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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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## Pastor's Page

As you read this, Easter Day is past. The crocuses have made their appearance, but for the first time in a while, the forsythia hedge on Messiah's west boundary is not yet beginning to bloom.

Easter was quite early this year—not as early as it can be, but earlier than we're used to. It came a week earlier than last year; by contrast, in 2017 Easter falls on 16 April.

The date of Easter moves around because of the formula for determining its occurrence: "the first Sunday following the first full moon on or after the vernal (Spring) equinox." This was determined by the Council of Nicea around 325 AD. Since the vernal equinox is calculated to occur on 21 March, Easter can be found on any date between 22 March and 25 April.

Here endeth the Easter trivia.

The Council of Nicea was not a trivial gathering, and its participants did not waste time on trivial matters. Out of this historic meeting of Christian leaders came the Nicene Creed, which established those Christian beliefs of which we may be sure through

Scripture and the Apostolic witness.

This was profoundly important and needful, because of the confusion resulting from various teachings which had taken hold in diverse regions in the early era of Christianity. Those of you who have participated in recent studies know several of these, including "Gnosticism" and "antinomianism."

The ideas of these early "heresies" (false teachings) were contained by the accomplishments of Nicea, but they are not extinct: we live in a time where they are again discussed, and even celebrated, in the confused theological muddle of many "mainstream" denominations.

This is one reason "history" matters: it shows us where earlier errors occurred, what people did about them, and whether ideas encountered in the "modern world" are really new, or merely "reruns" of old notions.

It is human nature to err; it is God's Nature to address human errors, whether those errors are spiritual sins, spiritual ignorance, or spiritual distraction. We Christians have such gifts

as the liturgical seasons to bring before us anew the vital Truths of The Faith, and to give us ample opportunity to celebrate what is true, real, and life-changing.

This is why Easter is both a Day and a Season. The Resurrection of Christ, following closely on His atoning Death on the Cross, is the most important event in history. Nothing else that has ever happened has changed life itself in this way, from a brief span of years to an eternal reality.

The Council of Nicea found Easter so important that they connected its observance to an event which cannot fail to be perceived in nature, the Spring Equinox, when the "dead time" of Winter ends and the season of new life and new hope begins.

I'll take a bare forsythia hedge any year in order to celebrate Easter as the most important event in my life, or in yours.

I pray that you also will continue to regard Easter as the event which gives you life, and celebrate it with thanks, praise, and the resolve to be wholly devoted to the Risen Christ long after the forsythia blooms. +

## 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 Robert Lillie  
 22 Joshua Risser  
 25 Howard Stickler



## 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



## 2016 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President & Property co-chair*  
 Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Secretary & Christian Ed chair*  
 Harry Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*  
 Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism & Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Property co-chair*  
 Lori Oliver, *Publicity chair*

Rita Savant, *Social Ministry chair & Financial Secretary*

Donald Smith, *Stewardship chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:  
 Ernestine Batdorf, *Assistant Financial Secretary*  
 Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild*

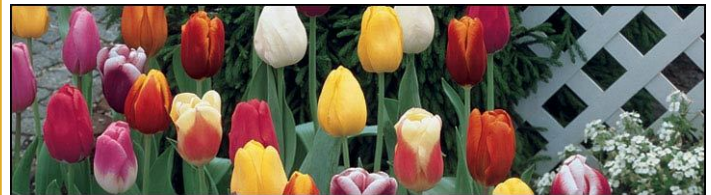
Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*

Pam Knouff, *Assistant Treasurer*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*



## March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

- Eight members were present and two were excused.
- Devotions were led by Deborah Lutz. Rita Savant will have the devotions next month.
- Harry Hatt built and installed a shelf outside the kitchen door to aid in bringing items into the kitchen.
- The organ was tuned for Easter.
- We received a bequest from the estate of Dorothy Daub.
- Council will ask the Finance Committee to make recommendations for investment venues for a new Perpetual Giving Fund to be established. Information on this fund will be forthcoming at a future date.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Nick Adams, Congregation Council President

# April 2016 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 3 Eugene Martin
- 10 Sandra Smith
- 17 Nicholas Adams
- 24 Deborah Lutz



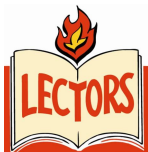
## Altar Guild

- Ernestine Batdorf, chair
- Debra Bowman
- Mikayla Bowman
- Wendy Brossman
- Kelly Roof



## Lector

- 3 Mary Garrett
- 10 Sandra Smith
- 17 Nicholas Adams
- 24 Deborah Lutz



## Crucifer

### By Carol Artz

- 3 Nicholas Adams
- 10 Carol Artz
- 17 Carol Artz
- 24 Ernestine Batdorf



## Greeters

- 3 Mary Ann Hartman
- 10 Kay Zellers
- 17 Marion Bowman
- 24 Nicholas & Barbara Adams



## Acolyte

- 3 Mikayla Bowman
- 10 Michelle Blouch
- 17 Michelle Blouch
- 24 Harry Hatt



## Head Ushers

Harry & Karen Hatt



## Finance Steward

Harry Hatt



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM.)

April 3 — Deb Lutz & Laurite Vranesic



# General Fund Summary for February

	February	Year/date
Income	\$13,219.53	\$26,252.67
Expenses	\$15,191.34	\$29,692.28
Income-expenses	<b>-\$1,971.81</b>	<b>-\$3,439.61</b>

Income	February	Year/date	Expenses	February	Year/date
Regular giving	\$13,100.34	\$25,877.27	Staff	\$10,330.33	\$20,333.04
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$100.00	\$135.00	Administrative	\$254.73	\$514.95
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00	Maintenance	\$2,797.95	\$5,102.63
Checking interest	\$0.19	\$0.40	Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations (use of church)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Additional	\$375.00	\$875.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$19.00</u>	<u>\$240.00</u>	Benevolence	\$1,333.33	\$2,666.66
<b>Total Income</b>	\$13,219.53	\$26,252.67	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
			<b>Total expenses</b>	\$15,191.34	\$29,692.28
			Income less expenses	<b>-\$1,971.81</b>	<b>-\$3,439.61</b>

\*initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc.

## Benevolence Offering

February 2016	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$775.00		\$775.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
Ethiopian Church Relief Fund	\$54.17		\$54.17
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$54.17		\$54.17
Independent Church in India	\$54.17		\$54.17
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$54.16		\$54.16
NALC Disaster Response	\$54.16		\$54.16
Lutheran World Relief	\$54.16		\$54.16
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$54.17		\$54.17
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$54.17		\$54.17
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,333.33</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,333.33</b>





## **INDEPENDENT CHURCH IN INDIA**

*A Letter to you from New Life Leprosy Colony*

*Dear Beloved Family members,*

*Greetings from new life colony with hearts full of thanksgiving. You are sending your help every month to our colony and we are very grateful for this. To heal our physical pain you are giving us cotton/bandages and medicine. For our spiritual pain you are giving us the Word of God. We cannot forget all these things our whole lives. No one has ever come to us and did this much for us before. We feel like we are rich people now, because you are giving us fruits. We never had the eggs or even we never saw before the vitamins. We never could buy these things before. We feel healthy now after you are helping us. Thank you so much for all the bandages and medicines. Because of that our ulcers are getting healed faster. We are living very healthy because of your support. In our colony when we pray for something that same month you are bringing all the things we need. Our residents feel much healthier because of all fruits and good food you are giving us. Because of Jesus grace our wounds are being healed. Only because of your help and through the grace of God we are living as His children in the colony.*

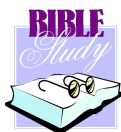
*Thank you from New Life Colony Residents*

# Upcoming Events

## BIBLE STUDY

**Thursday, April 14  
7 PM**

We will continue our study of the Epistles of John.



## LOCAL ROAD TRIP

To the Lebanon County Historical Society

**Sunday, April 17  
1 PM**



## EVENT NIGHT



**Thursday, April 21  
At 6:30 PM**

Come out for a fun night of games and fellowship!

# Ministry Plan Report for February

**(Budgeted need per week: \$3,575.60)**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
	2/7	\$4,002.00	65 + / 15 LiF
noon	2/10	(rolled into 2/14)	20 +
7:30 PM			25 +
	2/14	\$2,581.00	42 + / 11 LiF
	2/21	\$3,348.34	62 + / 23 LiF
	2/28	\$3,358.00	59 + / 23 LiF
Wed. night Bible Study	2/17		18
	2/24		15



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

**Received to date: \$26,252.67**  
**Needed to date: \$30,988.50**

## Historical Society Trip

Mark your calendars for **April 17!** The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a visit to the Lebanon County Historical Society to hear a program on railroads. We will meet at the church at **1 PM** and then carpool to the Historical Society. Light refreshments will be served following the program and the gift shop will be open. Come join us for a fun and interesting afternoon!



## It's a Girl!



Congratulations to Andrew and Lisa Lutz (and to big sister Mia and big brother Beckett) on the birth of **Ivy Caroline Lutz.**

Ivy was born on March 13, 2016. She weighed in at 5 lbs. 14 oz and was 18" long. May God richly bless this growing family!





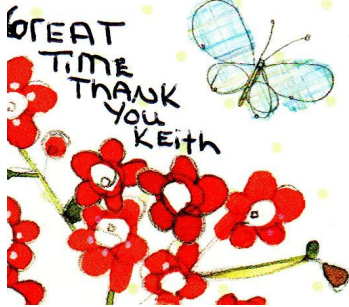
# Thank You from the Rescue Mission

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church  
 Thank you so much for  
 16 wonderful years of bringing  
 wonderful Super Bowl Snacks  
 for the guests of the Rescue  
 mission!! God Bless you-  
 Jimmy Topping

DEAR MESSIAH Lutheran Church  
 Thank you so much for  
 your time and dedication  
 GOD BLESS all of you  
 B. Glass  
 Thank you for a great  
 Super Bowl Love you all  
 Doreen  
 God Bless You!  
 Thanks So Much!  
 Duayne M.  
 Thanks for  
 Everything!!  
 Richard  
 Raul Santiago  
 Thank you  
 And God Bless

Thanks for caring enough  
 to spend time and money  
 with us here at the  
 Lebanon R.M. Dennis W.

God Bless YOU'S  
 Thank you  
 Thanked for party  
 Super Bowl  
 Thank you  
 GOD BLESS  
 THANK YOU  
 GOD BLESS  
 THANKS  
 Dennis & Boyd K.  
 Thank you for  
 everything you done  
 - Brian Longley  
 Timothy Gundry  
 Thank You  
 2-16-16



your Brother Billy D.  
 Thank you for the  
 love of Christ you  
 have shown us  
 also the great  
 fellowship we  
 shared together.  
 May God Bless  
 Be within your Church

THANK YOU FOR  
 EVERYTHING AND YOUR TIME  
 GOD BLESS! AND WE WON  
 JOHN LEWIS

Thank you  
 so much  
 Ed M.

## For Your Information

### FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

April 3

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 10

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 **most slots are empty** for the rest of the year. If there are no sponsors then there will be **NO WELCOME TIME.**

### Open Flower Dates:

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



May 1  
 August 7  
 August 14  
 December 11

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 and Lutheran World Relief. They are available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.*

Thank you to Joan Smith for serving so diligently and for so long as the special services head usher. The giving of your time and effort is so very appreciated.

And a big thank you is also extended to Harry Hatt for assuming the responsibility of special services head usher upon Joan's retirement. We appreciate your willingness to give your time to serve in this way.



Thanks to everyone who made soup, donated money, and helped with the set up and clean up for the Lenten soup suppers. All help was greatly appreciated!

Karen Hatt  
Fellowship Committee chair

## Geraniums for Pentecost



The Altar Guild is accepting donations for geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost (May 15). Please put your donation in a plain envelope marked "geraniums" and place it in the offering plate or drop it in the church office. Thank you!

## Membership Changes

### Transfer:

Please remove **Eric, Heather, Dayton and Carson DiBiasco** from your membership directory. They have transferred to a new church.



## Primary Election



**Tuesday, April 26** is Primary Day in Pennsylvania. Messiah is the polling place for Lebanon 2nd Ward West. Don't forget to get out there and VOTE!

## 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

1800 Oak Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042-5852  
Office Phone 272-2922

### E-mail

Pastor Kendall: [messiahpastor@epix.net](mailto:messiahpastor@epix.net)  
Robin Harris/office: [messiahluthleb@epix.net](mailto:messiahluthleb@epix.net)

### Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>