

THE MESSIAH HERALD



AUGUST 2025

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

(717)-436-6213 MLCMIFFLINTOWN.ORG

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.

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER: MLCSLEISTER@GMAIL.COM

OFFICE EMAIL: MLCHURCHOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

CHURCH TREASURER: MLCHURCHTREASURER@GMAIL.COM

WORSHIP & COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

FACEBOOK: [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MESSIAH.LUTHERAN.MIFFLINTOWN.PA/](https://www.facebook.com/Messiah.Lutheran.Mifflintown.PA/)

[USS-ARK NEWSLETTER](#)

[THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE](#)

"Growing God's Love"

The Messiah Herald



THE PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Messiah Family,

Announcements, *announcements*, **announcements!!!!** Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, September 9th at 10:30 AM in the library. We will begin a study of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Take some time and peruse the Gospels to discover how each one begins. Chapter 1 of Matthew gives us the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham through Joseph followed by an account of the birth of Jesus. How do Mark, Luke, and John begin their Good News? Most scholars now agree that Mark (16 chapters) was written about 70 AD, followed by Matthew (28 chapters) at least ten years later, then Luke (24 chapters), and, lastly, John (21 chapters). John was written at the end of the century. As you read through the Gospels, think about the chronological order in which they were written and how that might impact each narrative.

This summer has been a very busy time for youth from Messiah! Messiah sent four youths to work in the June heat in South Dakota to the town of Permelee. They brightened the lives of local folks by painting and repairing their homes. Thank you to Kathy Whitesel, Arlen Saner, Malin Kint and others from St. Stephen's who planned and accompanied the kids! To Camp Mt. Luther, we sent five youth in June and July for a week's worth of fun and faith formation. Thank you to Kate Swailes for servicing as Messiah's camping liaison! And thank you to you, the congregational family of Messiah, for supporting through prayers and contributions the missions of our youth and the camp times!

On the home front, in the Sunday worship services, we are blessed to have our youth serving as acolytes, offering ushers, communion assistants and a number of lectors reading God's Word. Thank you, parents, and bless you as you grow the faith of your children! Along this path, we share blessings and thank you to our senior, Caden Swailes as he continues his journey past the years of high school and on into the future. Please return often and maintain your roots at Messiah as God's people!

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

Pastor Sam Leister

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...

The Family of Pat Fisher	Kevin Fetterhoof	Jesse Kint	Lowell Shearer
The Family of Jeff Fry	Neil Fisher	Nancy Kramer	Wyatt Shellenberger
Joedy Arnold	Bentley Fulkroad	Pastor Sam Leister	Gail Sherman
Linda Bahorik	Kristen Gaisior	Cecilia Miller	Althea Smith
Melissa Bargo	Terri Gayer	Curt Miller	Dave Smith
Jeremy Barnes	Deb Geedey	Larry Miller	Jennifer Smith
Ryan Barr	Josslyn Geedey	Shirley Miller	Joyce & Todd Spangler
Bill Book	Sheree Goss	Marlin Milliken	Barry Strawser
Linda Brouse	Amanda Gregg	Claire Mummah	Kenton Stuck
Andrea Cameron	Fred Gross	Linda (Kerchner) Parks	Vicki Suoja
Evitt Campbell	Mark Harvey	Fred Parnell	Amy Swartz
Nathan Clark	Bill Heck	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine	Molly Ulsh
Kenton Cohenour	John (Pat) & Karen Henry	Cheryl Pinkerton	George Varner
Scott & Heather Compton	Sawyer Henry	Betty Ranck	Roscoe Warner
William (Bill) Conn	Nox Hepburn	Keith Ranck	Sandy Wert
Stacy Couture	Nancy Howell	Dave Reed	Todd Wert
Kim Dumais	Annie Ingle	Diane Rowles	Kathy Whitesel
Freda Durio	Doc Johnston	Greysley Rowles	Jim & Heidi Woltman
Cathy Dysinger	Guy Kerstetter	Kelley Rusenko	George Zimmerman
Renee Dzikowski	George King	Arlene Shearer	Linda Zimmerman

AND FOR OUR SHUT INS

BROOKLINE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

(92 VILLAGE DRIVE, MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059)

Jane Marhefka

HONNEMAN HOUSE

(58 HONNEMAN HOUSE DR, THOMPSONTOWN, PA 17094)

Ruth Cisney

Ray Bramm

(Apt. #112)

(Apt. #108)

WILLIAM PENN HEALTHCARE AND REHAB CENTER

(163 SUMMIT DRIVE, LEWISTOWN, PA 17044)

Ona Stoner

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!

PRAYERS & CONCERNS

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

STORE GIFT CARDS

Weis and Giant gift cards are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a particularly 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.

UPCOMING SERVANTS

LECTORS

August 3 Paige Martin
August 10 Barb Geedey
August 17 Beward Family
August 24 Tawny Mummah
August 31 Diana Wise

ACOLYTES

August 3 Ella Harris & Evan Miller
August 10 Carter Ehrisman & Zeb Berry
August 17 Gabby & Stella Reed
August 24 Julia Martin & Braedon Walton
August 31 Olivia Mummah & Brea Beward

COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS

August 3
.... Hannah Ehrisman, Olivia Mummah, Zeb Berry
August 10
..... Grace & Evan Miller, Paige Martin
August 17
..... Nick & Sofia Reed, Carter Ehrisman
August 24
..... Thea & Brea Beward, Hope Miller
August 31
..... Julia Martin, Ella Harris, Braedon Walton

FLOWERS

August 3 Leigh Ann Reed
August 10 Deb Meinsler
August 17 .. Dan & Michelle Stoner and Braedon Walton
August 24 OPEN
August 31 Mary and Glenn Grimm & Family

ALTAR GUILD

July 28 to August 17 Chris Martin & Melissa Ehrisman
Aug. 18 to Sept. 7 Christie Yorks & Sabrina Shipp

MANNA MAKERS

August 3 Christie Yorks
August 17 Jean Berry
August 31 Tammy Brackbill

OFFERING COUNTERS

August 3 Slone Smith & Mary Grimm
August 10 Don & Barb Geedey

August 17 Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss

August 24 Ron & Christie Yorks

August 31 Clint Miller & Nick Beward

MISSION OF THE MONTH

August's "Mission of the Month" at Messiah will be continued support for the Juniata County Food Pantry's "Backpack Program." The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the JCFP to continue assisting in the effort to feed the children of our community through the summer months. 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that this year, 2025, marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed, a foundational statement of Christian belief? This anniversary is being celebrated with various events and reflections on the Creed's significance.

The Council of Nicaea, held in 325 CE, was the first ecumenical council of the Christian Church, convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine. Its primary purpose was to address the Arian controversy, a theological dispute regarding the nature of Jesus Christ. The council condemned Arianism, which posited that Jesus was a created being, and affirmed the Nicene Creed, which declared Jesus to be "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father."

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the high school graduation recognition and especially for the quilt. I am getting ready for my next step of starting college in August. –CADEN SWAILES

JUNIATA COUNTY FOOD PANTRY AUGUST UPDATE



As the summer heats up, we are reminded that hunger does NOT take a vacation! Please don't forget your neighbors struggling to keep their families fed while everyone else enjoys summer vacation. Thanks to all of you who are bringing in fresh produce from your gardens! What a blessing straight from the Lord is fresh produce to those who rarely taste any but the canned variety, and very little of that.

In June 2025, the Food Pantry served 275+ families in need. In addition, our Summer Backpack Program provided over 2,500 lunches for 125+ school age children who otherwise would be facing a hungry summer vacation. A special thank you to Messiah Lutheran Church for providing volunteers for the month of June.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR AUGUST

Any type dry pasta, canned carrots, dish soap, any cleaning supplies and laundry detergent, shampoo/conditioner, school supplies, ESP 1" binders, filler notebook paper, pencil boxes, pens.

Monetary donations 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: jcfp122017@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.jcfoodpantry.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 food only when someone is here to receive it. Thank you!



CHOIR REHEARSALS CONTINUE FOR THE FALL

Messiah's choir needs you! Our choir sings **most** every week for the weekly Sunday morning service from September through May. There are no auditions for our choir and the only requirements to be involved are a love for singing, energy, and an aspiration to unite our voices as one community in faith and song.

Our choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM, so if you are in junior high school or beyond, male or female, and you can "make a joyful noise," you are certainly welcome to join us! Our first rehearsal for the fall will be **Wednesday evening, August 27th at 7:00 PM** in the church sanctuary!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS AND PRAYER FOCUS

AUGUST 1-----PSALM 49:1-12

PEOPLE WHOSE WEALTH OBSCURES OTHERS' CHALLENGES

AUGUST 2----- COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

PEOPLE WHOSE WORK REQUIRED DEEP COMPASSION

AUGUST 3-----LUKE 12:13-21

NONPROFITS THAT STRUGGLE TO FUND THEIR MISSION

AUGUST 4-----PSALM 127

SLEEP-DEPRIVED NEW PARENTS

AUGUST 5----- COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

PASTORS AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

AUGUST 6----- ECCLESIASTES 12:1-8, 13-14

FARMERS AND GARDENERS

AUGUST 7----- GENESIS 15:1-6

ACTIVISTS WORKING FOR A MORE EQUITABLE WORLD

AUGUST 8-----PSALM 138

POETS AND STORYTELLERS WHO INSPIRE

AUGUST 9-----HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

PEOPLE WHOSE FAITH IS AN INSPIRATION

AUGUST 10 -----LUKE 12:32-40

GRATITUDE FOR GENEROUS SOULS WHO LOVE FULLY

AUGUST 11 -----PSALM 89:1-18

PEOPLE WHO LEAD IN DIFFICULT TIMES

AUGUST 12 ----- 2 CHRONICLES 34:22-33

PEOPLE WHO REMIND US OF GOD'S INTENTIONS

AUGUST 13 ----- JEREMIAH 33:14-26

CLIMATE REFUGEES

AUGUST 14 ----- JEREMIAH 23:23-29

PEOPLE REBUILDING WAR-TORN COMMUNITIES

AUGUST 15 ----- LUKE 1:46-55

MUSICIANS AND POETS

AUGUST 16 -----HEBREWS 11:29-12:2

PEOPLE GRIEVING LOVED ONES

AUGUST 17 -----LUKE 12:49-56

PEOPLE WITH ADDICTIONS

AUGUST 18 -----PSALM 32

PEOPLE WHO BUILD SHELTERS

AUGUST 19 -----JEREMIAH 25:15-29

ALTAR GUILDS

AUGUST 20 ----- LUKE 19:45-48

PEOPLE WITH MESSAGES TO CLEAN UP

AUGUST 21 ----- ISAIAH 58:9B-14

RABBIS

AUGUST 22 ----- PSALM 103:1-8

PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

AUGUST 23 ----- HEBREWS 12:18-29

RESCUE WORKERS AND FIREFIGHTERS

AUGUST 24 ----- LUKE 13:10-17

PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES

AUGUST 25 -----JOHN 1:43-51

PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN SMALL TOWNS

AUGUST 26 ----- PSALM 109:21-31

TEENAGERS, GAME DESIGNERS

AUGUST 27 ----- LUKE 6:6-11

PEOPLE WHO ARE CARRYING TOO MUCH

AUGUST 28 ----- PROVERBS 25:6-7

PEOPLE WITH SELF-ESTEEM ISSUES

AUGUST 29 ----- PSALM 112

PEOPLE WHO FEEL SELF-RIGHTEOUS

AUGUST 30 -----HEBREWS 13:1-8, 15-16

PEOPLE WE VIEW AS SAINTS

AUGUST 31 ----- LUKE 14:1, 7-14

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

THANK YOU!

A special "Thank You" is extended to Siobhan Cameron for providing us with our special harp music during our service on Sunday, July 27th. Siobhan is the granddaughter of our choir director, Andrea Cameron. Thank you, again, Siobhan, for your special gift of music!

MESSIAH ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS FOR JULY 2025

DATE	ATTENDANCE	TOTAL OFFERING	GENERAL FUND OFFERING	OTHER FUNDS OFFERING
Sunday, July 6	Worship – 32	\$2,703.00	\$2,413.00	Benevolence -- \$100.00 Building Fund -- \$80.00 Mission of the Month -- \$110.00
Sunday, July 13	Worship – 30	\$1,045.00	\$865.00	Benevolence -- \$25.00 Building Fund -- \$45.00 Mission of the Month -- \$35.00 Flowers -- \$25.00 Needlers -- \$50.00
Sunday, July 20	Worship – 41	\$2,205.00	\$2,005.00	Benevolence -- \$40.00 Building Fund -- \$100.00 Needlers -- \$50.00 Central Juniata Pool -- \$10.00
Sunday, July 27	Worship – 40	\$3,350.00	\$2,470.00	World Hunger -- \$100.00 Building Fund -- \$570.00 Mission of the Month -- \$10.00 Camp Mt. Luther -- \$200.00

JULY TOTAL OFFERINGS -- \$9,303.00

JULY TOTAL EXPENSES - \$10,249.24

God's work. Our hands.

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Sept. 7**, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, [“God’s work. Our hands.”](#)

Participating in service projects is one way to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in faith and life. As we continue our tradition of service, we remember the words of Martin Luther, “**Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing.**” With our hands, we do God’s work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ’s name.

September 7, 2025

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3:	-10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION
MONDAY, AUGUST 4:	-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLES CLASS AREA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5:	OFFICE CLOSED
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10:	-10:00 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION -AFTER WORSHIP – WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11:	-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLES CLASS AREA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14:	-1:00 PM – WELCA IN YOUTH AREA
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17:	-10:00 AM -- WORSHIP & COMMUNION
MONDAY, AUGUST 18:	-7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLES CLASS AREA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19:	-8:30 AM – JCPASR IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24:	-10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION
MONDAY, AUGUST 25:	-5:00 PM – LION’S CLUB IN FELLOWSHIP HALL -7:00 PM -- AA IN DISCIPLES CLASS AREA
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27:	-9:00 AM – “THE NEEDLERS” IN FELLOWSHIP HALL -7:00 PM – CHOIR REHEARSAL IN SANCTUARY
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29:	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 31:	-10:00 AM – WORSHIP & COMMUNION / SERVICE OF HEALING



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 Pastor Sam or the church office know so a class can be scheduled.

Also, please let Pastor Sam or 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.



BIBLE STUDY RESUMES...

Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, September 9th at 10:30 AM in the Church Library. We will begin the examination of the Gospels.





JUNIATA CO. FAIR VESPER

DATE: Sunday, August 31, 2025
TIME: 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Free Stage (*weather permitting*)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

AUGUST 5 – Ray Miller
AUGUST 6 – Andrea Cameron
AUGUST 8 – Kim White
AUGUST 9 – Kyle Martin
AUGUST 11 – Linda Leister
AUGUST 13 – Todd Grimm
AUGUST 18 – Glenn Grimm
AUGUST 21 – Reece Grimm
AUGUST 23 – Bethanie Beward
AUGUST 27 – James Sheehan
AUGUST 28 – Dennis Crissman
AUGUST 31 – George Hazard, Jr.

129TH ANNUAL

ISLAND GROVE CAMPMEETING

Here is the schedule for this year's Island Grove Campmeeting. Services are held nightly at 7:30 PM at 164 Doe Run Road, Mifflintown, PA.

Sunday, August 3rd:	Hymn Sing with Bunkertown Men's Chorus
Monday, August 4th:	Rev. Bob Graybill and The Naka Sisters
Tuesday, August 5th:	Rev. Sam Leister and Drew Wagner
Wednesday, August 6th:	Pastor Mindy Petrovcic and The Boyz
Thursday, August 7th:	Stephanie Rupert and Brian Hassinger
Friday, August 8th:	Carrie Bumgardener and Kathryn Hart & Becca Woleslagle

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

AUGUST 12 – Larry & Shirley Covert
AUGUST 18 – Matt & Shelley Gross
AUGUST 28 – Pastor Sam & Linda Leister



WELCA met on Thursday, July 10 at 1:00. Cynthia Smith provided devotions on Paul's guilt and how to avoid it.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$612.47 with 50% of our monthly collection for the quarter will be sent to our synodical treasurer.

Old business consisted of information on school kits, the convention on the 26th in Lewisburg and the period pack items, and "God's Work Our Hands" on Sunday, September 7th following church. There was no new business.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 14 at 1:00 PM**. Barb will provide devotions. Our meeting concluded with our Purpose Statement.



NEW ALTAR GUILD & OFFERING COUNTER SCHEDULES BEING CREATED

New Altar Guild and Offering Counter schedules are being drawn up for “Year A,” which runs from Sunday, November 30th, 2025 (First Sunday of Advent) through Sunday, November 22nd, 2026 (Christ the King Sunday). If you would like to join the Altar Guild or help in the baking of Manna Bread for communion or would like to volunteer a few Sundays a year to help count the morning’s offerings, please let Slone Smith or Bob St. Clair know ASAP. Thanks to all who serve!

EXTENDING OUR SYMPATHIES...

We extend our sympathy to Neil Fisher and family on the passing of his wife, Pat, on Monday, July 28, 2025, at home. Please keep Neil and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Word Search for Jesus Healed a Blind Man

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L	I	S	I	T	N	A	B	L	I	N	D
M	U	D	A	L	A	T	U	W	R	I	T
L	O	R	E	C	T	E	M	P	A	T	O
N	S	I	N	N	E	R	E	H	U	S	S
N	O	N	S	E	Q	U	I	A	L	A	H
P	R	E	B	E	G	G	A	R	R	U	R
L	O	O	R	E	M	O	L	I	R	S	R
S	U	O	N	D	R	E	T	S	T	I	E
I	T	N	L	H	E	N	I	E	M	G	D
T	I	E	Y	E	S	D	E	E	M	H	E
L	S	I	L	O	A	M	N	S	C	T	E
T	U	E	D	O	L	O	R	E	I	Q	U

BEGGAR
BLIND

EYES
MUD

PHARISEES
POOL

SIGHT
SILOAM

SINNER
WASH