THE MESSIAH HERALD



February 2017

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH 3 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 17173-436-6213

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SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES! — 9:15 AM WORSHIP, JR. CHURCH, & COMMUNION — 10:30 AM

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE



LOVE IS NOT LESS THAN A FEELING -- BY DARYL WINGERD

What does it mean to "love the brethren" (1 John 3:14)?

It has been correctly said that to truly love someone is more than just having feelings for them. Actions, in addition to words and feelings, are the proof of genuine love. The husband who truly loves his wife won't just *say* he loves her. He will show his love by his deeds. The true Christian won't just *say* he loves Christ. He will show his love by his obedience. True love certainly is more than a feeling.

But true love is also not *less* than a feeling. Consider the words of Scripture, first from Jesus Himself:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34-35)

Christians are to imitate Christ in loving one another. We are taught to love each other *even as He has loved us*. This implies Christ-like self-sacrifice, or giving ourselves for the good of other believers. In imitating Christ's love for believers, we must "regard one another as more important than yourselves" (Phil 2:4). This is the "action" component of true Christian love.

But notice that after giving the command to "love one another," Jesus goes on to say that the world will know that we are His disciples if we "*have love* for one another" (emphasis added). This tells us that Christ-like love is not merely bound up in our actions. It is something that we must "have" for each other. We must possess affection for other believers, and this affection then motivates loving actions.

Peter affirms this when he writes, "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart" (1 Pet. 1:22). The word Peter used for "sincere" can also be translated, "unhypocritical"—not faked, not an act, more than just an outward display. This word dovetails perfectly with the words, "from the heart"—that is, from your reborn heart.

Heartfelt love for other believers is a critical part of our assurance that we have truly been born again. "We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death" (1 John 3:14). Certainly (as John goes on to say in verse 16) we who have been loved by Christ "ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." But apart from genuine affection for other believers, your sacrificial actions are not conclusive proof that you love them. If you *really* love them, you will *feel* love for them. And because you feel love for them.

John goes on to say, "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. By this we will know that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him" (1 John 3:18-19). Did you catch that? We must love "in *deed*" (the "action" component of love) and *truth* (the "fact" component of love). We must actually love other believers, not just pretend to do so. This is what Paul meant when he insisted that believers love one another "without hypocrisy" (Rom. 12:9).

Believers should cherish heartfelt affection for other believers in the same way they cherish the other evidences of true conversion: practicing righteousness rather than sin, and believing the Bible rather than false teaching. If your feelings of love for other believers have faded to the point where being with your local church is of little importance, or if what you thought was true love is subtly being replaced by impatience, intolerance, unresolved grievances, bitterness, disdain, or indifference, you should be just as concerned as if you had embraced a heretical system of doctrine or had been

overcome by a pattern of ungodliness. "Love never fails" (1 Cor. 13:8). If what you currently call your love for other believers ultimately fails, then it was never true love in the first place.

Preserving and strengthening Christian love takes dedication, hard work, and humility. Because of differing personalities, diverse backgrounds, contrary preferences, personal weaknesses, and sensitivities, believers (including you) are not always easy to love. But if your affection for other Christians were a boat, sins like gossip, slander, complaining, grudgeholding, selectively avoiding fellowship, being easily offended, or reluctance to reconcile following an offense, are concrete blocks. The more of them you allow in, the closer your boat comes to sinking.

Do whatever it takes—*today*—to cast them all overboard so that your heartfelt affection for the brethren can thrive.

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DAILY BIBLE READINGS & PRAYER FOCUS

FEBRUARY 1 ISAIAH 58:1 – 9A (9B – 12)
THOSE WHO ARE IMPATIENT WITH OTHERS
FEBRUARY 2 PSALM 24:7 - 10
Those who haven't heard of Jesus' love
FEBRUARY 3PSALM 112:1 - 9 (10)
Those begging on the street
FEBRUARY 41 CORINTHIANS 2:1 – 12 (13 – 16)
Those who are homebound
FEBRUARY 5 MATTHEW 5:13 - 20
BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

- FEBRUARY 6------ 1 JOHN 2:2 17 Those who make you most angry
- FEBRUARY 7 ----- DEUTERONOMY 30:1 9A Those seeking forgiveness
- FEBRUARY 8------ MATTHEW 15:1 9 Those caring for aging family members
- FEBRUARY 9-----DEUTERONOMY 30:15 20 Those struggling with a tough choice
- FEBRUARY 10 ----- PSALM 119:1 8 Someone who needs your help today

FEBRUARY 11	1 CORINTHIANS 3:1 - 9
R ELIGIOUS GROUP	S IN OUR COMMUNITY
FEBRUARY 12	MATTHEW 5:21 - 37
THOSE SUFFERING	FROM AN ADDICTION
FEBRUARY 13	EXODUS 20:1 - 21
O FFICERS	OF THE COURT
February 14	JAMES 2:1 - 13
	G TO MAKE ENDS MEET
FEBRUARY 15	MATTHEW 7:1 - 12
	SAND THEIR FAMILIES
February 16	Leviticus 19:1 – 2, 9 - 18
	DENED BY GUILT
February 17	PSALM 119:33 - 40
	GRIEVING AND LONELY
February 18 1 C	CORINTHIANS 3:10 -11, 16 - 23
	FEAR THE FUTURE
February 19	Matthew 5:38 - 48
	KING FOR A JOB
FEBRUARY 20	1 KINGS 21:20 - 29
	IG ONTO GRUDGES
FEBRUARY 21	Hebrews 11:23 - 28
	-CHANGING DECISIONS
FEBRUARY 22	Exodus 6:2 - 9
	L THERE IS NO HOPE
FEBRUARY 23	Exodus 24:12 - 18
	NING GOD'S CALL
FEBRUARY 24	PSALM 2
	OF YOUR SUPPORT
FEBRUARY 25	2 PETER 1:16 - 21
	N AWAY FROM GOD
FEBRUARY 26	MATTHEW 17:1 - 9
	AND PREACHERS
FEBRUARY 27	JONAH 3:1 - 10
	S MINISTRIES
FEBRUARY 28	PSALM 51:1 - 17
HIGH SCHOOL TEAC	HERS AND COUNSELORS

PRAYER REQUEST REMINDER!!

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for <u>one month</u>. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact Judy directly at the church office at 436-6213 or at <u>messiahlutheran@pa.net</u>! If you have anyone who is a "last minute" addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

FEBRUARY SERVANTS

LECTORS

- 5 Bob St. Clair
- 12 Ron Yorks
- 19 Briley Holderman
- 26 Marina Holderman

ACOLYTES

- 5 Jace White & Tai Kepler
- 12 Harrison Mummah & Braedon Walton
- 19 Nathan Swailes & Tyler Rosenberry
- 26 Haley Mummah & Hannah Ehrisman

ALTAR GUILD

January 30 to February 5Barbara S. Geedey February 6 to 12...Sandy Pines & Michelle Stoner February 13 to 19Christie Holderman February 20 to 26Linda Clark *(Clint & Jamie Miller – cup communion)* February 27 to March 5Diana Wise

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 5 Miller Family
- 12 Walton, Pines & Stoner families
- 19 OPEN
- 26 In honor of our great Messiah Family

UPCOMING PASTORS & WORSHIP LEADERS

February 5	Sam Leister
February 12	Andrea Cameron
February 19	Jim Bahorik
February 26	Stephen Rodgers
March 5	Chad Hershberger



THANK YOU to Messiah congregation and PPC members for the monetary Christmas gift. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Blessings to all for the New Year. *–JUDY ARMSTRONG*

THANK YOU – to Messiah congregation and PPC members for the monetary Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated. –*DAVE PHELAN* THANK YOU to members of Messiah for the flowers that were given to me. They are beautiful and appreciated. -MONA LAWSON

THANK YOU – to the Messiah congregation for donating 115 cans of food and \$500 in donations to the Bethesda Mission this past holiday season!!

THANK YOU to members of Messiah for all of the cards and the flowers I received following my recent hospitalization. All was greatly appreciated. *--STEVE BAHORIK*



Cynthia Smith led us in devotions with interesting facts about SNOW and things that keep us from having a good day. Here are a few of the unusual snow facts: Syracuse N.Y. tried to make snow illegal, each winter in the U.S. at least 1 septillion ice crystals fall from the sky (that's 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000), snow has never been reported in Key West, igloos can be more than 100 degrees warmer inside that outside, Nova Scotia holds the record for the most snow angels ever made simultaneously in multiple locations (22,022 Nova Scotia residents in 130 separate locations all plopped down in the snow to make snow angels, North Dakota holds the record for most snow angels made simultaneously in one place(8,962). and the largest snowball fight on record took place in Seattle, Washington (5,834 snow fighters on January 12, 2013).

Things that keep us from having a good day can be holding a grudge, having an unforgiving heart, harboring resentment, loading ourselves down with worries, cares, or fears. We can go along always expecting the worse to happen. One way to **not** spoil a good day is to determine what is cluttering our lives and change our attitudes to good ones. Our attitudes need to be pleasing to God. Read Psalm 51:10-13. You might just recognize these verses. Or read Psalm 118:24 or Philippians 4:4-8, and the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). Thank you, Cynthia.

The group has decided not to sponsor a particular child this year but instead through Lutheran World Relief begin a campaign to" Send Girls to School." The cost for 1 girl to go to school for a year plus her uniform is \$40.00. Barb will ask Wayne Miller if he would be willing to draw up a chart like he did for the Farm a couple years ago. The group also voted to start the campaign by giving the first \$120.00 to sponsor 3 girls. We are not going to set a limit on how may girls but just wait to see how much we are able to gather from this campaign. When all of the finalized Barb will make an are plans announcement before Church and will put the information in the bulletin and newsletter.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7 P.M. Ann Beaver will lead us in devotions. All women are invited to our meetings.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to contribute 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.



YOUTH SUNDAY



Messiah will be hosting Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mount Luther, on Sunday, March 5, 2017. This will also be

Messiah Youth Sunday for 2017. The youth will be helping throughout the service and will also provide the anthem that day.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES



A First Communion Class will be held for any youth who are interested. Parents may contact the church office at 436-6213 or Sam Leister at 436-8589. A date and time will be set based on those who wish to attend.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER

CLASS

A Baptismal/New Member Class will be held for those who are interested. If you wish to have your child baptized, or be baptized yourself, or you wish to attend the New Member Class, please contact the church office at 436-6213.





PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

LOCUST GROVE

(69 COTTAGE DRIVE, MIFFLIN, PA 17058) Jean McNaight 190 JAM House Rd., Cottage #5 Mifflin, PA 17058

BROOKLINE MANOR & REHAB SERVICES

(2 MANOR BLVD., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059) Flo Beale, Sara Ann Aurand, Reba Sigler

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Jane Marhefka 92 Village Drive Mifflintown, PA 17059

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(62 LEXI STREET, 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**

LEHIGH CENTER

(1718 SPRING CREEK ROAD, ROOM 205B, MACUNGIE, PA 18062)

Lura Aughey

AT HOME

Fay McCormick 38 Wagon Wheel Lane Mifflintown, PA 17059

Jim Yetter 128 Manbeck Drive Mifflintown, PA 17059

Kitty Walters P.O. Box 61 Port Royal, PA 17082 Craig Walker 7016 Rt. 333 Mifflintown, PA 17059

Mona Lawson Mifflintown, PA 17059

Betty Karstetter 2792 William Penn Hwy. 918 William Penn Hwy. Mifflintown, PA 17059

"CHRIST IN OUR HOME"

A reminder to anyone who would like a daily devotional to jump start their day. There are plenty of devotionals in "Christ in our Home," which can be picked up and are FREE.....and are located at the back of the adult Sunday school room. Get yours today!

PRAYER LIST (AS OF JANUARY 29TH)

Bob & Jeanette St. Clair Avonel Waller Bob Cameron Josh Delancey **Brady Mingle** Janie Shearer Mary Ernest Orville Graybill Harold 'Butch' Oberholtzer Joyce Doyle Gary Bechtold Pete Swab Bill Holderman

Rick Waller, Sr. Jim Woltman Michal Gayer Letha Swab Belva Fulton Joan Foltz John Miller Ellen Calhoun Randy Clark Steve Bahorik Claire Mummah Joan Fulkroad

NEEDED:

SYNOD





Two members from Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2017 at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove. Synod delegates should also plan on attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly on May 7, 2017. If you are interested in serving, please contact Judy in the church office at 436-6213.



www.souperbowl.org

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Our youth will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, Sunday, February 5, 2017. They will join young people in churches across the nation, sharing God's love with those who need our compassion and care. Please support the youth of our church in this effort to "help our neighbors" by dropping a dollar in the soup pot and also by donating a can of soup on February 5th. Proceeds will go to our very own Juniata County Food Pantry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING IN THE <u>MONTH OF FEBRUARY.....</u> February 20 – Warren Mummah February 21 – Jeanette St. Clair If you want to add your name to the birthday/anniversary list, or know someone you would like to acknowledge, please let Bob St. Clair know at <u>stclairb@embargmail.com</u>.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. <u>Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</u>

SUMMER CHURCH CAMP

2017 camping brochures and registration forms for Camp Mount Luther are available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room or you may register online at www.campmountluther.org . Please note that if you register online, you still need to get a health form signed by a doctor. Any young people planning to attend one of the church camps this summer are asked to get their registrations in before April 1, 2017 in order to avoid a late fee.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

In 2016, Messiah gave the following in two special offerings: Blanket Sunday (\$515.00 in donations) and Thankoffering Sunday (\$441.00 in collections). Both offerings support the Women of the ELCA. **THANK YOU!!!**

JUST THE FACTS...

The following End of the Year report was presented by the treasurer to the congregation on Sunday January 8, 2017:

- The choir gowns are totally paid for from congregation donations \$2489.00.
- From now on all Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies will be ordered by filling out a form in the bulletin and in the Messiah Herald. Payment must accompany the order form.
- \$9206.00 was sent to the Upper Susquehanna Synod for our 2016 Benevolence.
- Messiah has deposited \$45,000.00 into a savings account in 2016.
- Attendance and contributions have increased in 2016.

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.

UPCOMING BAKE SALE

The youth of Messiah will hold a bake sale following the church service on March 5th in order to raise funds for the cost of camp at Mt. Luther this summer.

Life a mess? Try Jesus, the original quicker picker-upper!

DATE	ATTENDANCE	Total Offering	General Fund Offering	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
January 1	43 – Worship 9 – S.S.	\$3,209.00	\$1,985.00	Sunday School \$11.00 Benevolence \$70.00 Building Fund \$85.00 Choir Gowns \$1,050.00 Flowers \$8.00
January 8	73 - Worship 39 - S.S.	\$4,365.00	\$3,288.00	Sunday School \$77.00 Benevolence \$385.00 Building Fund \$470.00 Summer Camp \$20.00 Junior Church \$25.00
January 15	50 – Worship 21 – S.S.	\$1,851.00	\$1,395.00	Sunday School \$46.00 Benevolence \$110.00 Building Fund \$300.00
January 22	71 – Worship 30 – S.S.	\$3,416.50	\$2,601.50	Sunday School \$65.00 Benevolence \$50.00 Building Fund \$595.00 Summer Camp \$55.00 World Hunger \$50.00
January 29	58 – Worship 28 – S.S	\$2,381.50	\$2,037.00	Sunday School \$54.00 Benevolence \$180.00 Building Fund \$110.00

AND OFFEDINICS - LANUADVA

po you like to sew? Do you like to knit? Then join us WEEKLY!!



The Knitters -- Mondays at 6:30 PM The Needlers -- Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY FEBRUARY UPDATE

We are so grateful for the support of our local churches as we strive together to follow the Lord's commandment to "share our bread with the hungry" (Isaiah 58:7). The reality in Juniata County is that over 3000 of our neighbors are living below poverty level. With your help, we have reached over 700 families, almost 2700 folks in need, with food and other supplies in 2016. Please continue to lift your voices in prayer and your hands in service as we share in this ministry to the Lord's beloved people.

In December 2016, the Food Pantry served 393 families - 1094 of your neighbors! We thank River Church for sending volunteers for the month of December. If you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:

All non-perishable foods, personal care products: shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and lotion.

CASH/CHECK DONATIONS AND LOCAL STORE GIFT CARDS ARE APPRECIATED! No More Plastic Bags, PLEASE (although we will gladly accept clean cloth bags)

PO Box 44, 114 N. Main St, Mifflintown, PA 17059 Phone: 717-436-9718 Hours: Tue 9-12 and 1-5, and Sat 9-12

Our vestibule is open 24 hours a day to receive donations. Cash, checks or gift cards may be deposited in the vestibule's mail slot. *Non-perishable foods and non-food items may be dropped off at any time in our vestibule. Please deliver perishable foods only when someone is here to receive them. Thank you!

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



St. Valentine learned love from Jesus

FEBRUARY 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	prillion and a second se
Wednesday, February 1:	-7:00 p.m., Cho <mark>ir Rehea</mark> rsal in Rearick Room
Thursday, February 2:	GROUNDHOG DAY -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
Sunday, February 5:	-SOUPER/SUPER BOWL SUNDAY (all proceeds go to the JC Food Pantry) -9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion (Worship Leader: Sam Leister)
Monday, February 6:	-6:30 p.m., Knitte <mark>rs in</mark> Jr. Church Room -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, February 7:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, February 8:	-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
Thursday, February 9:	-7:00 p.m., WELCA Meeting
Sunday, February 12:	-9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron) P.M., Fellowship Hall Reserved Cub Scout Banquet
Monday, February 13:	-6:30 p.m., Knitters in Jr. Church Room -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, February 14:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall -6:30 p.m., 4-H Beef Club in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, February 15:	-7:00 p <mark>.m., Choir Rehearsal in Re</mark> arick Room
Thursday, February 16:	-1:00 p <mark>.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal</mark>
Sunday, February 19:	-9:15 a. <mark>m., Sunday School & Conf</mark> irmation Class -10:30 a. <mark>m., Wo</mark> rship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: Jim Bahorik)
Monday, February 20:	PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY -6:30 p.m., Knitters in Jr. Church Room -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, February 21:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, February 22:	-7 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
Thursday, February 23:	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Saturday, February 25:	9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Juniata Valley Quilters in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, February 26:	TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY -9:15 a.m., Sunday School & Confirmation Class -10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church (Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers)
Monday, February 27:	-6:30 p.m., Knitters in Jr. Church Room -8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, February 28:	-9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
Wedne <mark>sda</mark> y, March 1:	ASH WEDNESDAY





FRUIT BASKET ... IN THE GARDEN OF

EDEN?!?



Easter Lilies Order Form Messiah Lutheran Church



Easter Sunday is <u>April 16, 2017</u> and in keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, lilies you purchase will be "planted" around our altar to help us celebrate the special occasion.

Please complete the order form below and attach <u>a check</u>, made payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church" and print Easter Lilies in the memo line. Then, please attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by <u>APRIL 2, 2017</u>. <u>PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!</u>

FLOWERS MAY BE PICKED UP FOLLOWING THE EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM.

Thank you for helping to beautify our space and for supporting our church!

.....

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

NAME:	PHONE:
LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS – Please check one: In Honor Of	OR In Memory Of
I would like to order the following: Easter Lilies (4 to 6 blooms) \$10.00	# of plants x \$10.00 = \$
	TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$