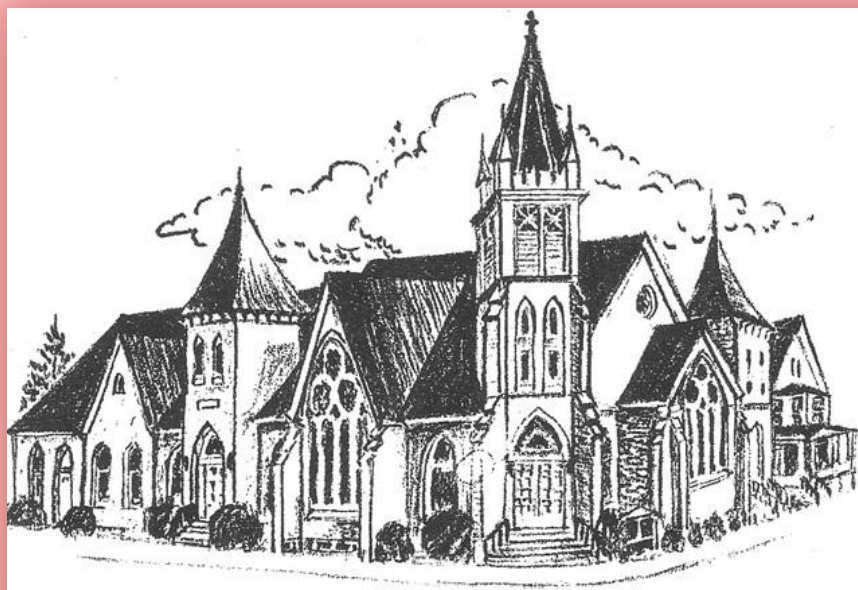


THE MESSIAH HERALD



*Happy
Thanksgiving*

NOVEMBER, 2015

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Website: www.mlc-mifflintown.org

Email: messiahlutheran@pa.net



THE REV. WILLIAM N. ESBORN, PASTOR

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

Email: pastoresborn@pa.net

MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

The Messiah Herald



November 2015

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Being in the world means exactly that. We are called to be in the midst of the world. It is **where** we are to be. It is not, however, **how** we are to be.

The world is obsessed with many things. It is obsessed with wealth and money, with power, with security, etc., etc. None of these things are what Jesus identified as essential to the kingdom of God. Presently, there is a huge international refugee crisis involving people from Syria and the region.

This is the world we are in. How will we as the church respond? How will we hold forth our calling to love our neighbor in fulfillment of our love of God?

These are hard thoughts living “in the world but not of it.”

Being in the world means exactly that. We are called to be in the midst of the world. It is **where** we are to be. It is not, however, **how** we are to be. We are not “of the world.” We are of Christ. We are to love God above everything and our neighbor as our self. These are the things for which we have been set apart, things for which we have been made holy.

The world is obsessed with many things. It is obsessed with wealth and money, with power, with security, etc. etc. None of these things are what Jesus identified as essential to the kingdom of God. Jesus said love God more than anything including those things I just mentioned and love your neighbor as yourself.

Presently, there is a huge international refugee crisis involving people from Syria and the region. These are people caught between the fragile governments and tyrants of the region and the anarchists of ISIL/ISIS. These refugees include families fleeing in an attempt to save their future and hope for their children. People so desperate they are willing to risk dying at sea on overloaded boats and floats to avoid immediate threat of death.

This is the world we are in. How will we as the church respond? How will we hold forth our calling to love our neighbor in fulfillment of our love of God? Are we willing to risk security for the sake of hospitality? Are we willing to share our resources however limited they may be because others have nothing? Are we willing to call our government to accountability for our part in the issues of the region? Or we will say we have done too much already and simply dismiss ourselves from any responsibility and any willingness to risk ourselves for others?

When asked to host 50 Syrian refugees 10,000 homes in Iceland committed to welcoming Syrian refugees into their midst. Pope Francis has challenged every parish in Europe to welcome a refugee family into their midst. U.S. recently had committed only to receiving 1,500, then 10,000 and possibly 100,000. Can't we, also, do more? What can we at Messiah do? If you have suggestions let me know.

Yes, most of the refugees are Muslim. Jesus welcomed encounters with many others of different faith and cultures like Samaritans and Syro-Phoenicians. **Yes, they are our neighbors, too.** Yes, these refugees today come from an area of the world rife with hate for us and there is risk in that. Jesus welcomed the outcaste even breaking bread with them. **Yes, they are our neighbors, too.** Yes, the expense of aiding up to 6.5 million refugees is intimidating. Jesus taught the rich young ruler that giving away everything for the kingdom of God gains more than it loses. **Yes, they are our neighbor, too.** Yes, many of us are struggling as part of a diminishing Middle Class in America. **Yes, they are our neighbors, too.** Will we love our neighbor?

We are called to be “in the world but not of it.” Christ has died to set us free from death and the fear of dying so that being of Christ we can risk incredible things because **every** man, woman, and child is our neighbor. What are we to do?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

- November 1: John 11:32-44
November 2: Numbers 36:1-13
November 3: Deuteronomy 15:1-11
November 4: Romans 5:6-11
November 5: 1 Kings 17:8-16
November 6: Psalm 146
November 7: Hebrews 9:24-28
November 8: Mark 12:38-44
November 9: Ruth 1:1-22
November 10: Ruth 3:14-4:6
November 11: Ruth 4:7-22
November 12: Daniel 12:1-3
November 13: Psalm 16
November 14: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18]
19-25
November 15: Mark 13:1-8
November 16: Daniel 8:1-14
November 17: Daniel 8:15-27
November 18: Mark 13:9-23
November 19: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
November 20: Psalm 93
November 21: Revelation 1:4b-8
November 22: John 18:33-37
November 23: Daniel 7:19-27
November 24: Revelation 11:15-19
November 25: Jeremiah 33:14-16
November 26: Matthew 6:25-33
November 27: Psalm 25:1-10
November 28: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
November 29: Luke 21:25-36
November 30: John 1:35-42



PRAYER CHAIN

Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dkint@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!**

NOVEMBER SCHEDULES

LECTORS

- 1: Marina Holderman
8: Jean Compton
15: Linda Bahorik
22: Cynthia Smith
29: Barb S. Geedey

ALTAR GUILD

- Oct. 26—Nov. 1 Diana Wise & Tawny Mummah
(cup communion, Nov. 1 – Clint & Jamie Miller)
Nov. 2—Nov. 29 Christie Holderman & Stacie Kint
(cup communion, Nov. 22 – Clint & Jamie Miller)
Nov. 30—Dec. 6 Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 1: In honor of Dan & Michelle Stoner's Anniversary
8: OPEN
15: OPEN
22: Warren & Claire Mummah
29: OPEN

CRUCIFERS

- 1: Tai Kepler
8: Jared Hutchinson
15: Malin Kint
22: Marina Holderman
29: Tai Kepler

ACOLYTES

- 1: Harrison Mummah & Tyler Rosenberry
8: Caden Swailes & Nate Swailes
15: Emma Arentz & Livia Arentz
22: Haley Mummah & Harrison Mummah
29: Tyler Rosenberry & Emma Hazard



Messiah Women of the ELCA met on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. Brief devotions were held and members finished packing the following items.

- 33 School Kits
- 300 Quilts
- 81.5 Pounds of Soap

Thanks to all who contributed items. A special thanks to all who contributed their time and effort in making the Quilts—a Wonderful Blessing for those in Need.

Thankoffering Sunday is November 8th.

Christmas Angel Project – Women of the ELCA will be sponsoring 7 children this year. A poster with the information is on the bulletin board in the Kitchenette. Gifts are to be wrapped, labeled with the child's name and family number, and returned to the Adult Sunday School Room by **December 6th**.

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.

Our next meeting will be held on November 12, 2015 at 7:00 in the Youth Area.

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

STORE GIFT CARDS

Giant Store Gift Cards are also now available as well as the Weis Cards to purchase from members of the Disciples Class.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2016 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly the 1st Sunday of May. If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Esborn or the church office.



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 are again being collected this year, now through December, to benefit Bethesda Mission. Everyone is encouraged to donate as many cans as you are able.

VOTERS' ASSEMBLY

The next Voters' Assembly will be held on Sunday, November 15, 2015 following the morning worship service.

Business: quarterly reports of the boards and voting on 2016 proposed budget.



FREE BLACK WALNUTS

The walnut tree in the old church cemetery lot (between parking lot and Ron Shearer's house) has a good crop of walnuts this year.

If anyone could use walnuts, please pick them up at your convenience.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Board of Worship and Music recently conducted an online survey, to which 50 persons from our congregation replied. In our survey, we asked questions pertaining to the possible combining of services for Christmas Eve, beginning with this Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th. Eighty four percent of those responding said they would appreciate one service being held instead of two, combining features from the Family Service and the later Communion/Candlelight service.

With that in mind, the Board of Worship and Music has elected to go with the following information for Christmas Eve 2015. The 2015 Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve Service will be one service, beginning at 7:30 PM, preceded by 15 to 25 minutes of special Christmas music. This service will be a combined service of family, communion, and candle lighting. The junior and senior choirs will both provide anthems throughout the service and scripture and carols will be part of the service as well.

More details about this service will be forthcoming in November. If you are willing to help be a part of this service – lecturing, candle lighting, church lights (during candle lighting), communion attendants, ushers for offering, greeters, etc., please let Diana Wise, Bob St. Clair, or Pastor Esborn know. We look forward to this being a VERY special service this year and are anticipating the arrival of the Advent and Christmas seasons at Messiah!

CHANGE OF ENVELOPES

Please note that your church envelope will look different in 2016. Resource Management Director, Bob Hazard approved Bob St. Clair's research to make a change of envelope for a savings of \$200.

More information will be forthcoming when the envelopes arrive.

SECRETARY'S WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS

Hours are as follows:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday – 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



JUNIATA VALLEY

INTERNATIONAL GIFTS

The Juniata Valley International Gifts and Bake Goods Sale will be held on Friday, November 20, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cedar Grove Brethren In Christ Church, Mifflintown.

Find us on Facebook for contests, information and more!

www.JuniataInternationalGiftsSale.com.

APARTMENT FOR RENT AT JAM HOUSE

The board of directors at JAM House is looking for an individual or a couple to

rent the four-room apartment attached to our house. The apartment has a separate entrance, parking and all utilities are included with the \$800/mo. Rent.

If you know of someone who may be interested, please contact Larry Wise at 436-6629.



COMMUNITY CHORUS

Community Chorus rehearsals will be held on the following dates listed below 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.

Tuesday, November 3

Monday, November 9

Tuesday, November 17

Monday, November 23

Monday, December 7

Tuesday, December 15

This year's 19th annual Christmas Cantata performance "The Winter Rose" will be held Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Juniata High School Auditorium with live tableaux as an enhancement to the overall presentation. Should weather conditions present a need to postpone the December 20th event (December 21st and 22nd at 7:00 p.m. are available snow dates).

A special presentation will also be performed for area senior citizens on Friday, December 18th at 2:00 p.m. in the JHS Auditorium.

TOWN HALL MEETING

Heroin in Our Town? A Town Hall Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Juniata High School Auditorium, Mifflintown, PA. Please join us for an informational time to address awareness, prevention and treatment of heroin usage in our community.

The evening will conclude with a question and answer session. A panel of community members will present and special guest Gary Tennis, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol, will also speak.

Sponsored by Juniata County Probation, Tri-County Drug and Alcohol Commission and Clear Concepts. PAStop.org The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance Campaign to Stop Opiate Abuse.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The second annual Senior Citizens' Holiday Luncheon, hosted by the Juniata County School District and Metz Culinary Management will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at Juniata High School, 3931 William Penn Highway, Mifflintown. You are cordially invited to enjoy.....

- *A free holiday ham meal served by Juniata High School students
- *Entertainment by Juniata High School musicians
- *Student artwork
- *Student-led tours of the school

*The opportunity to meet school district faculty, staff and administrators, as well as board members

If planning to attend this free event, please RSVP to Polly at 717-436-2111, x5002 or pdigon@jcsdk12.org.

SYNOD GROW TEAM (SAVE THE DATES)

November 21, 2015: Family Advent Night at Messiah in Williamsport

February 19-20 or 26-27, 2016: GROW in the SNOW Retreat at Camp Mount Luther

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

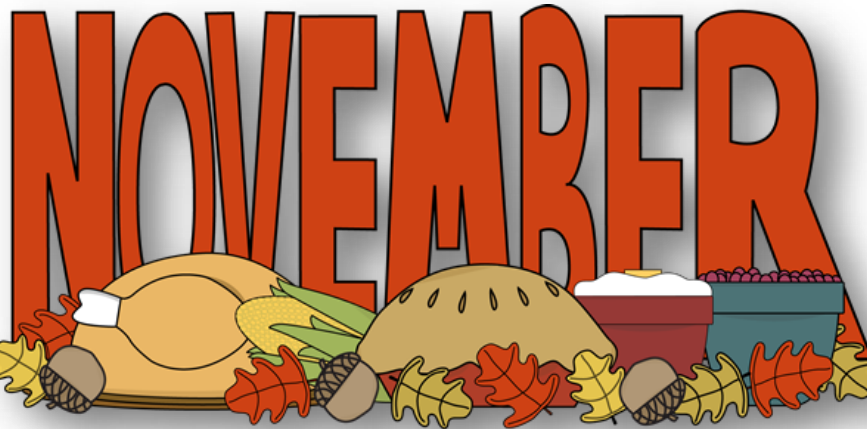
Let us be **YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT!** For more details, please call [888-881-2046](tel:888-881-2046). Serving Centre, Mifflin and Juniata Counties (LOCALLY OWNED). Check out our website: InHomeServicesofCentralPA.com.



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 NOVEMBER UPDATE

Autumn has arrived! Soon to be followed by Thanksgiving and Christmas. Again this year the Food Pantry will join forces with the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, Salvation Army and **YOU** to bring Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to as many Juniata County families living in poverty as possible. Working as a team and pooling our resources, we can reach more families in need and avoid duplicating services. But we can't do it without **your** help. When the Boy Scouts come to your door in November for their annual food drive – please give generously. And if you can help us to start stockpiling the following foods for the holidays, we would really appreciate it. Our goal is to provide 800 meals: 400 for Thanksgiving and 400 for Christmas.

In September we assisted 358 families (982 individuals). Many thanks to Trinity United Methodist Church for providing volunteers for September

HOLIDAY MEAL DONATIONS OF ITEMS STILL NEEDED ARE:
TURKEYS OR TURKEY BREASTS, STUFFING, CANNED FRUITS,
INSTANT MASHED POTATOES, CANNED SWEET POTATOES,
CAKE MIX OR OTHER DESSERT MIX, **OR A \$20 DONATION**
WILL PURCHASE ONE COMPLETE MEAL!

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 receive
Non-perishable donations. Cash or gift card donations
may be deposited through the mail slot inside the vestibule.**

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*



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
THANKOFFERING SERVICE & FALL FEST
NOVEMBER 8, 2015

Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service & Fall Fest will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2015. Sam Leister will be the speaker for the service. The congregation is asked to bring items for the Food Pantry so they can be displayed in the altar area on Thankoffering Sunday.

Special Thankoffering envelopes will be included in your bulletin on November 8 for offerings to 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" and place in the offering plates or give to Cynthia Smith (additional envelopes are available in the Adult Sunday School Room).

A meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. The Parish Fellowship Committee will provide ham, hash brown casserole, rolls and beverage. Those attending are asked to provide a fall covered dish (hot or cold) of their choice. Anyone unable to bring a covered dish is still more than welcome to attend as there is always plenty of food for everyone. Mints, chips, etc. are always needed and don't need to be prepared.

Reservations can be made by detaching the bottom portion of this sheet and placing it in the offering plate by **November 1st** or by calling the church office at 436-6213.



Messiah's Fall Fest

Name(s) _____ Number attending _____

Bringing covered dish? () YES () NO _____

Please specify below whether you will be bringing a covered dish for the meal or a desert
