

# THE MESSIAH HERALD



**JULY 2021**

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**3 SOUTH THIRD STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059**  
**717-436-6213**

## **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.**

**VICAR SAMUEL LEISTER: [SLEISTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SLEISTER@GMAIL.COM)**

**WEBSITE: [WWW.MLCMIFFLINTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.MLCMIFFLINTOWN.ORG)**

**EMAIL: [MLCHURCHOFFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MLCHURCHOFFICE@GMAIL.COM)**

**CHURCH TREASURER: [MLCHURCHTREASURER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MLCHURCHTREASURER@GMAIL.COM)**

**SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE -- 9:15 AM**  
***WEEKLY SERVICE BROADCAST ON AM 1700***

**[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)**

**[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)**

# **"Growing God's Love"**

## The Messiah Herald



### **THE VICAR'S MESSAGE**

Dear Messiah Family,

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

This month I share a few thoughts from one of my seminary classes from the last full week of June. These words are from a group project. First read Mark 7:24-30. Many of you have already read this account as part of the book of the month.

Notes from the class project include that this was probably written between 65 and 73 CE following the persecutions of Christians. Within the Gospel of Mark, these events took place after the death of John the Baptist, the feeding of the 5,000, and a time when many crowds gathering closely around Jesus.

Jesus is in Gentile territory, his first travels outside of Palestine. Tyre is a pagan city. Describing the woman as a Syrophenician identifies her as a Gentile, an outsider. Jesus speaks in public to a woman who was not a spouse or sibling and she speaks to him, which goes against social conventions. The woman felt shame as a Gentile approaching a Jewish rabbi. She had to overcome this idea that a Syrophenician would not make contact with someone like Jesus. Additionally, she was delivered an insult when Jesus likened dogs beneath the meal table to her in this setting.

Some questions for discussion and study: What is the nature of the comparison of children and dogs? Is it purely a social difference or more fundamentally about an individual's humanity? How desperate must the woman have been to grovel at the feet of someone with whom she was not to associate? Did she go because she heard about Jesus and because of desperation or because she heard of others who were healed? What might this text say about our requests of God? Do we have the courage to dialogue with God as our ancestors in the faith did in the Hebrew Bible? Is there enough bread for all? The child receives bread. The gentiles receive Jesus's bread/good news. To whom do we deny bread? What do we see as a lesson on how we should approach and interact with people of other cultures, beliefs, and lifestyles?

Continue now to read through the Gospel of Mark in July for Messiah's Book of the Month Club. July's goal is to read chapters 9 through 12. Remember as you read these next four chapters of Mark; feel free to read them aloud to others. Who do you say that Jesus is?

Facebook Live and YouTube are ways to connect over the internet. We continue to record audio CD's as well. If you or someone you know would like to receive an audio CD, please call the church office. These are ways in which we share our worship services each week.

Let us continue to serve others in need during these extreme times of grief, sickness, loneliness, and struggles. Remain steadfast in your faith in the Love of Jesus to bring to others consolation, attention, happiness, and the peace that passes worldly understanding. Share the message of hope with others around you. Find ways to carry God's Love to others whom we must for now remain physically at a distance but can and must embrace with our spiritual arms and our souls.

May the Lord be with you all!

*Vicar Samuel Leister*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

All Front Line Workers,  
including medical personnel  
in all areas

Pray for peace among nations  
and among nationalities of  
mixed race and color

Shirley Aumiller  
Donna Barton  
Donna Bell  
Harmon Bender  
Andy Berrier  
Ken Berrier  
Roxanne Boyer  
Wanda Boyer  
Dan Brown  
Charlotte Burd  
Andrea Cameron  
Pam Campbell  
Ron Chambers  
Andrew & Daris Ciecierski  
The Family of Curtis Clark  
Randy Clark  
Terry Coder  
Vincent Cramer  
Leann Crimmel  
Will DeLancy  
Fred & Dot Dowling  
Renee Dzikowski  
Tom Ernest  
Neil & Pat Fisher  
Janie Fogleman  
Bentley Fulkroad

Joan Fulkroad  
Dr. Mark G. from Israel  
Terri Gayer  
Edie Kay Gill  
Ruthlee, Norman, Jr, Simon, and  
Aiden Gloss  
Sam & Dianne Goshorn  
Paul Goss  
Beth Harris  
Amy Hart  
Harry & Jennifer Heikes  
Sue Henderson  
Nox Hepburn  
Curt & Judy Houtz  
Dean Hutchinson  
Brenda Imes  
Annie Ingle  
Doc Johnston  
Guy Kerstetter  
Denny King  
Darvin Krause  
Pam Lawson  
Chase Lehman  
Vicar Sam Leister  
Michael Lozano  
Carol Lyter  
Diane Marshall  
Anthony Martin  
Zayden Mabey  
Carlen McClure  
Alice McClure  
Isabel Meinsler

Messiah Mutual Ministry  
Cecilia Miller  
Elwood Miller  
Larry Miller  
Shirley Miller  
Jim Minick  
Claire Mummah  
Ken Mummah  
Darve Nace  
Paul Ogden  
Austin Parker  
Noel Peachey  
Rick & Audrey Peters  
Kari Ann (Reagan) Petrine  
Dave Phelan  
Butch & Sandy Pines  
Betty Ranck  
Keith Ranck  
Mike Rhoades  
Bill & Claudette Satzler  
Ronald & Arlene Shearer  
Mike Sparks  
Andy Spigelmyer  
Bob & Jeanette St. Clair  
Dorothy Towsey  
Rich Walters  
Erma Williamson  
Jim Woltman  
Mackenzie Wray  
George Zimmerman  
Linda Zimmerman

## PRAYERS & CONCERNS

If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at [sleister@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sleister@gmail.com).

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

July's "Mission of the Month" at Messiah will be for Lutheran Disaster Relief. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Lutheran Disaster Relief by way of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. These funds will help those across the United States, from the building collapse in Miami Beach to flooding and tornado victims among many others. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.



WELCA met on Thursday, June 10th at 7 P.M. in the Young Adults Sunday School Classroom. Vicar Sam was present at the beginning and offered a prayer.

Barb opened with devotions from Grace for the Moment by Max Lucado. Barb read Why Worry?, Reasons for Joy, and Our Plight. Cynthia gave the Treasurer's report.

We did not have any Old Business because we did not take any action in May.

Under New Business we discussed several projects for this year, and we decided to work on school kits as they seem to be needed the most at this time. Each kit requires (4 70-80 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper 8x10 1/2, 1 30 centimeter ruler or one with inches on one side and centimeters on the other side, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 pair of blunt scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with easers, 5 black or blue ballpoint pens-no gel, 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons, 1 2 1/2 inch eraser).

We will have information on the Seafarers bags later this summer.

Since we have not met recently our group moved to send \$100.00 to Synod and to LWR for shipping costs from last fall. Both motions passed. Barb read a thank you letter from the Executive Director of the WELCA for our Thankoffering donation of \$380.00. Linda reported that our Synodical WELCA convention will be held in person at Camp Mt. Luther in September.

Cynthia will provide devotions for our next meeting on July 8th.

The group closed with our Purpose Statement.

## PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

### BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

### BROOKLINE MANOR

(2 MANOR BLVD., MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Gail Henderson, Carol Simonton

### HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR., APT. 108, THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney Ray Bramm

### NORTH RIDGE CENTER PERSONAL CARE

(99 N. RIDGE DR., MCALISTERVILLE, PA 17049)

Paul Goss

### AT HOME

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

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

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

Ken Stuck  
66 Eighth Street  
Mifflintown, PA 17059

## UPCOMING SERVANTS

### ALTAR GUILD

June 28 to August 1..... Linda Clark & Chris Martin

### LECTORS

July 4 .....Haley Mummah  
July 11..... Kate Swailes  
July 18..... Jean Compton  
July 25..... Linda Bahorik

### ACOLYTES

July 4 .....Nick Reed  
July 11.....Haley Mummah  
July 18..... Hope Miller & Thea Beward  
July 25.....Slone Smith & Harrison Mummah

### OFFERING PRESENTERS

July 4 ..... Hannah Ehrisman  
July 11..... Braedon Walton  
July 18..... Grace Miller & Brea Beward  
July 25..... Zeb Berry & Olivia Mummah

### FLOWERS

July 4 ..... Stoner & Pines Families  
July 11 to 25..... OPEN

# JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY JULY UPDATE

Summer is off to a busy start at the Food Pantry with the Summer Backpack lunch program in full swing. Thank you so much for all the great community support! Our Backpack program is providing food for children in grades K-8 – children who might otherwise be going hungry this summer are instead receiving boxes filled with nutritious lunches.

In May 2021, the Food Pantry served 160 families in need – a total of 393 individuals. A special thank you to Free Spring Church of the Brethren for providing volunteers for the month of May.

Donations are beginning to slow down as families head off on vacation. Please don't forget that hunger doesn't take a vacation in the summer! If you'd like to come give us a hand, we can always use volunteers.

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JULY:

CLEANING SUPPLIES & PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

**BACKPACK PROGRAM:** SINGLE SERVE FRUIT CUPS, JELL-O CUPS,  
NON-CHOCOLATE PUDDING, & SINGLE SERVE MEALS.

*Donations of cash/checks 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](mailto: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!**

## DEPENDENCE DAY

July 4, 2021 marks the 245th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the American colonies. Celebrations in the United States will mark the historical claiming of independence, but also will highlight aspects of American national identity such as individualism.

On this day when many in the United States revel in independence, we encounter a gospel story grounded entirely in *dependence*. Jesus does not send out disciples on their own, but rather as pairs. He orders them to take nothing with them except what they are wearing. As they travel from place to place, they will be entirely dependent on the hospitality of those they encounter for food, water, shelter, and other needs that arise along the way.

As they cast out demons and heal people, it is not through their own power, but their dependence on Jesus. Even Jesus has a touch of dependence in this story. The people of Nazareth cannot see past the little boy he was, to the powerful prophet and teacher

he has become. This somehow limits the deeds of power he can accomplish among them. The expectations of the town's people seem to get in the way.

The risen Jesus certainly breaks all sorts of expectations, and Martin Luther's explanation of the third article of the creed reminds us that it is not by our own power that we come to faith, but that the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 1162).

Our gospel for today, alongside Luther's reflection, reminds us that part of the gift of life we have in Christ is community—dependent, loving, compassionate, frustrating, messy, blessed community. We call this community the church, the body of Christ. All its members are gifted, all of them necessary, all of them dependent on one another. In this dependence is strength, joy, and hope. Thanks be to God. (*Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.*)

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER FOCUS

JULY 1 ----- PSALM 123  
LGBTQ MINISTRIES

JULY 2 ----- 2 CORINTHIANS 10:7-11  
ENTOMOLOGISTS

JULY 3 ----- JOHN 14:1-7  
COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

JULY 4 ----- MARK 6:1-13  
YOUNG ADULTS WHO HAVE REJECTED GOD

JULY 5 ----- 2 CORINTHIANS 11:16-33  
NEW SEMINARIANS AND FAITH LEADERS

JULY 6 ----- JAMES 5:7-12  
THOSE WAITING AND WORKING FOR JUSTICE

JULY 7 ----- JOHN 7:1-9  
COUPLES IN COUNSELING

JULY 8 ----- PSALM 85:8-13  
THOSE WHO SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

JULY 9 ----- COLOSSIANS 4:2-18  
PEOPLE ENGAGED IN COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS TODAY

JULY 10 ----- LUKE 1:57-80  
WORSHIP PLANNERS

JULY 11 ----- MARK 6:14-29  
WORLD LEADERS AND DECISION MAKERS

JULY 12 ----- ACTS 21:27-39  
JOURNALISTS AND OTHER PROPHETIC VOICES

JULY 13 ----- ACTS 23:12-35  
SAFETY FOR THOSE WHO ARE INCARCERATED

JULY 14 ----- PSALM 142  
PEOPLE IN DANGER

JULY 15 ----- COLOSSIANS 1:15-23  
AUTHORS, POETS, AND HYMN WRITERS

JULY 16 ----- PSALM 23  
HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

JULY 17 ----- LUKE 18:35-43  
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

JULY 18 ----- MARK 6:30-34; 53-56  
PEOPLE WHO FEEL STRESSED

JULY 19 ----- HEBREWS 13:17-25  
FAITH TEACHERS AND MENTORS

JULY 20 ----- PSALM 100  
FARMERS AND GARDENERS

JULY 21 ----- LUKE 15:1-7  
PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

JULY 22 ----- EXODUS 2:1-10  
CHILDREN WAITING TO BE ADOPTED

JULY 23 ----- COLOSSIANS 3:12-17  
TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

JULY 24 ----- PSALM 145:10-18  
SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACHES

JULY 25 ----- JOHN 6:1-21  
COOKS AND MEAL PLANNERS

JULY 26 ----- PSALM 7:1-10  
VICTIMS OF ABUSE

JULY 27 ----- PSALM 111  
THE WISE ELDERS AMONG US

JULY 28 ----- ISAIAH 26:6-10A  
HOSPICE CARE WORKERS

JULY 29 ----- EXODUS 12:33-42  
NIGHT-SHIFT WORKERS

JULY 30 ----- PSALM 78:23-29  
FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

JULY 31 ----- EXODUS 13:3-10  
DAIRY FARMERS

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

Summer is here, which means our Sunday worship service time has temporarily changed. For July and August, worship services will continue to begin at 9:15 AM each week and there will be no Sunday School classes.

## 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!

## 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.

## MESSIAH ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS -- JUNE 2021

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
June 6	41	\$2,655.00	\$2,110.00	BENEVOLENCE -- \$105.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$190.00 MEMORIAL FUND -- \$25.00 FIRE VICTIMS -- \$225.00
June 13	42	\$3,105.00	\$2,611.00	BENEVOLENCE -- \$145.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$100.00 FIRE VICTIMS -- \$175.00 WORLD HUNGER -- \$50.00 FLOWERS -- \$24.00
June 20	37	\$2,845.00	\$2,295.00	BENEVOLENCE -- \$120.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$255.00 FIRE VICTIMS -- \$125.00 SUMMER CAMP -- \$50.00
June 27	61	\$2,880.00	\$1,936.00	BENEVOLENCE -- \$105.00 BUILDING FUND -- \$140.00 FIRE VICTIMS -- \$675.00 FLOWERS -- \$24.00

## JULY 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SUNDAY, JULY 4:** -9:15 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION  
**HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!!!**
- MONDAY, JULY 5:** -7:00 PM -- AA IN YOUTH AREA
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 7:** -9:00 AM -- "THE NEEDLERS" IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- THURSDAY, JULY 8:** -7:00 PM -- W.E.L.C.A. MEETING IN YOUTH AREA
- SUNDAY, JULY 11:** -9:15 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- MONDAY, JULY 12:** -7:00 PM -- AA IN YOUTH AREA
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 14:** -9:00 AM -- "THE NEEDLERS" IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- SUNDAY, JULY 18:** -9:15 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- MONDAY, JULY 19:** -7:00 PM -- AA IN YOUTH AREA
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 21:** -9:00 AM -- "THE NEEDLERS" IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- SUNDAY, JULY 25:** -9:15 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION
- MONDAY, JULY 26:** -7:00 PM -- AA IN YOUTH AREA
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 28:** -9:00 AM -- "THE NEEDLERS" IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
- FRIDAY, JULY 30:** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

JULY 4 – Shane Grimm  
JULY 6 – Bob St. Clair  
JULY 7 – Jace White  
JULY 8 – Larry Wise  
JULY 10 – Linda Bahorik  
JULY 12 – Larry Covert  
JULY 19 -- June Maelyn White  
JULY 26 – Claire Mummah  
JULY 28 – Jean Compton

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

JULY 7 – Todd and Deb Wise  
JULY 30 – Bob, Sr. and Jeanette St. Clair  
JULY 30 – Matt and Erin Harris

## IMPORTANT CHANGE BEING CONSIDERED AT MESSIAH!!!

Our Worship & Music Committee at Messiah has begun talks about possibly changing the starting times of all Sunday services to an earlier time. Discussion centered around possibly starting services at 10 AM at the beginning of 2022, with the Sunday School hour then being adjusted as well. **HOWEVER, we need your input!!** Is 10 AM a time which would seem a good time to have all Sunday services? (Please remember that we now have air conditioning in our building. The lack of A/C in the past was a huge reason why we started having summer services at 9:15 AM.) What do YOU think about a 10 AM start time? Would you prefer another, earlier time? What time would you like to see the Sunday School “portion” of the morning to begin?? Again, **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!** Please take the time to talk to any of Worship & Music Committee members – Vicar Sam, Bob St. Clair, Diana Wise, Michelle Stoner, Andrea Cameron, or Jamie Miller – and share any ideas you may have concerning our start time in 2022. Remember, whatever time is selected will be that same start time all year round. But, as you may have heard, **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!!** Reach out to one of the committee members today!

## SAVE THE DATE!!

Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, Messiah will sponsor a congregational splash party at Central Juniata Park Pool in Mifflin. More information will follow, so be sure to check our future newsletters and bulletins!



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to our friends at Messiah Lutheran Church for your generous and continued support of the Summer Backpack Program at the Juniata County Food Pantry. Receiving such a substantial gift to begin this year’s program is a tremendous blessing! We appreciate your concern for our young friends in need during the summer months and we are grateful for your help with our mission to “Feed His Sheep” (John 21:17). Caring for “the least of these” is God’s direction to us (Matthew 25:40). Thank you for your assistance in making the program a continued success! --Pat Brown, Treasurer & Backpack Program Coordinator

## HEEEY BABY!!

**Congratulations** to new parents Todd and Debbie Wise (and grandparents Larry and Diana Wise) on the birth of twin boys on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. We welcome James Wyatt Wise and Zachary James Wise into the world and pray they bring a lifetime of happiness and joy to the Wise family!





## **NEW!! MASKING UPDATE FOR MESSIAH**

After nearly 17 months of masking, social distancing, deep cleaning, keeping aware of those around us, getting vaccinated, and staying at home as much as possible, restrictions are starting to be lifted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. As of June 28<sup>th</sup>, Governor Wolf and Pennsylvania's state legislature has agreed that the masking mandate that has been in effect for our state since March of 2020 will be a thing of the past, hopefully for a long time to come. But even with the order lifted, and all restrictions lifted earlier in the month, the Department of Health says people will still have to follow CDC guidance for wearing masks, like wearing one when a business requires it or wearing one on public transportation.

With all of this in mind, beginning on **Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**, Messiah will begin to follow these lifted restrictions. Both masking and social distancing will be **OPTIONAL** unless restrictions are re-issued. However, we will continue to print the hymns in the bulletins as well as continue with our current communion cup combo (wafer/juice) until September 5<sup>th</sup>, when we return to 10:30 services. At this point, we hope to have all hymnals back in place as well as the use of the wafer and wine, as well as manna bread, ready for full communion once again. Also, in September, we will continue with senior choir rehearsals (get your singing voices ready!!) as well as junior church and Sunday School! So plan on slowly getting back to "normal".....and we thank God for guiding us through these past 17 months (not 17 years like the cicadas!).



## **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AS WE CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY**

This column is being shared from Chpl. Glen Krans, who expresses what it means to truly celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

This year the United States of America is 245 years old. That seems like a long time for a nation to remain free. But consider what a brief time we've really been here as a nation: When Thomas Jefferson died, Abraham Lincoln was a young man of 17. When Lincoln was assassinated, Woodrow Wilson was a boy of 8. By the time Wilson died Ronald Reagan was a boy of 12. There you have it: the lives of four men can take you all the way back to the beginning of our country.

We are young and yet we stand tall among the world's nations because of the principles on which we were established: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"*.

This is what we celebrate: the inalienable rights that we have and the fact that we believe they have been given to us **by God**. Both truths are important. We can debate whether God has blessed us with liberty and therefore we are free, or whether we have wisely and simply built our liberty based on biblical principles. **In either case our freedom is from God.**

When America was first established as a nation, the feeling was that God had given us an opportunity to do something great! Our democratic society was to be run by rules that embody the idea that each person had value and each person had rights. **AND THERE WAS ALWAYS AN UNDERCURRENT OF DEPENDENCE ON GOD AND GRATITUDE FOR HIS DIVINE GUIDANCE.** The 19<sup>th</sup> century French writer, de Tocqueville, after visiting in America in 1831, said, *"America is great because America is good. And, if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."*

This is an important part of what it means to say, “**In God We Trust**”. It’s not just a slogan, a tip of the hat to the man upstairs, a hopeful expression that God will continue to favor us as a nation and shower us with blessings as individuals. **It means that our lives are built upon faith and trust; on respect for each other based on a goodness that God has taught us, and upon the belief that the very future of our free society is in God’s hands.**

On this Independence Day weekend, we confess that our freedoms and our blessings as Americans are gifts from God. These are gifts that cannot be repaid—that’s the nature of a gift. But there is a debt of gratitude that our hearts recognize and that we willingly take on. “**In God We Trust**” also speaks of that debt. **God Bless America!**

Every Blessing,  
Chaplain Glen Krans

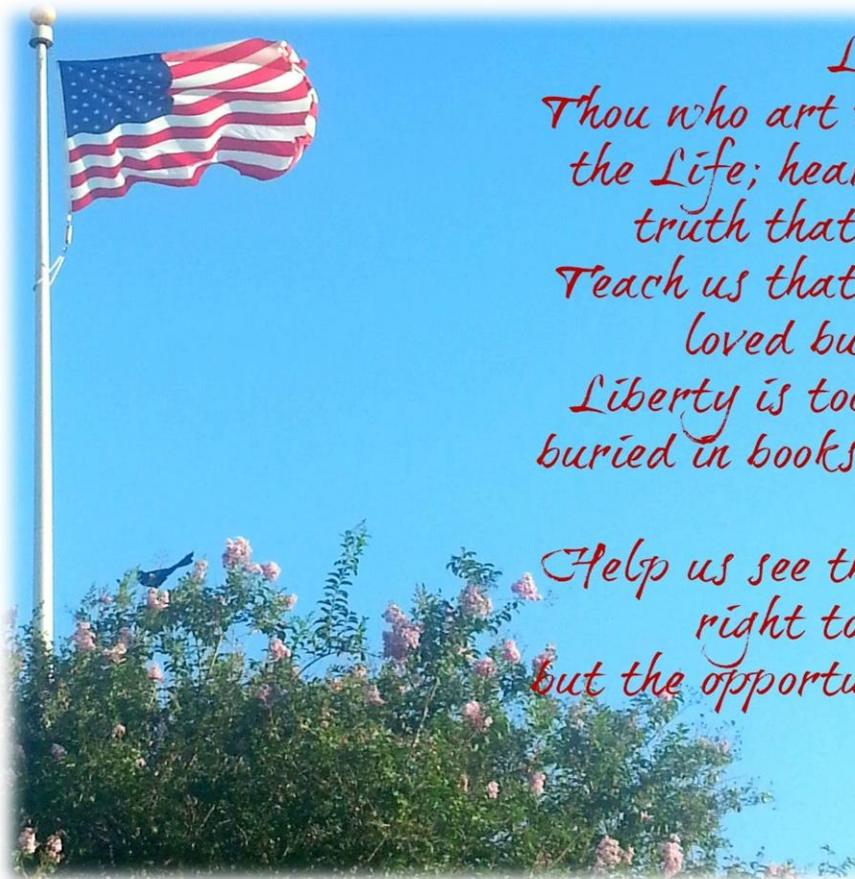
<https://rlcnn.org/category/the-good-news-blast/>,  
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Newport News,  
VA, June 27, 2021



(See Exodus 14)

07-28-2014

MOSES ENJOYING SUMMER BREAK



*Lord Jesus,  
Thou who art the Way, the Truth, and  
the Life; hear us as we pray for the  
truth that shall make all free.  
Teach us that liberty is not only to be  
loved but also to be lived.  
Liberty is too precious a thing to be  
buried in books. It costs too much to be  
hoarded.  
Help us see that our liberty is not the  
right to do as we please,  
but the opportunity to do what is right.*

*- Peter Marshall*

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A bequest of money has been made to Messiah in memory of Mary Ernest, who passed away last year. Mary (and Max) were avid supporters and leaders of Messiah's youth program for many years "back in the day" and now, with Mary's passing, the family is paying it forward in hopes that the technology purchased can be used by the youth, young adults, and young-at-heart to enhance not only our worship services, but also Sunday School, Bible School, and other programs taking place at Messiah.

However, even with the purchase of this equipment, which includes iPads, an Apple TV and projector, we need volunteers to learn how to operate the equipment. (You will NOT have to maintain the equipment if you are apprehensive about such things.) So, before purchasing this equipment, if anyone would like to step up and volunteer to learn how to click a few buttons on Sunday morning or project things through the projector via the Apple TV, please contact Bob St. Clair or Vicar Leister as soon as possible. Once we have volunteers lined up, then we can plan on making the final purchase of products and implement this equipment starting with our September 5<sup>th</sup> service, when we go back to 10:30 AM services. Also, because you volunteer does not mean you are stuck working with this every program.....we will figure things out and availability of people as we go.

Again, please contact Bob St. Clair or Vicar Leister if you are interested in volunteering for using this new equipment in our church!

## BAPTISM AT MESSIAH!

We welcome and celebrate the Rite of Holy Baptism of Lando Albie Kerlin, son of Kerry and Brianne (Eyler) Kerlin of Deland, Florida on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Lando is the grandson of Ken and Kay Eyler and great-grandson of Alice McClure of Mifflintown. Join us all in this blessed even at Messiah!



## PLEASE WELCOME...

...Slone Smith, as our new "backup in the bullpen" organist as of July 1<sup>st</sup>! Slone has been teaching himself how to play piano over the past year or so and has now expressed an interested in giving our "elder" organist, Bob St. Clair, a break from time to time.



The duo have been playing for services together most of the month of June and will continue to do so into July so Slone becomes more comfortable playing and can eventually do a service or two on his own...and then eventually to a quarter or half-time organist at Messiah. Please welcome Slone to the "bench" and thank he (and Bob) for their wonderful musical gifts shared with the congregation weekly at Messiah!

## THE WORMY SERMON

A Southern Baptist minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

The first worm was put into a jar of alcohol.

The second worm was put into a jar of cigarette smoke.

The third worm was put into a jar of chocolate syrup.

The fourth worm was put into a jar of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the Sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol - Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead.

Third worm in chocolate syrup - Dead.

Fourth worm in good clean soil - Alive.

So the Minister asked the congregation, "What can you learn from this demonstration?"

A little old woman in the back quickly raised her hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!"

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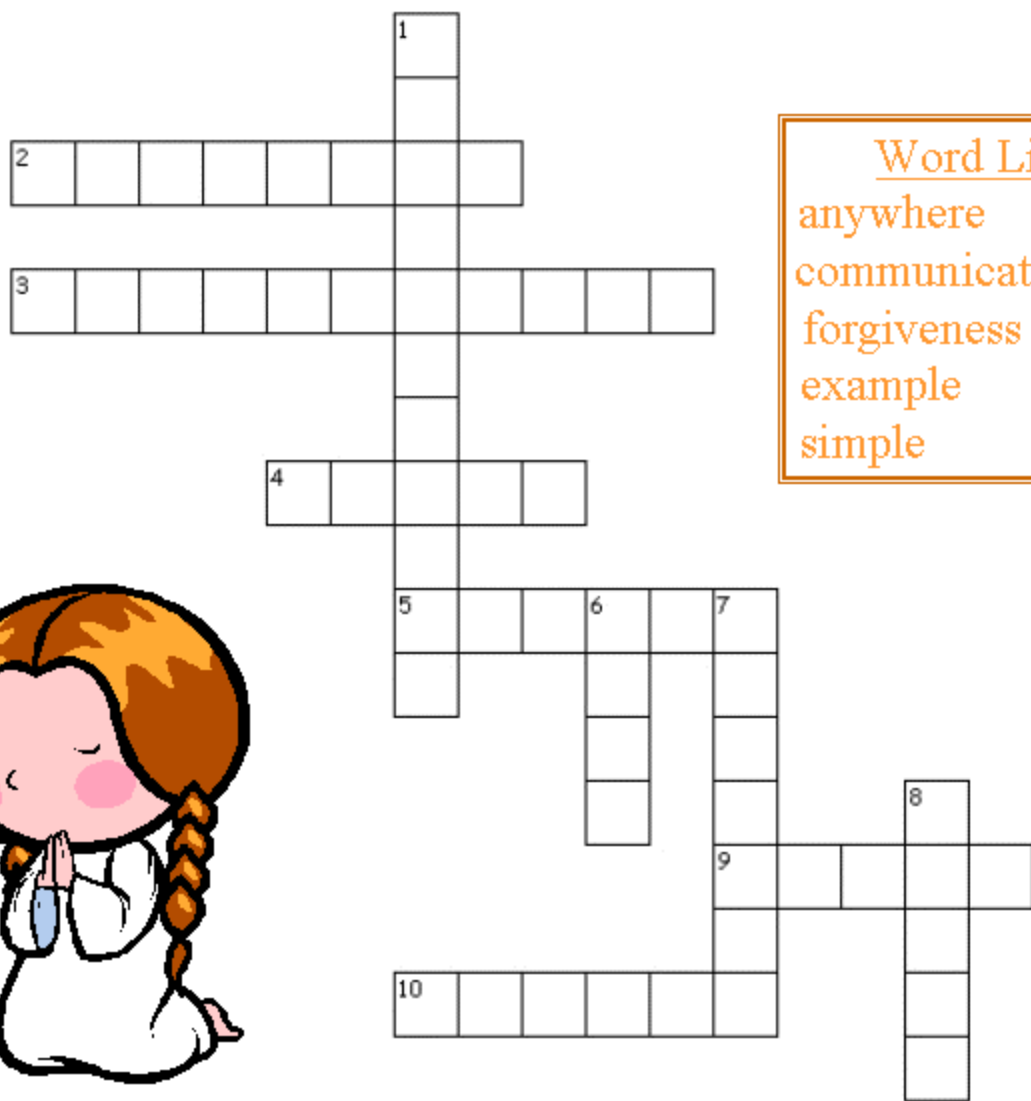
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# Lord's Prayer Crossword



## Across

2. We can pray anytime and \_\_\_\_.
3. Prayer is the special way we \_\_\_\_ with God.
4. We fold these out of respect and to avoid distraction when we pray.
5. Instead of using fancy words when we pray it's best to keep it this.
9. Praying has a lot of this because God can do anything.
10. Include this in your prayer to God because he deserves to hear it.

## Down

1. An important part of prayer is to ask for this.
6. God wants us to do this all the time. When things are good and bad.
7. The Lord's Prayer is an \_\_\_\_ so we can know how to pray.
8. God always \_\_\_\_ us when we pray.