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Pastor's Page

We will do something different during Holy Week this year.

For twenty-seven years we have observed the traditional "Triduum" liturgies: Maundy Thursday, Veneration of the Cross, and the Vigil of Easter.

Historically, the Vigil was connected with Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism. Although a liturgy of Affirmation of Baptism may be held for the baptized generally, we have celebrated the Vigil in connection with the Rite of Confirmation. Again this year, we have no confirmands.

We will continue the Maundy Thursday and Veneration of the Cross (Good Friday) liturgies as before, but are offering a different devotional opportunity on the Saturday evening before Easter.

The church will be open from 7 to 8.30 PM for a Vigil of Prayer and Contemplation on the Eve of Easter.

People are welcome to enter the nave and stay as long or as briefly as they choose. A devotional guide will be provided, listing the fourteen appointed Easter Vigil readings and citing several appropriate hymns for per-

sonal contemplation. Silent prayer is encouraged, and votive candles will be made available for any who choose to pray at the Communion rail, or simply approach and light a candle as a sign of the prayers which have been offered.

Congregation Council approved this new worship opportunity in order to provide worshipers with the chance to engage in personal reflection and prayerful expression regarding God's mighty acts through which we are being redeemed in Christ Jesus.

We hope you will avail yourselves of this opportunity to come before God in a very personal way as part of your preparation for the greatest Day of this, or any, year for Christians, the Festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Regarding this Day, information is provided elsewhere in this issue concerning the Easter Breakfast and how to obtain tickets. The Easter Sunday liturgy is scheduled for the usual 9 AM time. There will be no Living in Faith education hour on Easter Day.

Holy Week begins with the Sunday of the Passion

("Palm Sunday") on 9 April. Mark your calendars, if they do not already highlight this essential week in Christian renewal and devotion.

Because of the March snowstorm, the midweek Lenten schedule was pushed ahead one week. Therefore, the final segment of our study of Luther's "Small Catechism" will be held on the Wednesday evening **after** Easter, with a final "Bread and Soup" meal (date: 19 April). A sign-up sheet will be posted for this last meal.

Since this session takes place after Lent, desserts may also be brought to be shared and enjoyed on April 19.

Please note that there will be no 'In-depth Bible Study' in April. This study will resume on the normal "second Thursday" date in May.

We encourage you to invite family, neighbors, friends and co-workers to attend Holy Week worship with you. Personal invitations are a vital part of our mission to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others, and our Lord has commissioned each of us to share in this holy work. May the joy of the Resurrection uplift us all! +

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 "Skip" 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



2017 Congregation Council

Harry Hatt, *President & Property chair*
 Gayle Hoffman, *Vice President, Personnel & Strategic Planning chair*
 Karen Fox, *Secretary & Worship and Music chair*
 Rita Savant, *Assistant Financial Secretary & Social Ministry chair*
 Charlotte Varone, *Publicity chair*
 Nancie Whelan, *Assistant Treasurer & Christian Education chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Ernestine Batdorf, *Financial Secretary*
 Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*
 Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*
 Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism/Stewardship & Volunteer Resources chair*

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

E-mail

Pastor Kendall: messiahpastor@epix.net
 Robin Harris/office: messiahluthleb@epix.net

Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>



Property Work Days

Two property work days have been scheduled—**Saturday, April 8** and **Saturday, May 13**.



We will meet in the kitchen at 8 AM for coffee and donuts, get work assignments and work until noon. We will

break for lunch, then continue working until mid-afternoon. If you are not able to work the entire time and can only spare a few hours you are still welcome to join us! We will be working both inside and outside (weather permitting). Any questions? See Harry Hatt.



April 2017 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 2 Sandra Smith
- 9 Nancie Whelan
- 13 12 PM Nicholas Adams
- 7:30 PM Deborah Lutz
- 16 Ernestine Batdorf
- 23 Michael Bowman
- 30 Kathaleen Lilley



Lector

- 2 Mary Garrett
- 9 Nancie Whelan
- 13 12 PM Nicholas Adams
- 7:30 PM Deborah Lutz
- 16 Ernestine Batdorf
- 23 Michael Bowman
- 30 Kathaleen Lilley



Greeters

- 2 Anita Keisch & Mary Garrett
- 9 Carey Kendall
- 13 12 PM **NEEDED**
- 7:30 PM Daniel LaRue
- 16 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 23 **NEEDED**
- 30 **NEEDED**



Head Ushers
Harry & Karen Hatt



Finance Steward
Harry Hatt



Altar Guild

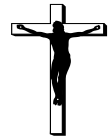
- 2 Kay Zellers & Mary Hartman
- 9 Marjorie Beard & Lori Wert
- 13 (noon) Janet Gassert & Ernestine Batdorf
- (7:30 PM) Marjorie Beard & Lori Wert (Karen Hatt helps with stripping of the Altar)
- 14 Carol Artz
- 15 (9 AM set up) Pastor Kendall, Kay Zellers, Tom & Janet Gassert & Rita Savant
- 16 Tom & Janet Gassert
- 23 Rita Savant, Gayle Hoffman & Carol Frantz
- 30 Carol Artz & Barbara Adams



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 2 Rita Savant
- 9 Sandra Smith
- 13 12 PM Rita Savant
- 7:30 PM Daniel LaRue
- 16 Nicholas Adams
- 23 Carol Artz
- 30 Ernestine Batdorf



Acolyte

- 2 Ernestine Batdorf
- 9 Nancie Whelan
- 13 12 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Deborah Lutz
- 16 Mikayla Bowman
- Keeley Hartman
- 23 Michael Bowman
- 30 Mikayla Bowman



WELCOME TIME—April 2
SPONSOR NEEDED



General Fund Summary for February

	February	Year/date
Income	\$10,899.13	\$23,676.59
Expenses	\$14,583.26	\$28,491.61
Income-expenses	-\$3,684.13	-\$4,815.02

Income	February	Year/date	Expenses	February	Year/date
Regular giving	\$10,644.00	\$23,107.25	Staff	\$10,063.83	\$19,750.12
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$100.00	\$100.00	Administrative	\$556.51	\$815.25
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00	Maintenance	\$2,214.24	\$4,303.88
Checking interest	\$0.13	\$0.34	Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations (use of church)	\$100.00	\$200.00	Additional	\$375.00	\$875.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$55.00</u>	<u>\$269.00</u>	Benevolence	\$1,273.68	\$2,547.36
Total Income	\$10,899.13	\$23,676.59	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>
			Total expenses	\$14,583.26	\$28,491.61
			Income less expenses	-\$3,684.13	-\$4,815.02

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

Benevolence Offering

February 2017	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$750.00		\$750.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
Mission Partners	\$50.25		\$50.25
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$50.25		\$50.25
Independent Church in India	\$50.25		\$50.25
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$50.25		\$50.25
NALC Disaster Response	\$50.25		\$50.25
Lutheran World Relief	\$50.25		\$50.25
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$50.25		\$50.25
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$50.25		\$50.25
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$46.68		\$46.68
Total	\$1,273.68	\$0.00	\$1,273.68

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

9 AM The Holy Communion
 10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
 (4th Sunday— Joint LiF class; Bible Reading Covenant)

WEDNESDAYS:

(as noted in the calendar and bulletin)
 10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion
 6 PM Lenten Soup & Bread Meal
 6:45 PM Lenten Study series (April 5 & 19)

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 9, The Sunday of the Passion:
9 AM The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms

10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour

Maundy Thursday, April 13:

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 14:

7:30 PM The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, April 15:

7 to 8:30 PM The church will be open for a time of personal prayer and contemplation

Sunday, April 16, The Resurrection of Our Lord:

7:30 AM Easter Breakfast

8 AM Egg Hunt & other activities for the kids

9 AM The Holy Communion
 (No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)

Lenten Study Series

We will be concluding our Lenten study series on **Luther's Small Catechism** this month. The schedule is as follows:



April 5—The Sacraments of Holy Baptism & Holy Communion

April 19—The Life of a Christian
(Please note this is the Wednesday AFTER Easter to make up for the session we missed due to the snow.)

In accord with our mission **“to bring Christ to people and people to Christ,”** you are invited and encouraged to bring friends with you to experience the renewing power of the Season of Lent and its glorious fulfillment in the celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord.

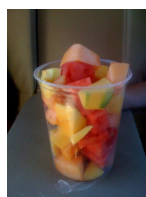
Bring your Bible and copy of Luther's catechism!

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 16
 7:30 AM

Cost is **\$2 per person** (to help defray the cost and get a more accurate head count). Tickets will be on sale beginning March 26 after worship. See Harry and Karen Hatt for tickets or more information.

Menu



Scrambled Eggs

Little Smokies

French Toast Sticks

Fruit Cup

Coffee

Tea

Juice



The sign-up sheet will be located on the Information Center in the narthex.

Bread and Soup Meals



Every Wednesday evening in Lent the Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring a soup and bread supper beginning at 6 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. The study series will follow at 6:45 PM. If the meal does not work for you, then you are welcome to come to only the study portion of the evening.

We need **volunteers** to either make soup or to give a donation to Karen Hatt so soup may be purchased. We would like to have **two varieties of soup per Wednesday**, so we would prefer two volunteers per week. The committee will supply the bread, drinks and paper products. Sign up sheets are posted on the Information Board in the narthex so we may get a head count. This sheet will also list the soups that will be provided for that week.

Upcoming Events

**There will be
NO
Thursday evening
BIBLE STUDY
this month.**



Orientation to
the Battle of
Gettysburg

Presented in two
installments

Sunday, April 2 after LiF
(part 1)

Thursday, April 20
6:45 PM (part 2)

GAME NIGHT



Friday, 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: \$3,483.79)

Date	Amount Received	Attendance
2/5	\$3,124.00	50 + / 18 Joint LiF
2/12	\$2,796.60	50 + 18 LiF
2/19	\$1,960.00	55 + / 21 LiF
2/26	\$3,177.00	48 + / 24 Joint LiF



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

Received to date: \$23,676.59
Needed to date: \$30,192.83

Trip to the Gettysburg Battlefield



The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a road trip to the Gettysburg Battlefield on **Saturday, April 22**.

We will meet at the church at **7:30 AM** and carpool/caravan to Gettysburg where we will begin our day at the Visitor's Center (1195 Baltimore Pike). After viewing the magnificent Cyclorama our own military strategist and history buff Pastor Kendall will guide us around some high points of the battlefield, like the Round Tops/Devil's Den and Pickett's Charge. Come prepared to learn a lot about what happened on those three bloody days that changed the tide of the Civil War.

Please bring a light bag lunch/snack and a drink. Coolers will be available for you to use to keep your meal cool. We will be stopping at the Dobbin House Tavern for an early supper, so please make sure to bring money to cover the cost. Souvenirs are available to purchase at the Visitor's Center and other shops in the town if you are interested.

To get ourselves ready to understand the scale of what we are about to see there will be an orientation session on the Battle of Gettysburg on **Sunday, April 2** (part 1) after Living in Faith Hour and on **Thursday, April 20** (part 2) at 6:45 PM. On April 2 we will enjoy a mac & cheese lunch beforehand. Please make plans to join us for both events!

March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

- The Easter Vigil this year will be a Vigil of Prayer on the Eve of Easter. This Vigil will be a quiet, more personal experience. A list of lessons will be provided to participants, with the invitation to prayer following each lesson.
- The Fellowship Committee reported the “Spud-Tacular” luncheon was a success. On April 2 there will be a Mac and Cheese luncheon after Living in Faith. Afterwards there will be an orientation to the Battle of Gettysburg with Pastor Kendall. The second half of the orientation will be held on April 20th. On April 22nd the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a trip to Gettysburg with Pastor Kendall as the tour guide.
- District 65 AA meetings will be moved from the third Thursday evening of each month to the third Wednesday evening of each month beginning after Lent and not to occur during Lent in succeeding years.
- Easter breakfast tickets will be sold after church on March 26th, April 2nd and April 9th. The tickets are to obtain an accurate head count.
- Property Committee has planned two work days, Saturdays, April 8th and May 13th. These work-days will be outdoor, weather permitting or indoor if there is inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Fox
 Congregation Council Secretary



For Your Information

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

April 2

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.



DO YOU LIKE WELCOME TIME? Then please consider sponsoring a month. If there are no sponsors then there will be NO WELCOME TIME.

Harry and Karen Hatt have a new email address. It is hkwlhg710@comcast.net (no longer Verizon.net). Please make this change in your email address book.

Open Flower Dates:

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



April 30
 June 18
 August 6
 August 13
 December 10

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