

THE MESSIAH HERALD



SEPTEMBER, 2015

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(717)-436-6213

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MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

The Messiah Herald



September 2015

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Following WW2 a golden age of employment in both manufacturing and small businesses arose.

Schools and school activities like sports replaced the church as the center of community social life.

For many, the church and the religious training of the family has become a secondary concern.

All of this challenges our assumptions have been for congregational life.

The truth is that Messiah needs to stop and think about how we shape and structure our ministry in the congregation and the community for the future.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The culture today has changed drastically from that of the last two generations. Two to three generations ago in the 1930s life in Juniata County centered around the home, the farm and the church. The Depression had taken away many resources for households and multiple generations often lived on the same property and sometimes in the same home.

Following WW2 a golden age of employment in both manufacturing and small businesses arose. Many families of four to six lived in their own prefab homes often from 900-1100 square feet. Many of those homes were delivered as kits but the dream of home ownership expanded across a whole generation. Schools and school activities like sports replaced the church as the center of community social life.

Today the average family has three to four members, many are single income households and now the average home that is built is well over 2200 square feet. For many, the church and the religious training of the family has become a secondary concern. Sports programs of midget football, soccer, AAU sports and more encroach upon Sunday mornings if not for the games themselves at least for the travel time as the local community is not even the center of life but rather the scope and breadth of leagues sometimes with traveling times as long as an hour and more. At the same time the digital pace of life pressures us demanding instant response times and work schedules that never end even when at home or with the family.

All of this challenges our assumptions have been for congregational life. Is worship a singular Sunday event or are additional opportunities needed throughout the week? Is worship only valid led by an organ with two hundred year old hymns or can a Praise Band and the latest Christian pop song feed us spiritually, as well? Does Bible study require sitting together or can it be conducted on line with groups on Facebook or Google? How do churches with large and inefficient edifices with \$15,000 heating costs and magnificent worship spaces filled with beautiful liturgical art survive when the average congregation in America today averages 50 at Sunday worship? These questions and a couple dozen more mean the churches of today are under great social pressures and a race to keep up with a changing world.

The truth is that Messiah needs to stop and think about how we shape and structure our ministry in the congregation and the community for the future. I may well be the last pastor to serve Messiah as a single congregation. Conversations are regularly being held on the ELCA clergy board seeing tremendous transformations in both seminary education and the structures of pastoral and congregational ministries. We may need to consider forming a parish as we once were with St. Stephen's. St. John's, Belleville is just one possibility in our area for such an arrangement. Such a decision would be back to the future. Yes, Messiah is not the only congregation experiencing these pressures. In fact, those congregations not feeling the pressures of the changing culture are far more unusual.

Whatever the future holds our central belief and confession is that God is faithful and the power of the Holy Spirit blows constantly across the Body of Christ making all things new is central to who we are. As people of the Reformation who are anchored in the living Word of God this is not the first generation to face bold changes in the life of the church. Within this country's history we have been through the birth of a nation, a war dividing that nation, the collapse of the economy not once but several times. We have seen changes in the structure of home and family and God has the faithful through all of those and God abides with us still.

Jesus loves us this I know for the Bible tells me so. God's love endures all things.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

September 1: Hebrews 12:3-13
September 2: Matthew 15:21-31
September 3: Isaiah 35:4-7a
September 4: Psalm 146
September 5: James 2:1-10[11-13]14-17
September 6: Mark 7:24-37
September 7: Matthew 17:14-21
September 8: Romans 3:9-20
September 9: Colossians 3:1-11
September 10: Isaiah 50:4-9a
September 11: Psalm 116:1-9
September 12: James 3:1-12
September 13: Mark 8:27-38
September 14: John 3:13-17
September 15: James 4:8-17
September 16: James 5:1-6
September 17: Jeremiah 11:18-20
September 18: Psalm 54
September 19: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
September 20: Mark 9:30-37
September 21: Matthew 9:9-13
September 22: John 8:21-38
September 23: Zechariah 8:18-23
September 24: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16,
24-29
September 25: Psalm 19:7-14
September 26: James 5:13-20
September 27: Mark 9:38-50
September 28: Psalm 112
September 29: Revelation 12:7-12
September 30: Hebrews 3:7-19



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!

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

LECTORS

6: Malin Kint
13: Randy Clark
20: Sam Leister
27: Cynthia Smith

ALTAR GUILD

Aug. 31—Sept. 6 Linda Clark
Sept. 7—Sept. 20 Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner
Sept. 21—Sept. 27 Barbara S. Geedey
Sept. 28—Oct. 4 Linda Clark

ALTAR FLOWERS

6: Judy Armstrong
13: Neil & Pat Fisher
20: OPEN
27: OPEN



WELCA met on Thursday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m. Cynthia Smith gave a brief report on the Convention held at Camp Mt. Luther in July. She and Linda Leister attended and enjoyed the event very much. The theme was "Love Is An Open Door." The president is Stephanie Lewis and she is energetic and full of new ideas to get people involved in the Synodical activities. The date for Blanket Sunday is October 4 but no date has been set yet for our Fall Cluster meeting. More information on upcoming events will be posted as we receive it.

The business meeting consisted of discussing our Farm Project. Barb was very

thankful for all who helped to make our Farm Project a success and she will thank the congregation on Sunday. We received enough extra money along with some of our offering to also provide for an Irrigation Canal. The cost of the canal is \$150.00. We will be sending all of that money soon.

Barb will remind the congregation on Sunday that we are still collecting items for our School Kits that will be sent along with the blankets in October. 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.

We also decided to begin our knitting classes once again on Monday, September 21 anywhere from 6:00 p.m. until everyone is ready to leave. We will be completing our scarves and starting a dishcloth. Knitters will need a skein of cotton yarn, worsted weight. Some brands are Lion Cotton, Lily Sugar and Cream, Lily Peaches and Cream, and Bernat Handicrafter. The pattern can be downloaded for free from www.joann.com/static/project/0706/P148439.pdf. If you are unable to get the pattern, don't worry we will have copies. This information will also be in the bulletin. The needle size that is recommended is a size 10, however, Barb uses size 8's and the book says you can stay with the 7's you used for the scarf if you want.

We closed our business meeting with the Purpose Statement of the WELCA.

Following the business meeting we gathered up the materials collected for the Seafarer's bags and only a few items

are still needed to send 16 bags this year. Thank you to all who helped to make this a successful project. Ann Beaver and Barb are going to get the few needed items.

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 September 10, 2015 at 7:00 in the Youth Area with Jean Compton providing the devotions. Cynthia will have refreshments.

CAMP MT. LUTHER WOMEN'S RETREAT

All local women are invited to be participants at Camp Mount Luther's Fall Women's Retreat. The theme is "Meeting God in Daily Life: Practice, Prayer, and Spiritual Direction." The retreat will take place at the camp on Saturday, September 12, 2015.

It will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Bring a friend. Registration deadline is September 4.

To register, contact Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. Checks should be made payable to Camp Mount Luther.

If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587.





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

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

LOCUST GROVE (69 Cottage Drive, Mifflin, PA 17058)

Ethel Bossinger

Jean McNaight
190 JAM House Rd., Cottage #5
Mifflin, PA 17058

BROOKLINE (2 Manor Blvd., Mifflintown, PA 17059)

Flo Beale
Marian Gross
Sara Ann Aurand
Evelyn Spriggle (Ann Beaver's Mother)

Jane Marhefka
351 Village Blvd.
Mifflintown, PA 17059

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER (3 Alex Circle, Mifflintown, PA 17059)

Carol Simonton

NORTHRIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING (99 Northridge Dr., McAlisterville, PA 17049)

Dorothy Cleck Dottie Smith

HONNEMAN HOUSE (58 Honneman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

ELMCROFT OF REEDSVILLE (55 Carriage House Lane, Reedsville, PA 17084)

Helen Knox

VILLAGE AT WILLOW LANE (6488 Alburdis Rd., Macungie, PA 18062)

Lura Aughey

RICHFIELD SENIOR LIVING CENTER (631 Main St. Richfield, PA 17086)

Dorothy Patterson (Cindy Van Gavree's Mother)

AT HOME

Fay McCormick
38 Wagon Wheel Lane
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Reba Sigler
23390 Rt. 35 North
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Kitty Walters
P.O. Box 61
Port Royal, PA 17082

Earl & Mona Lawson
2792 William Penn Hwy.
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Jim Yetter
10 Cedar St.
Mifflintown, PA 17059

Craig Walker
7016 Rt. 333
Mifflintown, PA 17059



“JUMP-START” BLOG

The teacher recruitment for Children’s and Youth Sunday School is now complete! As you may recall, our Jump Start model for Sunday School provides for TWO teachers per class. We now have enough teachers to do this! In the past, there was only one teacher per class, and this had the built in negative bias of wearing out (and burning out) the teacher who struggled over the long haul at any cost. With the two teacher model, the teachers in each two-teacher team now have the flexibility of accommodating pressing personal schedules as they develop. The multiple teacher model is nothing new to Messiah. It has been part and parcel of our adult Sunday School for years if not decades. What is new is the application of this model to youth classes.

Ideally, when both teachers are available, BOTH will be present each Sunday. On any given Sunday, one of the two will be the designated teacher while the other will be subordinated to a support role. The subordinated teacher will be free to provide individual assistance to students as needed, to prepare reproducible study sheets at the laser copier, and to assist the designated teacher as needed. The two teachers will reverse their roles on a scheme acceptable to both. They may be the designated teacher every other week or every other month or every other unit such as they decide between them. Perhaps the most important outcome to having them both attend classes as much as possible will be that the "helper" teacher will be up to speed with the flow of the subject matter.

Teacher assignments have changed a bit over the past two weeks as it became necessary to tweak the arrangement. What follows is a listing of the final assignments:

Nursery: Elizabeth Book & Briley Holderman

Grades K – 2: Tawny Mummah & Nasreen Kepler

Grades 3 – 5: Sandy Pines & Jean Compton

Grades 6 – 12: Kate Swailes & Caroline Bryner

Young Adults: Linda Bahorik & Barb Geedey

NOTE: Linda Clark will be the Real-time Facilitator – “Principal” of the Sunday School. As such she will work to maintain a smooth running School. As the teachers have needs, she will be their onsite “go-to-person” who will work to make things right. She will also be the overseer of Act 34 Clearance documentation.

SPECIAL APPEAL

The latest financial information available to your PPC has made it clearly evident to all that we need to make serious adjustments to our budget expenditures in order to overcome our income/expense deficit.

Until we can conduct a Voters’ Assembly on September 13th, the PPC is making a **special appeal** to all Messiah members to examine and pray about their current monetary giving and if at all possible increase that level over the coming weeks.

PPC is formulating a reduced budget plan to present for a vote at a special congregational meeting on **September 13, 2015.**

Your prayers for our church and the PPC are encouraged as we work through this difficult circumstance.

WHAT IS THE GENERAL FUND?

The General Fund pays the salary and benefits for our Pastor, our secretary's salary and annuity allowance, the salaries of our cleaner, our organists and our choir director. Also the General Fund pays electricity, fuel oil and propane, flowers (if not sponsored), insurance, pest control, phone and internet service, educational materials, taxes, office supplies, water, sewer and other miscellaneous bills.

All furnace repair, furnace maintenance, building repair and maintenance comes out of the Building Fund. Total monies received for the General Fund for the last five years are as follows:

2010 - \$127,295.42
2011 - \$127,569.19
2012 - \$120,619.25
2013 - \$120,311.75
2014 - \$122,703.50
2015-to-Date (8/16/15) - \$67,367.12
(55% of last year)



“THE NEEDLERS” SEWING PROJECT

“The Needlers” will continue their sewing project on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Anyone who would like to help is welcome!

EARLY SERVICES

Early summer services will continue through September 6, 2015 at 9:15 a.m.

Regular 10:30 a.m. worship services will resume on September 13, 2015 with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will begin on Monday, September 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library area (back door on Washington Avenue will be open to use).

Study will be on Galatians (bring a Bible).

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will begin on October 4, 2015 during the Sunday School hour.

PROPERTY MEETING

The Board of Church Property will meet on Monday, September 28, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room.

If you are unable to attend, please notify Kay Varner.

SYNOD GROW TEAM

(Save the Dates)

September 13, 2015: God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

(This is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor).

September 20, 2015: Knoebel's Day for the Synod

October 31, 2015: Building Youth Groups at Camp Mount Luther

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



SYNOD DAY AT KNOEBEL'S

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Day at Knoebel's will be on Sunday, September 20, 2015. The park will be open from 12-7 PM. You can arrive at Knoebel's at your leisure, pick up your pre-ordered discount tickets at pavilion P-5 beginning at 12:30 and spend your afternoon at the park.

From 5:00-5:45 gather at pavilion P-5 for refreshments and fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ from congregations throughout the synod.

From 5:45-6:15 Vespers service led by Bishop Driesen at pavilion P-5.

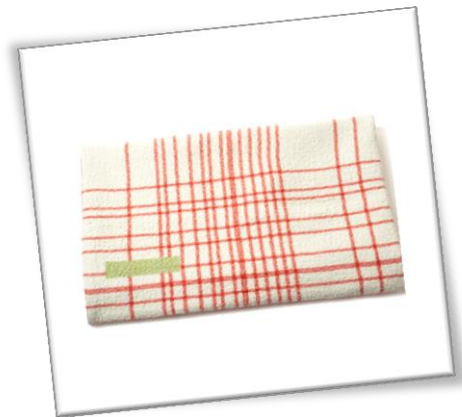
Pre-ordering tickets is only necessary if you would like a 20% discount. \$20 book of tickets for \$16. Order by September 4, 2015.

Hot dogs and buns will be provided. Congregations are asked to volunteer to

provide other side dishes or desserts. Volunteers are also needed to provide hospitality at pavilion P-5 throughout the afternoon

To pre-order discount tickets, or volunteer for hospitality or refreshments, please contact Brenda Krouse at the synod office at 570-524-9778 or Brenda@uss-elca.org.

For more information and pre-ordering tickets, see the information sheets on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room.



BLANKET SUNDAY

Blanket Sunday will be observed on October 4, 2015.

Along with all ELCA congregations, you are invited to make a donation to Lutheran World Relief in the special Blanket Sunday envelopes that will be provided.

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!

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 SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Dear Friends,

God bless all of you who came to the aid of the Food Pantry and all the people who count on us for help this month. We didn't know how we were going to pay the bills or put food on the shelves for September. Yes, in our concern we momentarily lost sight of our faithful Lord and the generosity of this community. Thank you all for uplifting our spirits with your prayers and donations!

What a blessing is all the healthy fresh produce pouring into the Food Pantry! Thank you for sharing the Lord's bounty with your neighbors in need! We also appreciate your support for our summer backpack program as we helped almost 200 children spend their summer having fun instead of going hungry.

In July 2015, the Food Pantry served 331 families in need – over 900 individuals.

Now that the harvest season is winding down, we're praying that we can fill some other empty shelves, too. After half a year of below normal donations, and state grant funds non-existent due to the budget impasse, our operating funds hit an all-time low this month. Our financial statement has shown us operating at a loss throughout the summer months – not a good place to be leading into the holiday season and winter. We thank you sincerely for your prayers, and whatever help you are able to give.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:
ESPECIALLY DONATIONS OF CASH AND CHECKS!
ALSO FRESH GARDEN PRODUCE, ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS,
BABY CARE ITEMS: DIAPERS SIZES 4-6, WIPES, DIAPER RASH
OINTMENT, BABY WASH, LOTION AND POWDER

WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF GIFT CARDS
FOR LOCAL GROCERY AND DISCOUNT STORES

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 drop off donations!

Visit our **W**ebbsite: www.jcfoodpantry.com

Like us on **F**ace **B**ook!

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

