THE MESSIAH HERALD



SEPTEMBER 2020

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

VICAR - SAMUEL J. LEISTER - sleister@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

TREASURER EMAIL: mlchurchtreasurer@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL (STARTING <u>SEPT. 6TH</u>) – 9:15 AM WORSHIP AND COMMUNION (STARTING <u>SEPT. 6TH</u>) – 10:30 AM

CHILDREN'S SERMONS OFFERED EVERY SUNDAY!

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

"Proclaiming God's love revealed in Jesus Christ and his People"

♯ Messiah Herald



PATHWAYS OF GIVING, SUPPORTING, AND CARING

Dear Messiah Family,

May the blessings of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and The Holy Spirit be with you all!

Let us all pray for a super September! As the seasons change, may we all align with the will of God our Father and may we care for and His creation in all our times and in all our places.

Please take a moment to refer to Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. In these chapters you will find the Ten Commandments. I will be referring also to the book, *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism* by R. Guy Erwin, et al, Augsburg Fortress 2017 as well as Luther's Small Catechism. Let us look at the Fifth Commandment, "You shall not murder." Luther asks, "What is this? or What does this mean?" Luther tells us that we are to love and fear God so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors. This is pretty straight forward. But, if we have a "do not" then there must be a "do." What we are to do is to help and support our neighbors in all their life's needs. Look at Matthew 25 verses 34 through 40. In these verses we find the essence of Christ's love and the love of neighbors that we are to show. Listed here is a sampling of "do's" to meet life's needs of others. What other ways are you finding in your modern lives that meet the needs of your neighbors? Remember too that your neighbors include those with whom you disagree as well as those with whom you find agreement.

We have a financial support fund at Messiah called the Matthew 25 fund. We use this to help those in need of help and support. You contribute to this fund throughout the year and especially at Christmas. This account is managed by the executive committee of the Parish Planning Council. Referrals can be made directly to them as well as to me as Vicar. Assistance can be provided for God's children beyond the walls of Messiah and our congregation. Over the years this our congregation has helped with utilities, food, medical needs, fire victims, clothing, and many more essentials.

A number of groups within Messiah also maintain benevolent support funds. The Lloyd Showers' Sunday school class, the Women of the ELCA, and the Sunday Soldiers are three examples of these groups who have provided assistance locally and worldwide. The sale of Weis and Giant gift cards support the Project of Faith program administered by the Disciples Sunday school class.

Caring for others flows through yet another pathway from our congregation. The support of our synod through benevolence contributions, WELCA donations, and the church budget reach many neighbors in need in our state, country and around the world. As we are blessed, so shall we bless our neighbors, just as Jesus taught us to do.

May the Lord be with you all!

Vicar Samuel Leister

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Carole Baker Pam Lawson Jane Ann Baney Carol Lyter Donna Barton Marilyn MaCoy Lindsey Barton Carlen McClure **Bob Bell** Charlie, Amanda e Isabel Meinsler Nick Beward Alice McClure Joyce Bradley Ministerio de la Mutual de Messiah Andrea Cameron Tammy Metz Pam Campbell Elwood Miller **Ruth Cisney** Larry Miller **Curtis Clark** Shirley Miller Jim Minick Terry Coder Leann Crimmel Claire Mummah & Family Will DeLancy Landon Musser Guy Dillman Darve Nace Fred & Dot Dowling Madison Norman Renee Dzikowski Austin Parker Neil Fisher **Noel Peachey** Janie Fogleman Dave Phelan Jerald (Jerry) Foltz **Butch & Sandy Pines** Ed Fraker **Steve Pontius Betty Ranck** Michaela Fry Bentley Fulkroad Keith Ranck Joan Fulkroad **Mary Sanders** Mackenzie Shearer Terri Gaver **Ronald Shearer** Edie Kay Gill **Paul Goss** Tim Smith **Jeanette Gross** Mike Sparks **Beth Harris** Donald Speece Harry & Jennifer Heikes Alice Swartz Sue Henderson Bob & Jeanette St. Clair **Dorothy Towsey** Nox Hepburn Rich Walters Jason Hockenberry & Familia Curt & Judy Houtz Erma Williamson Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson **Dottie Wilson** Brenda Imes Jim Woltman **Denny King** Mackenzie Wray Barbara Yocum **Kevin Kint** The Family of Josh Hohol Linda Zimmerman The Family of Mildred Hostler The Family of John Miller The Family of Al McClure

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE
(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

BROOKLINE MANOR

(2 MANOR BLVD., RM. 226, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)
Gail Henderson

BERRY'S PERSONAL CARE CENTER

(3 ALEX CIRCLE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)
Carol Simonton

HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108, THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094) Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

LOCUST GROVE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(69 COTTAGE DRIVE, MIFFLIN, PA 17058) Esther Rhine

AT HOME

Max Ernest Margaret Guss 1099 William Penn Hwy. 20 South Third Street Mifflintown, PA 17059 Mifflintown, PA 17059

Mona Lawson 2792 William Penn Hwy. Mifflintown, PA 17059 Minnie Minick 187 JAM House Road Mifflin, PA 17058

Edith Nipple 1482 William Penn Hwy. Mifflintown, PA 17059 Sieber & Ona Stoner 23591 Route 35 North Mifflintown, PA 17059

Velma Suloff 4460 Route 333 Mifflintown, PA 17059 Ken & Kay Stuck 66 Eighth Street Mifflintown, PA 17059

Kitty Walters P.O. Box 61 Port Royal, PA 17082 Jim Yetter 128 Manbeck Drive Mifflintown, PA 17059

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

AUGUST 11 – Linda Leister (Belated!!)
SEPTEMBER 17 – Eliza Arentz
SEPTEMBER 21 – Minnie Minick
SEPTEMBER 28 – Jonathan White

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

AUGUST 14 – Ken & Kay Stuck (Belated!!)
SEPTEMBER 4 – Warren & Claire Mummah
SEPTEMBER 13 – Jonathan & Dani White
SEPTEMBER 20 – Brian & Eliza Arentz

If you want to add your name to the birth-day/anniversary list, or know someone you would like to acknowledge, please let the church office know at ml.rchoffice@gmail.com.

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please an email to Vicar Leister sleister@gmail.com. Also, if anyone has any needs or concerns, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know as well. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at sleister@gmail.com.

UPCOMING SERVANTS

ALTAR GUILD

August 31 to Sept. 27....... Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed Sept. 28 to Oct. 25.. Tammy Smith & Tawny Mummah

LECTORS

September 6 Harrison Mummah

September 13 Diana Wise September 20 Barb Geedey September 27 Randy Clark



The Women of the ELCA met on Thursday, August 13th at 7 P.M. Cynthia Smith presented the program on "is the glass half empty or half full"? It is not about being empty or full but about how heavy is the water in the glass and how long can you hold onto it. Our lives are like the glass of water and the longer we hold onto the worries and stresses of life worse our worries become. She read from several Psalms, verses from Isaiah and Matthew. We should turn our worries and concerns to God.

There was no Treasurer's report tonight.

Barb reported under old business that Blanket Sunday is October 4th and then they will be delivered to the Synod Office by the next Saturday. We will continue to collect items for the school kits which are:

- 70-80 SHEET NOTEBOOKS (each kit requires 4)
- 1 RULER WITH CENTIMETERS AND INCHES
- 1 PENCIL SHARPENER
- 1 PAIR OF BLUNT SCISSORS
- 5 UNSHARPENED PENCILS WITH ERASERS
- 5 BLACK OR BLUE BALLPOINT PENS (no gel pens)
- 1 BOX OF 16 OR 24 CRAYONS
- ONE 2 ½ INCH ERASERS.

Our next meeting will be September 10th at 7 P.M. and we will put together the kits that we have collected.

The meeting closed with our Purpose Statement.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Geedey

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 in the church office or in the Adult Sunday School Room and are FREE! Get yours today!

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Don't forget, Sunday School classes for all ages resumes on **Sunday, September 6th at 9:15 AM!!** If you have any questions, please contact Linda Clark at church or by calling **717-348-8262**.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Please let the church office know if you would like your child to attend a First Communion Class and a date and time will be arranged with those who are interested.

BAPTISMAL & NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to become a member of Messiah and attend the New Member Class, please let the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class will begin this Fall for students entering grade 7 and above. Please notify the church office at 717-436-6213 (email) mlchurchoffice@gmail.com or Vicar Sam Leister at 717-436-8589 (email) sleister@gmail.com if you are planning to attend the class.

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday

On Sunday, Sept. 13, congregations will observe "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. This year our church — and our world — are living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve. But the need is great, and God's church is at work.

We encourage you to plan your day of service in compliance with local health guidelines. The safety and well-being of your volunteers and those you serve is a top priority. Follow all local guidance regarding physical distancing, mask-wearing, maximum gathering size and building capacity limits.

Acts of service can happen anywhere: you might contribute to an online project from your home or volunteer in person keeping a safe physical distance and wearing a mask.

Also on September 13th, we will be singing a hymn titled "God's Work, Our Hands," written by Wayne Wold, who was selected as the winning entry in the ELCA's "God's work. Our hands." Sunday hymn contest in 2019. More than 120 entries were submitted to be considered as a hymn for the ELCA's annual dedicated day of service. The selected hymn represents the official tagline of the ELCA and expresses how the people of this church live in service for the

life of the world.

Wold is a professor and chair of the music department at Hood College in Frederick, Md., where he also serves as concert manager and college organist. He is also the director of music ministry at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellicott City, Md.

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.

SAYING GOODBYE....

It is with great sadness that, after 15 years, we say farewell to Pastor Erin Bovendam, who has accepted a call from a church in Minnesota. Her last Sunday at Trinity Lutheran will be Sunday, August 30. Pastor Mathiason will also be leaving St. Stephen's Lutheran. His last Sunday will be September 6. They are both originally from Minnesota and will be closer to their parents. As mentioned above, they have served Trinity and St. Stephen's congregations and our community for 15 years.

Please keep them all in your prayers as well as the congregations of Trinity and St. Stephen's as they begin the search for their new pastors.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FACEMASK CHALLENGE!

Lutheran World Relief has launched the **75,000 Face Mask Challenge**, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many masks as you would like. If you are interested in participating or want more details, please call Cynthia Smith at 717-994-4999 or email her at **gramcynthia49@yahoo.com**.

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.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 12 SAMUEL 11:27B – 12:15A <i>THOSE WRESTLING WITH GUILT</i>
SEPTEMBER 2 MATTHEW 12:22-32 THOSE WHO EXEMPLIFY FULL COMMITMENT TO JESUS
SEPTEMBER 3PSALM 119:33-40 <i>POLICY MAKERS</i>
SEPTEMBER 4 ROMANS 10:15B-21 TEACHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN
SEPTEMBER 5 EZEKIEL 33:1-6 PEOPLE AWAITING A WORD FROM GOD
SEPTEMBER 6MATTHEW 18:15-20 Those who work in conflict resolution
SEPTEMBER 71 PETER 2:11-17 PEOPLE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 8PSALM 119:65-72 INDIVIDUALS FEELING LOST AND ALONE
SEPTEMBER 9MATTHEW 21:18-22 TENDERS OF FRUIT-TREE ORCHARDS
SEPTEMBER 101 JOHN 3:11-16 THOSE CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
SEPTEMBER 11PSALM 103:1-13 ANGER MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTORS
SEPTEMBER 12 MATTHEW 6:7-15 ALL WHO WORK TO SUPPLY DAILY BREAD FOR OTHERS
SEPTEMBER 13 MATTHEW 18:21-35 PEOPLE CARRYING GRUDGES
SEPTEMBER 141 CORINTHIANS 1:18-24 THOSE WHO STRUGGLE DAILY WITH BELIEVING
SEPTEMBER 15 PSALM 133 BROKEN AND ESTRANGED FAMILIES
SEPTEMBER 16 MARK 11:20-25 PEOPLE WHO ENGAGE IN PRAYER AS A MINISTRY
SEPTEMBER 17NAHUM 1:1, 14 – 2:2 Those caught in violent conflicts around the world
SEPTEMBER 182 CORINTHIANS 13:5-10 HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES

SEPTEMBER 19 PS	SALM 145:1-8
N EWLY MARRIED COUPLES	
SEPTEMBER 20MATT	
SEPTEMBER 21 MATT	, , ,
SEPTEMBER 22GENI	,
SEPTEMBER 23IS THOSE LIVING IN FEAR	SAIAH 41:1-13
SEPTEMBER 24P DRIVERS ON THE ROAD TODAY	SALM 25:1-9
SEPTEMBER 25EZE PEOPLE MAKING MORAL DECISIONS T	_
SEPTEMBER 26 EZEK THOSE SUFFERING FROM REGRET	
SEPTEMBER 27 MATTH FOR PEOPLE TO ACT WITH JUSTICE, COMPASS	
SEPTEMBER 28 THOSE IN NEED OF COURAGE AND H	
SEPTEMBER 29PSALM 10 FOR CONGREGATIONS TO HAVE A SENSE OF	
SEPTEMBER 30 MAT CAREGIVERS	THEW 9:2-8

THREE PASTORS WERE HAVING LUNCH TOGETHER AT A DINER

The first Pastor said: "Ya know, since summer started I've been having trouble with mice in my church. I've tried everything. Noise, spray, cats. Nothing seems to scare them away."

The second Pastor then said: "Yea, me too. I've got hundreds living in the basement of the church. I've set traps and even called an expert to get rid of them, yet they still won't go away."

With a grin on his face, the third Pastor said: "I had the same problem, so I baptized all mine and made them members of the church ... Haven't seen one back since!"

MESSIAH ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS -- AUGUST 2020

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL Offering	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS Offering
AUGUST 2	41	\$2,886.00	\$2,356.00	BENEVOLENCE \$110.00 BUILDING FUND \$320.00 WORLD HUNGER \$50.00 MATTHEW 25 \$50.00
AUGUST 9	38	\$3,171.00	\$2,691.00	BENEVOLENCE \$60.00 BUILDING FUND \$370.00 MATTHEW 25 \$50.00
AUGUST 16	30	\$3,062.00	\$2,612.00	BENEVOLENCE \$135.00 BUILDING FUND \$265.00 MATTHEW 25 \$50.00
AUGUST 23	31	\$1,882.00	\$1,647.00	BENEVOLENCE \$90.00 BUILDING FUND \$145.00
AUGUST 30	42	\$3,592.00	\$3,247.00	BENEVOLENCE \$195.00 BUILDING FUND \$150.00

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY SEPTEMBER UPDATE

September is National Hunger Action Month

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 150 children spend their summer having fun instead of going hungry.

In July 2020, the Food Pantry served 211 families in need – over 500 individuals. A special thank you to Aldersgate United Methodist Church for providing volunteers for the month.

We are doing well through the COVID19, however new volunteers are always being sought. If you feel called, openings are available on Tuesday mornings or afternoons or on Saturday mornings, consider becoming a volunteer. The experience alone is so rewarding.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR SEPTEMBER:

Fresh garden produce and shampoo, OTC cold and pain medicines, Dishwashing Soaps, Laundry Soap, and School supplies and backpacks while they are on sale©

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 <u>JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY</u>.
(CONTACT PERSON: GLENDA FULTZ). Email: jcfoodpantry@embargmail.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!

SEPTEMBER 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: -9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM -- VICAR SAM -- PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6: -9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHETICAL CLASS

-10:30 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION (AM 1700 RADIO STATION)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8: -9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM -- VICAR SAM -- PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 -8:00 AM -- VICAR SAM -- 6TH TEEM CLASS (SYSTEMIC THEOLOGY)

TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: -7:00 PM -- W.E.L.C.A. MEETING IN YOUTH AREA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13: GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS SUNDAY

-9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHETICAL CLASS

-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION (AM 1700 RADIO STATION)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15: -9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM -- VICAR SAM -- PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: -9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHETICAL CLASS

-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION (AM 1700 RADIO STATION)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22: -9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM -- VICAR SAM -- PASTORAL CARE TRAINING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25: -NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27: -9:15 AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL & CATECHETICAL CLASS

-10:30 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION (AM 1700 RADIO STATION)

Tuesday, September 29: -9:00 AM to 2:00 PM -- Vicar Sam -- Pastoral Care Training

ALL OTHER NON-CHURCH EVENTS AT MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. PLEASE CHECK THE
CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE, MLCMIFFLINTOWN.ORG FOR ANY UPDATES!



A DIFFERENT SCHOOL YEAR

As we approach a new school year, we always have many anxieties in a regular year. This year is especially difficult for many students, parents, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, and all staff in our schools. There are many uncertainties which face these folks as the school buildings open and classes begin. Please add these folks to your prayers and keep them in your thoughts as we start a new school year.

A NOTE ABOUT CHOIR

After discussion at the August 23rd meeting of the Board of Worship and Music, it was decided that choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and singing on Sunday mornings would be cancelled until further notice. According to CDC guidelines, when in groups, singing should be restricted. That, along with age-group restrictions backed up that decision. Choir will be held again in the future, so if you're interested in joining, just keep your eyes and ears open for more information in the months ahead.



UPDATE REGARDING THE 2021 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

After much prayer and consideration, we have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held **July 24-28**, 2022, in Minneapolis, with the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the tAble, scheduled for July 21-24, 2022.

We give thanks for your prayers and patience as we have worked through the details with our partners in Minneapolis and across the country. We hope that by postponing the Gathering for a year, individuals and congregations will feel more comfortable and prepared to attend the Gathering in 2022.

We will be updating our website and social media as more details become available.

We look forward to seeing you and experiencing the boundlessness of God in Minneapolis in 2022!

#ELCAYG2022



WHAT WENT INTO MAKING THIS DECISION?

Gathering leadership has looked heavily at research and advice from the CDC, public health officials, meeting planner organizations as well as our host city within the past few months about hosting large events. With current trends still showing an upward spike of COVID-19 cases across the country, we feel it would not be safe to gather in large groups next summer with the risk of spreading the virus.

WHY WAS THIS DECISION MADE NOW?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) names events like the Gathering (large, national participation) as ones that pose the "highest risk." Additionally, making the decision to postpone now allows congregations more time to fundraise and prepare.

WHO IS ABLE TO ATTEND THE 2022 GATHERING?

Youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (Fall 2021) are eligible to attend. Adult leaders must be at least 21 at the time of the Gathering. The recommended ratio is one adult for every seven youth.

We encourage our youth that are not eligible to attend the 2022 Gathering as a participant to look into our unique <u>volunteer opportunities</u> for young adults.

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THIS IS MY SISTER FAITH ... THE ONE WHO I TOLD YOU COULD MOVE MOUNTAINS