

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Birthdays	2
Holy Week Schedule	2
Congregation Council	2
Monthly Schedules	3
General Fund Summary	4
Ministry Plan Report	5
Biblical Tabernacle Trip	5
March Council Meeting Highlights	7

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Author Lecture Series (Page 2)
- Greeters Needed (Page 4)
- Upcoming Events (Page 5)
- New Baby! (Page 5)
- Easter Breakfast (Page 6)
- Anniversaries (Page 6)
- Announcements (Page 6)
- Easter Egg Hunt (Page 6)
- Thank You Notes (Page 7)

## Pastor's Page

Very soon, we will be saying together: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"

Every year I consciously resist the tendency to get used to these words. We get used to certain messages, and even if we value them, it isn't easy to keep them as fresh and powerful as they were the first time we heard them.

So every Easter, I think back to the first Easter, and especially to the first people to recognize, and say, these marvelous words. Mary Magdalene, Cleopas and his friend, ten gathered disciples and, a week later, Thomas too: for each of these people, the world changed utterly when the Truth hit them that Christ IS risen.

It's because those people were so completely transformed by the Resurrection of Christ, and by the realization that they, too, would one day be raised as the Lord had promised, that we even know the words and the Truth they announce.

Only by their ardent, courageous, and persistent witness is there a Church of Jesus Christ—by their witness, blessed by the Holy Spirit's activity among those who heard it.

The Good News of Jesus Christ has not only endured, but prospered, by the partnership between those who

testify to it, and God's Spirit, always busy both in those who speak and in those who hear.

We have God Himself, the Spirit, and faithful witnesses, down through time, to thank for knowing that Easter Day always holds the same transforming power and enduring hope.

Do you also realize that without Easter's witnesses, few of us would know one another?

Imagine this congregation didn't exist. How different would your life be? Had we not been called together to celebrate and testify to what God had done for us, we would all be poorer.

Recently a member called me with a question. *How, he asked, can we let more people know about the good things at Messiah? Can we advertise so that people know about the worship life here, about the warmth of the people, about the strong teaching ministry, about the Biblical faithfulness and theological integrity? Isn't there some way to spread the word about Messiah so that more people know about it?*

Thinking out loud, I mentioned the web site. I cited the church page in the "Daily News" (*I don't read it, he replied*). But, I concluded, every church with a

web site and a press release always sounds like the greatest place going, so who believes that stuff anyway?

Then it came to me that we already have what he was asking for: people to spread the word about what's good at Messiah. **Us.**

Some of you tell me about people you invite, who politely (or otherwise) decline to "come to church" with you. We try, we don't always succeed.

People respond best to an opportunity when another can spell out the advantages of that opportunity. If you can be specific about why you are glad to be part of Messiah, about how **your life** is blessed by the worship, fellowship, warmth, teaching, and other qualities here, then someone else might respond with the realization that these are things they're looking for, too. By your enthusiastic, specific, thankful testimony, you, like the first people who discovered the Resurrection, can help others find the transforming, life-changing power of the Risen Christ.

This is what we exist for as members of the Church, the Body of the Risen Christ on earth. If you are thankful for your church and its witness, others can be, too.

## April Birthdays

- 3 Terri Brightbill  
 6 Karlyn Roof  
 9 Cheryl Lutz  
 10 Debra Bowman  
 11 Adam Brossman  
 Carey Kendall  
 12 Angela Gassert Fair  
 14 Carol Frantz  
 Caroline Harnisch  
 15 Mary Lillie  
 Robert Lillie  
 22 Joshua Risser  
 25 Howard Stickler



## Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 29, The Sunday of the Passion:

**9 AM** The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms

**10:30 AM** Living in Faith Education hour

**12:30 PM** Confirmation class

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

**12 PM** The Liturgy of the Last Supper

**7:30 PM** The Liturgy of the Last Supper with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3:

**7:30 PM** The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, April 4, The Vigil of Easter:

**7:30 PM** The Vigil of Easter with the Rite of Confirmation through Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday, April 5, The Resurrection of Our Lord:

**7:30 AM** Easter Breakfast

**8 AM** Easter Egg Hunt

**9 AM** The Holy Communion

(No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)

## 2015 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President & Property chair*  
 Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*  
 Nancie Whelan, *Secretary & Christian Education chair*  
 Pam Knouff, *Treasurer*  
 Ernestine Batdorf, *Financial Secretary & Publicity chair*  
 Brenda Beegle, *Volunteer Resources chair*  
 Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism chair*  
 Lori Oliver  
 Donald Smith, *Stewardship chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*

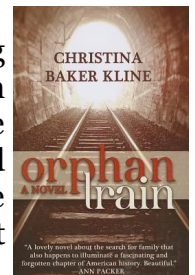
Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer & Finance chair*

Rita Savant, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

## Author Lecture Series

The Congregation Beth Israel annual lecture series continues this year presenting **Christina Baker Kline**, best selling author of *Orphan Train*, the 2015 One Book, One Community program selection.

Mrs. Kline wrote this best selling novelized history of the little known program (1854-1929) to relocate destitute orphaned or abandoned children from the streets of large east coast cities to upper Midwest farms.



The program begins on **Tuesday, May 12** with a 5:30 PM cocktail hour reception to meet Mrs. Kline (tickets \$100). The lecture will follow at 7:30 PM (tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 student) in the synagogue (411 S. 8th St) followed by questions and a book sale and signing.

# April 2015 Schedules

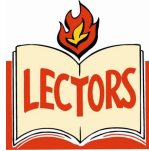
## Assisting Minister By Sharon Garner

- 2 (7:30 PM) Mary Garrett
- 5 Charlotte Varone
- 12 Michael Bowman
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Daniel LaRue



## Lector By Sharon Garner

- 2 (7:30 PM) Mary Garrett
- 5 Charlotte Varone
- 12 Robert Bowman
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Daniel LaRue



## Greeters

- 2 (12 PM) **NEEDED**
- (7:30 PM) **NEEDED**
- 4 (7:30 PM) **NEEDED**
- 5 **NEEDED**
- 12 **NEEDED**
- 19 **NEEDED**
- 26 **NEEDED**



## Head Ushers

Harry & Karen Hatt



## Finance Steward

Brenda Beegle



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(This month Welcome Time will be held on the **second Sunday of the month** at 10:30 AM.)

**April 12 — NEEDED**



## Altar Guild

Janet Gassert, chair

- 2 (12 PM) Mary Ellen Dietrich, Janet Gassert
- (7:30 PM) Marjorie Beard & Lori Wert (Karen Hatt helps with stripping of the Altar)
- 3 Tom & Janet Gassert
- 4 (7:30 PM) Pastor Kendall, Mary Ellen Dietrich, Tom & Janet Gassert, Kay Zellers, Marjorie Beard, Rita Savant
- 5 Janet Gassert & Joan Smith
- 12 Marjorie Beard & Lori Wert
- 19 Kay Zellers & Mary Ann Hartman
- 26 Rita Savant, Gayle Hoffman, Carol Frantz



## Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 2 (12 PM) Rita Savant
- (7:30 PM) Andrew Hartman
- 3 Daniel LaRue
- 5 Daniel LaRue
- 12 Kathaleen Lilley
- 19 Kathaleen Lilley
- 26 Rita Savant



## Acolyte

By Sharon Garner

- 2 (7:30 PM) Joshua Risser
- 4 (7:30 PM) Michelle Blouch  
Abbey Hartman
- 5 Mikayla Bowman  
Mary Whelan
- 12 Abbey Hartman
- 19 Joshua Risser
- 26 Keeley Hartman



# General Fund Summary for February

	<b>February</b>	<b>Year/date</b>
Income	\$12,388.25	\$24,536.57
Expenses	\$15,609.04	\$30,059.56
Income-expenses	<b>-\$3,220.79</b>	<b>-\$5,522.99</b>

<p><b>Income</b></p> <p>Regular giving \$12,091.00</p> <p>Jesus Tree envelopes \$50.00</p> <p>Bowl of Blessings \$0.00</p> <p>Checking interest \$0.25</p> <p>Donations (use of church) \$200.00</p> <p>Other Gen. Fund* <u>\$47.00</u></p> <p><b>Total Income</b> \$12,388.25</p>	<p><b>February</b></p> <p>\$12,091.00</p> <p>\$50.00</p> <p>\$0.00</p> <p>\$0.25</p> <p>\$200.00</p> <p><u>\$47.00</u></p> <p>\$12,388.25</p>	<p><b>Year/date</b></p> <p>\$23,860.00</p> <p>\$110.00</p> <p>\$0.00</p> <p>\$0.57</p> <p>\$200.00</p> <p><u>\$366.00</u></p> <p>\$24,536.57</p>	<p><b>Expenses</b></p> <p>Staff \$9,799.51</p> <p>Administrative \$515.27</p> <p>Maintenance \$3,394.26</p> <p>Additional \$500.00</p> <p>Benevolence \$1,300.00</p> <p>Loan Repayment <u>\$100.00</u></p> <p><b>Total expenses</b> \$15,609.04</p>	<p><b>February</b></p> <p>\$9,799.51</p> <p>\$515.27</p> <p>\$3,394.26</p> <p>\$500.00</p> <p>\$1,300.00</p> <p><u>\$100.00</u></p> <p>\$15,609.04</p>	<p><b>Year/date</b></p> <p>\$19,250.03</p> <p>\$715.07</p> <p>\$6,419.46</p> <p>\$875.00</p> <p>\$2,600.00</p> <p><u>\$200.00</u></p> <p>\$30,059.56</p>
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\*initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc.

Income less expenses-**-\$3,220.79**      **-\$5,522.99**

## Benevolence Offering

February 2015	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$775.00		\$775.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$50.00		\$50.00
Independent Church in India	\$50.00		\$50.00
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$50.00		\$50.00
NALC Disaster Response	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$50.00		\$50.00
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
Ethiopian Church Relief Fund	\$50.00		\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>

## Greeters Needed

Have you noticed how EMPTY our Greeter sign up sheets are? They are TOTALLY empty for April (see page 3), and the May–August sign up sheet also has NO volunteers. We need YOU and your friendly smile to greet your fellow worship-

pers on a Sunday morning. It is not hard, and it is a lovely way to get your Sunday morning going. Please help us out and sign up today to be a Greeter!



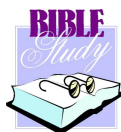
# Upcoming Events

## Confirmation of

**Michelle Nichole Blouch**  
and  
**Abbey Lee Hartman**



Vigil of Easter  
Saturday, April 4  
7:30 PM



## BIBLE STUDY

**Thursday, April 9**  
7 PM

We will continue our study of  
the Gospel of John.

## EVENT NIGHT

**Thursday, April 16**  
**At 6:30 PM**

Come out for a fun night of  
games and fellowship!



# Ministry Plan Report for February

*(Budgeted need per week: : \$3,476.75 )*

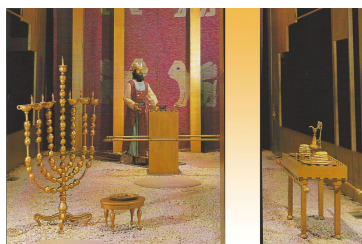
<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount Received</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
2/1	\$4,401.00	75 + / 16 LiF
2/8	\$2,633.00	56 + / 19 LiF
2/15	\$1,541.00	29 + / 12 LiF
(noon) 2/18	(offering rolled in to 2/22)	28 +
(7:30 PM)		37 +
2/22	\$3,838.00	43 + / 17 LiF
Wednesday Lenten Bible Study	2/25	18



NOTE: "+" denotes Worship  
"LiF" denotes Living in Faith

Received to date: \$24,536.57  
Needed to date: \$30,131.83

## Road Trip!



On **Saturday, April 18** the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a trip to the Mennonite Information Center in Lancaster to see the **Biblical Tabernacle**.

The Tabernacle is a full scale reproduction of the Old Testament Tabernacle. Cost is \$8 per adult and \$6 for children ages 6-16. We will meet at the church at **9 AM** and carpool. We will be stopping for lunch on the way home. Please see Karen Hatt for more details.

## It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Shawn and Kelly Roof (and big sisters Karley and Karlyn) on the birth of

### **Jaxson Kole Roof.**

Jaxson was born on March 12, 2015. He weighed in at 9 lbs. 2 oz and was 21" long. May God richly bless this growing family!





# Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5  
7:30 AM

Cost is **\$2 per person** (to help defray the cost and get a more accurate head count). Tickets are on sale in March after worship. See Deb Lutz or Harry and Karen Hatt for tickets or more information.

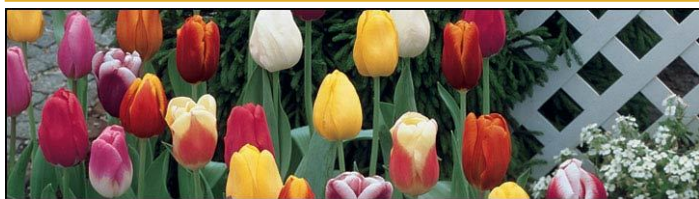
### Menu



Scrambled Eggs  
Little Smokies  
French Toast Sticks  
Fruit Cup



Coffee  
Tea  
Juice



# Easter Egg Hunt



The Evangelism Committee is hosting an Easter Egg hunt for Messiah children ages 2-10 on Sunday, April 5 at 8 AM (following the Easter breakfast). If the weather is not favorable for an outside egg hunt activities will be held indoors. For added fun a floppy eared guest will make an appearance! Bring a basket! If you have any questions or would like to help hide the eggs please see Deb Lutz.

# April Anniversaries

- 4 Thomas & Janet Gassert
- 16 Donald & Karen Munford  
John & Vicki Schimminger
- 18 Andrew & Lisa Lutz
- 24 Gary & Jacquelyn Dohner  
Walter & Margaret Shirey
- 25 Bryan & Gayle Hoffman
- 27 Matthew & Jessica Lutz



# For Your Information

## FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

April 5

The first Sunday of each month we collect food and personal care products for our neighbors in need.



April  
Rescue Mission

PLEASE DO NOT MIX FOOD AND SOAP IN THE SAME BAG. Thank you.

## PA Dutch Church Service Sunday, April 12

2:30 PM

Zoar Lutheran Church  
560 Freeport Road  
Lebanon



**DO YOU LIKE WELCOME TIME?** Then please consider sponsoring a month. If you look at the sign up sheet **every slot is empty** for the rest of the year except December. If there are no sponsors then there will be **NO WELCOME TIME**.

## Open Flower Dates:

We still have three Sundays this year with no flower sponsor:



June 21  
September 13  
December 6

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these Sundays please contact Janet Gassert at 272-3757.



## Thank You Notes



*Thank you notes were received from the Rescue Mission, Lutheran World Relief, and the Caring Cupboard. They are available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.*

Thanks be to God and to all who offered their prayers for my nephew Russell's journey through his cancer treatments and recovery. He still has obstacles to overcome, but he is strengthened through his faith, family and friends.

May God's peace be with you all.

Charlotte Varone

To the Messiah Prayer Shawl Ladies,

I really appreciate the time, thoughtfulness, love and prayers that you placed into the beautiful shawl that was presented to me. The colors are beautiful, the size is perfect, but most important is the love that went into it.

May you know the importance and value of your ministry. Thank you so very much!

In Him,

Linda Savant

(Rita Savant's daughter)



## March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

- Devotions were led by Don Smith.
- Congregation Council will have a work day and retreat/Bible study on Saturday, March 14. We will be removing the mold on the second floor of the education building.
- Property chair Nick Adams and Pastor Kendall met with an electrical contractor from Blatt & Myers about replacing the lights in the conference room and the back of the fellowship hall and replacing the six heaters in all of the restrooms. We also had a discussion about retrofitting the other lights in the fellowship hall into LEDs.
- The Fellowship Committee reported that the trip to Eckley Miners' Village for their Patch Town Days has been moved from June 20 to June 27.
- The advertisement for the Easter service has been placed on Comcast. Tickets for the Easter breakfast are now being sold for \$2 each.
- The contract to mow the grass this summer was renewed with A Touch of Grass for \$150 per week.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Adams

2015 Congregation Council President

## Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

9 AM The Holy Communion

10:30 AM Living in Faith

WEDNESDAYS:

(as noted in the calendar and bulletin)

10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion

### Messiah Lutheran Church

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Lebanon, PA 17042-5852

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#### E-mail

Pastor Kendall: messiahpastor@epix.net

Robin Harris/office: messiahluthleb@epix.net

#### Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>