLOWERS

7: OPEN
14: In honor of WELCA
21: OPEN
28: George & Kay Varner



WELCA met on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Devotions were led by Jean Compton. She spoke on Psalm 138 which was the lead into our knitting project we held at the church this Spring. We hope to have another knitting project in the Fall.

The business meeting was led by Barb Geedey. Barb stated that the mission collection from Bible School will go toward the new project the ladies will be starting soon. The project will be to raise money for ELCA Good Gifts and in particular a Family Farm. Information will be presented to the congregation very soon. The cost of the Family Farm is \$715.00 and will provide a cow, goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, agricultural training and

marketing support.

Barb announced that the annual convention will be held at Camp Mt. Luther on Saturday, July 25, 2015. Barb will get information from the web site as the registration forms are not going to be sent out by mail.

Our next meeting will be held on June 11th with Jean Compton leading devotions on the next session of the knitting project. Barb Geedey and Velma Suloff will provide refreshments.

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.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year Messiah will be hosting VBS and St. Jude's Catholic Church will be joining us.

We will be turning Messiah into a science lab for three evenings on Tuesday, June 23 through Thursday, June 25, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:15 p.m. for children of preschool age to children entering 6th grade in the Fall. There will be a pool party on Friday, June 26th at the Mifflin Pool and the closing program will be held at Messiah at 9:15 a.m. on June 28th. Children should preregister by June 15th.

See Kate Swailes about volunteer opportunities that are still available or sign up at the VBS table at the back of the sanctuary by the baptismal font.



SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

Summer worship services will begin on June 7, 2015 at 9:15 a.m. and end on September 6.

Regular worship services will begin on September 13.



WEDNESDAY SUMMER COMMUNION

Wednesday evening "informal communion" will be held during the summer months beginning June 10, 2015 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.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The next Voters' Assembly will be held on Sunday, June 21, 2015 following the worship service.

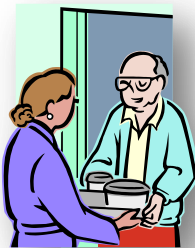
Business: approval of previous minutes and quarterly board reports.



CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

The Congregational Picnic will be held Sunday, July 12, 2015 beginning with the worship service at the Mifflintown Playground followed by the picnic lunch.

Mark the date on your calendar. Details will be in upcoming bulletins.



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

CHURCH TREASURER NEEDED

Messiah has a position opening for church treasurer. Requirements are: the position of church treasurer must be held by an adult member of the congregation. A knowledge in proper accounting procedures is preferred.

Any person interested in more information about this position may contact the church office in order to obtain a complete written job description. Further questions may be directed to PPC Executive Director, Kenneth Mummah or Pastor Esborn. Church office phone number is 436-6213, email address is messiahlutheran@pa.net.



HOME COMMUNION

The Compassionate Services Committee is looking for people who would like to give Communion to our shut-ins.

One hour of training will be available for those not already trained. A rotating schedule of our shut-ins will be used on a quarterly basis.

If interested in this important ministry, contact Don Geedey (phone: 436-6433 or email: geedey@centurylink.net).

OPERATION “JUMP-START”

The Board of Christian Education is now staffed with the necessary minimum number of persons needed to conduct business. The new Director is Steve Bahorik. The Board recently met to address the demise of Youth Sunday School at Messiah. The Board discussed probable causes for the decline and stoppage, and it outlined the steps needed to be taken to enliven the Sunday School and allow it to prosper.

We will keep the congregation apprised of progress, and we will aggressively seek your support in “Operation Jump-Start.” There **WILL** be a Youth Sunday School in operation come next Fall.

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.

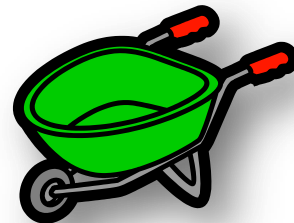
IN HOME SERVICES OF CENTRAL PA

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](tel: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 June Update

Thank you and may the Lord bless you in abundance for your faithful support of the Food Pantry! In April, the Food Pantry served 360 families in need – a total of 943 individuals. Many thanks to Locust Run United Methodist Church for sending volunteers in April.

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 FOR JUNE:

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*

