

THE MESSIAH HERALD



Februáry 2019

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213

INTERIM PASTOR -- REV. CHRIS MATHIASON -- cmathiason001@luthersem.edu

CHURCH WEBSITE: www.mlcmifflintown.org

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

CHURCH TREASURER: mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES! – 9:15 AM

WORSHIP, JR. CHURCH, & COMMUNION – 10:30 AM

CHILDREN'S SERMONS OFFERED EVERY FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS!!

[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)

[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

"Growing God's Love"

The Messiah Herald



THE HARD ROAD IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND THE LORD

Recently, there has been a lot of construction downtown where I live. Cones, dusty white rock, makeshift fences and lots of expensive equipment have lined the streets for months. This makes it difficult to drive near the downtown square, very difficult actually, because most of the roads around here are one-way. Shops that used to be one block away are now five or six, and sometimes you can't park anywhere close because a whole section of street is blocked off. Thankfully, you can get everywhere, as long as you follow the detour, which may include a brisk walk on the sidewalk after parking a little way off.

But you can't get there on the road you had in mind when you left your house, and you may have to walk uphill.

These detours are a picture of what it's like to follow Jesus. Although we know the destination and the way, the Lord often inserts trials that seemingly get us off track. But in reality, we would never reach the end without them. And so trials of all shapes and sizes are God's gifts to us because they derail our plans, change our minds and force us to turn when we want to go straight.

THE LORD WILL LEAD YOU ON THE HARD ROAD

Here is something worth review: following Christ doesn't result in a life without difficulty. Trials are normative, and pain is God's chosen way to work out holiness and dependence in our lives. He is a vinedresser who carefully prunes every branch. He is a loving father who disciplines all his children.

Therefore, because of his careful love for you, he will *direct* you down hard roads of suffering.

But, take heart; the hard road is where you'll find the Lord. As strange as it sounds, this is a reality for every believer—God is working in and through the most painful circumstances in our lives. And he is *there*, right beside you, leading you, helping you.

He is there because his sheep walk through darkness and need a Shepherd. He is there because the enemy means to kill us, and Jesus promised to lose none. And perhaps most comforting of all, he is there because *you* are there and he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

THE LORD HAS ALREADY WALKED THE HARD ROAD

As Jesus made his way to Golgotha to accomplish the Father's will, he was physically unable to carry his cross. A man named Simon was enlisted to finish the journey. Bloodied, beaten, struck and scourged—Jesus was too weak to bear the heavy beam. Do you think of Jesus like this? Physically unable, in searing pain, dreading the greater pain of punishment that awaited him, and yet he continued.

As difficult as they were, these last days of Jesus' life were not abnormal. Suffering met him at every turn. Jesus was, "made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest." (Heb 2:17). He is not, "unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are." (Heb 4:15) And he, "learned obedience through what he suffered." (Heb 5:8).

We walk where Jesus has already been.

Therefore, don't despise the pain of God's hard roads. With time, you'll treasure these paths and find that they led you best. With time, you'll understand that God was there for each step.

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. **Isaiah 43:1b-2**

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PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...

Jane Ann Baney	Messiah's Call Committee
Donna Barton	Minnie Minick
Bob Bell	Austin Parker
Joyce Bradley	Noel Peachey
Andrea & Bob Cameron	Butch & Sandy Pines
Don Clark	Elienai Ramirez
Terry Coder	Carolina Rubio
Pat Cook	Mary Sanders
Mary Ernest	Megan Shoop
Ed Fraker	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Joan Fulkroad	Sieber Stoner
Josh Hohol	Kay Stuck
Curt Houtz	Ben & Dorothy Towsey
Carol Lyter	Jasmine Vazquez
Tami Metz	Rich Walters
John Miller	Barbara Wengard
Larry Miller	Dottie Wilson
Shirley Miller	Jim Woltman
Jim Minick	Jean Zimmerman

...AND FOR OUR SHUT-INS

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(62 LEXI STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Carol Simonton

NORTHRIDGE CENTER FOR ASSISTED LIVING

(99 NORTHRIDGE DR., MCALISTERVILLE, PA 17049)

Dottie Smith

RICHFIELD HEALTHCARE AND REHAB CENTER

(ROOM 6, 631 MAIN ST, RICHFIELD, PA 17086)

Dorothy Cleck

HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108, THOMPSONTOWN,

PA 17094) Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

AT HOME

Jim Yetter	Mona Lawson
128 Manbeck Drive	2792 William Penn Hwy.
Mifflintown, PA 17059	Mifflintown, PA 17059

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

MESSIAH PRAYER LIST

If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Sam Leister at sleister@gmail.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FEBRUARY 20 – Warren “Red” 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 the church office know at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com.

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!

STORE GIFT CARDS

Weis and Giant gift cards are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

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.**

FEBRUARY SERVANTS

LECTORS

- 3 Haley Mummah
- 10 Larry Wise
- 17 Bob St. Clair
- 24 Barb Geedey

ALTAR GUILD

January 28 to March 3.....Diana Wise

ACOLYTES

- 3 Haley Mummah & Slone Smith
- 10 Olivia Mummah & Zeb Berry
- 17 Harrison Mummah & Hope Miller
- 24 Gabby Reed & Braedon Walton

OFFERING USHERS

- 3 Hope Miller & Gabby Reed
- 10 Braedon Walton & Nick Reed
- 17 Hannah Ehrisman & Julia Martin
- 24 Haley Mummah & Slone Smith

ALTAR FLOWERS

- 3 The Miller Family
- 10 The Walton, Pines, and Stoner Families
- 17 Warren & Claire Mummah
- 24 OPEN

UPCOMING WORSHIP LEADERS

- February 3 Andrea Cameron
- February 10 Jim Bahorik
- February 17 Sam Leister
- February 24 Stephen Rodgers

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



WELCA met on Thursday, January 10th at 7 P.M. Ann Beaver was in charge of the program. Ann met Jennifer Sparks through Meals on Wheels and learned of a program that she attends. The name of the program is Kairos Ministry which takes a ministry to the prisons. Jennifer spoke of her group that goes to the Muncy Prison for Women. Her presentation was very informative and interesting. She also shared a you tube video with us regarding one of the women who has benefited from this program. The group asked many questions regarding how she learned of this program and how it works. We were told this is a world-wide program and is non-denominational. Her group consists of women from many of the surrounding counties. Our group thanked her for her work and presentation and thanked Ann for bringing her to us.

Our Treasurer reported that we have collected \$1150.00 for the ox and plow program. Since \$150.00 of this donation came from the Junior Church, Barb reported that she gave the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog to Linda Clark so the children could determine what is purchased with the \$150.00. Linda will get back to Barb with their decision. In conjunction with WELCA, the Junior Church will be donating their offering each week to help to send our 3 children to school in Liberia.

WELCA will be collecting items for the Seafarers' kits through the Spring as this is the best time to get good sales of the needed items. Anyone who would like to contribute can bring the clothing to the church and place them in a container provided for them. The items needed are: one sweatshirt-hooded or unhooded sizes L-XL, 3 pairs of socks-thermal or white gym socks, one casual pull-over T-shirt-sizes M-L, and one heavy winter cap. The Seafarers enjoy sports teams and NASCAR heroes.

Lent begins March 6th and Barb is waiting to receive the books for this year. Barb asked the group to think of a speaker for our Wednesday

which is usually the first Wednesday. We will talk more about this in February.

The Day of Learning/Renewal will be held in New Berlin on April 27th. Hopefully some of us will be able to attend. More information will be forthcoming.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14th at 7 P.M.

FUN VALENTINE'S DAY FACTS

- ♥ On Valentine's Day every year, there are at least 36 million heart shape boxes of chocolates sold.
- ♥ On average, men spend double the amount of money on Valentine's Day gifts than women spend. The average amount a man spends is \$130.
- ♥ There are enough candy hearts made each year to stretch from Valentine, Arizona to Rome, Italy, and back again. The number of these candy hearts produced is approximately 8 billion.
- ♥ There are approximately 50 million roses given on Valentine's Day around the world.
- ♥ Women tend to buy approximately 85% of all the Valentine's Day cards sold.
- ♥ Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards, second only to Christmas.
- ♥ There are approximately 1 billion Valentine's Day cards exchanged every year in the U.S. alone.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS & PRAYER FOCUS

- FEBRUARY 1 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13
THOSE WHO FEEL UNLOVED
- FEBRUARY 2 ----- LUKE 2:22-40
THOSE WHO DOUBT GOD'S PRESENCE
- FEBRUARY 3 ----- LUKE 4:21-30
THOSE SEEKING GUIDANCE
- FEBRUARY 4 ----- 1 KINGS 17:8-16
THOSE WHO DISREGARD GOD'S GUIDANCE
- FEBRUARY 5 ----- ACTS 9:19B-25
THOSE SEARCHING FOR THEIR LIFE'S PURPOSE
- FEBRUARY 6 ----- ACTS 9:26-31
THOSE IN RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION

- FEBRUARY 7 ----- ISAIAH 6:1-8 (9-13)
THOSE WEIGHED DOWN WITH GUILT
- FEBRUARY 8 ----- PSALM 138
THOSE WHO FEEL THEIR LIVES ARE MEANINGLESS
- FEBRUARY 9 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11
THOSE FEELING UNWORTHY OF FORGIVENESS
- FEBRUARY 10 ----- LUKE 5:1-11
THOSE AFRAID OF NEWNESS OF LIFE
- FEBRUARY 11 ----- JUDGES 5:1-11
YOUR FRIENDS
- FEBRUARY 12 ----- LUKE 5:27-32
THOSE NOT OPEN TO BEING TAUGHT
- FEBRUARY 13 ----- 1 TIMOTHY 3:1-9
PASTORS AND BISHOPS
- FEBRUARY 14 ----- JEREMIAH 17:5-10
THOSE FEELING ALIENATED FROM GOD
- FEBRUARY 15 ----- PSALM 1
THOSE LIVING IN FEAR
- FEBRUARY 16 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20
THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN JESUS' RESURRECTION
- FEBRUARY 17 ----- LUKE 6:17-26
THOSE WITH TERMINAL ILLNESSES AND THEIR FAMILIES
- FEBRUARY 18 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-34
THOSE ENSLAVED BY THEIR POSSESSIONS
- FEBRUARY 19 ----- GENESIS 43:16-34
INDIVIDUALS YOU DON'T WANT TO FORGIVE
- FEBRUARY 20 ----- GENESIS 44:1-17
FAMILIES IN CONFLICT
- FEBRUARY 21 ----- GENESIS 45:3-11, 15
THOSE COPING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF A TRAGEDY
- FEBRUARY 22 ----- PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40
THOSE FEELING OVER-SCHEDULED AND OVER-COMMITTED
- FEBRUARY 23 ----- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50
THOSE WHO ALWAYS WANT MORE
- FEBRUARY 24 ----- LUKE 6:27-38
THOSE SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF OTHERS
- FEBRUARY 25 ----- LUKE 6:39-49
THOSE FACING A DIFFICULT DECISION TODAY
- FEBRUARY 26 ----- LUKE 7:1-10
THOSE WHO STRUGGLE WITH CHANGE
- FEBRUARY 27 ----- DEUTERONOMY 9:15-24
THOSE REBELLING AGAINST GOD
- FEBRUARY 28 ----- EXODUS 34:29-35
THOSE LOOKING FOR GOD

MESSIAH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS -- JANUARY 6 TO 27, 2019

DATE	Attendance	Total Offering	General Fund Offering	Other Funds Offering
JANUARY 6	61 - Worship 26 - S.S.	\$3,279.00	\$2,808.00	Benevolence -- \$190.00 Sunday School -- \$56.00 Building Fund -- \$175.00 World Hunger -- \$50.00
JANUARY 13	42 - Worship 16 - S.S.	\$2,041.00	\$1,810.00	Benevolence -- \$55.00 Sunday School -- \$31.00 Building Fund -- \$145.00
JANUARY 20	NO SERVICES	DUE	TO	WINTER STORM
JANUARY 27	58 - Worship 22 - S.S.	\$3,336.00	\$2,634.00	Benevolence -- \$45.00 Sunday School -- \$40.00 Building Fund -- \$595.00 Flowers -- \$22.00



Our youth of Messiah will be holding soup pots at the rear of the church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2019. 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 3rd. Proceeds will go to the Juniata County Food Pantry.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A first communion class will be held for any youth who are interested. Parents may contact the church office at 717-436-6213 or Sam Leister at 717-436-8589. 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 or Sam Leister.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS

If you would like a copy of the most recent monthly financial reports for our church, please see our treasurer, Carolyn Bryner, before or after our morning worship service and give her your request, or please contact her at mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com. Extra copies have been made and put on the table in the Adult Sunday School room, but very few, if any, are picked up and paper is being wasted, so we will try to go with this approach for the time being. THANK YOU!

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, over 1000 folks in need, with food and other supplies in 2018. 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 2018, the Food Pantry served 371 families - 924 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 BASIC NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER THE COUNTER COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT, LAUNDRY DETERGENT, ANY CLEANING ITEM

DONATIONS OF CASH AND GIFT CARDS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

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



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

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!



THANK YOU!!

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers I received and to Linda Clark for delivering them. They were very much appreciated. -BARBARA FAIRMAN

SUNDAY SOLDIERS

Messiah's youth group, *Sunday's Soldiers*, continues to meet the first Sunday of each month in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. In January we got together to watch a movie. On February 3rd we will meet after church, have lunch together, and work on an art project for one of our bulletin boards. All youth are invited to join us!

THANK YOU!

TO OUR FRIENDS AT MESSIAH.....thank you so much for your generous donation to the Juniata County Food Pantry to help our neighbors in need. Winter is the most dangerous time of year for the 3,000 children, adults, and elderly living in poverty in Juniata County and struggling to survive. Daily choices include whether to buy food or heating oil; gas for the car or medicine for the kids. Your gift will help to provide many families not only with essential food and supplies, but also with hope in the knowledge that someone cares.

Sincerely,
**Your Friends at the
Juniata County Food Pantry**



MUSIC SUNDAY

Music Sunday will be held this year on **Mother's Day, May 12th, 2019**. We are celebrating this year by having our own "homegrown" musicians perform for our service on Mom's special day. This includes instrumentalists from Tuscarora Junior High School, our junior and senior choirs, our organist, as well local women's singing group "The Sinceres," which includes Messiah's very own Betty Stratford! Come join us for a service celebrating Mom and celebrating the music of our church.....and a surprise from the Fellowship Committee following the service!

CD MINISTRY TO RESUME!

Lectori Salutem;

We would like to announce the rebirth of a ministry at Messiah of providing an audio recording of our Sunday morning worship service. This ministry used to be called the "Tape Ministry" and might now be called the "CD Ministry". A number of years ago, the cassette recorder used to record the audio of the service stopped functioning and was not repairable. Recently some new components were purchased and added to our sound system at Messiah. This new equipment was made possible through the generous contributions made to the Memorial Fund in remembrance of Wayne Miller. We owe much gratitude to the family and friends of Wayne and to Wayne for his service at Messiah both past and through these gifts in the years ahead!

As we begin anew this ministry, many steps need to be followed, discovered, organized and mastered in order to bring recorded Sunday services to the homes of our shut-in members and anyone who would like to hear our worship experience. Please bear with us as we practice recording the services and making sufficient copies of the CD's for distribution. We will provide CD players for any members who need them, just as we provided cassette tape players for that type of media. We will finally need to re-establish a ministry of weekly distribution of the CD's to anyone who would like to hear the service.

If you or anyone you know would like to receive a CD, please contact the church office at 717-436-6213, or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. Please tell us if you will need a CD player in order for us to purchase sufficient units for everyone who needs them. We will be compiling a list. Once the systems and CD's are in place and all is working properly, we will contact those on the list about receiving the ministry.

We praise God for the blessings here at Messiah and for all the caring and loving members of our congregational family! May we continue to grow in Christian love, sharing these blessings and the Good News!

**Sam Leister, Executive Director,
Parish Planning Council**

FEBRUARY 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sunday, February 3:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church/Children's Sermon -- Worship Leader: Andrea Cameron
-After Worship – "Sunday Soldiers" Youth Group Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Monday, February 4:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Junior Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, February 5:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, February 6:** -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, February 7:** -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
-5:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40440 Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, February 10:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church -- Worship Leader: Jim Bahorik
- Monday, February 11:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Junior Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, February 12:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, February 13:** -6:30 p.m., 4-H Beef & Breeders Club in Youth Area
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, February 14:** -HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!
-7:00 p.m., WELCA Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, February 17:** -9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church/Children's Sermon -- Worship Leader: Sam Leister
-After Worship: Music & Worship Committee Meeting in Library
- Monday, February 18:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Junior Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, February 19:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, February 20:** -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room
- Thursday, February 21:** -1:00 p.m., Dulcimer Rehearsal
-5:00 p.m., Girl Scout Troop #40440 Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Friday, February 22:** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Sunday, February 24:** **FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY**
-9:15 a.m., Sunday School/Catechetical Class
-10:30 a.m., Worship/Communion/Jr. Church -- Worship Leader: Stephen Rodgers
- Monday, February 25:** -6:30 p.m., Knitting Class in Junior Church Room
-8:00 p.m., AA meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, February 26:** -9:00 a.m., "The Needlers" in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, February 27:** -7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in Rearick Room