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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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## Pastor's Page

Some years ago I was asked to speak to a church's Boy Scout troop about world religions. After presenting a brief survey of Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Christianity, they had a time for questions.

I was amazed to discover that the boys believed in "reincarnation." They asked: "Isn't that what Easter is about?" No one in this church-sponsored troop knew the difference between the concepts. They thought that reincarnation, part of Buddhist and Hindu beliefs, is "Christian."

I explained that "reincarnation" is not Christian, while "Resurrection" is at the heart of Christian faith. Reincarnation, I told them, is a bit like an "F" grade in school, where one must repeat the course and try harder. The goal of these eastern religions is not to BE reincarnated, but to reach a state of "enlightenment" at which one no longer HAS to be reincarnated.

Time did not permit me to do more with these boys, but I still remember how sad I felt, how dismayed I was for their sake that neither their parents nor their church had made plain to

them what a profound hope Christians possess because we believe in the Resurrection of the Dead.

We know that Resurrection is real because someone has *been* raised from the dead: Jesus. We know that Resurrection is integral to God's Plan because Jesus, many times, foretold His own Resurrection before it happened.

We know that Resurrection is in the future for those who give their lives to Jesus because He Himself pledged: *I will raise you up at the Last Day.*

The triumph of Easter, coming this year on the first day of April, is the greatest triumph of all human history, over the greatest opponents in the history of humankind: sin and death. The triumph is, first, the victory of our Lord Jesus; in the words of one Easter hymn, "Death could not hold Him down for long."

When one considers His innocence, His humility, and His devoted submission to the Will of the Father, these alone are sufficient grounds for us to celebrate His Resurrection on the first Easter morning. Yet all Jesus endured was

for our sake. For us, and for our salvation, Jesus left the glory of heaven and put on our frail mortal body. For the sake of our spiritual blindness, Jesus showed us the true Nature of God in His Words of wisdom, His deeds of love, and His self-sacrifice.

The hatred of His opponents? For us. The endless demands made on Him? For those with needs. The tireless teaching? For people who were walking alone because they did not know God, or what life with God is meant to be.

The atonement on the Cross? For sinners, to create a Way for sinners to be brought into the Light of God, where there is Life.

The Resurrection? For those who are mortal and die. So that not one single thing in all existence can separate from God those who want to be with God.

Easter? For us, for all eternity and for right now. We are meant to be people of *life*—people defined, not by trouble or sickness, age or an expiration date, but by our Baptism into what God has done for us in Christ. For us, there is no "F." Except in the beautiful word from God: **Life.** Amen! +

# 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
- 24 Gary & Jacquelyn Dohner  
Walter & Margaret Shirey
- 25 Bryan & Gayle Hoffman
- 27 Matthew & Jessica Lutz



## Messiah Lutheran Church

1800 Oak Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042-5852  
Office Phone 717-272-2922

### E-mail

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

### Web Site

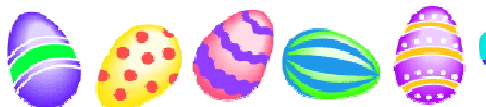
<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>

### NALC Web Site

<http://www.thenalc.org>

### Atlantic Mission District Web Site

<http://www.atlantic-nalc.org>



# 2018 Congregation Council

Harry Hatt, *President and Property Chair*  
Gayle Hoffman, *Vice-President and Personnel Chair*

Karen Fox, *Secretary and Worship & Music Chair*  
Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer and Christian Education Chair*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary, Publicity and Volunteer Resources Chair*

Rita Savant, *Assistant Finance Secretary and Social Ministry Chair*

### Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

# Thank You Notes

**Thank you!** I would like to thank everyone who made soup, donated money to buy soup, helped set up and clean up for the Bread and Soup meals. Your help was much appreciated.

Karen Hatt  
Fellowship Chair



Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers. Many thanks to Janet Gassert for delivering them. Many thanks also to everyone for their continued prayers for my great-granddaughter Mina. It is deeply appreciated. She is coming along fine.

In Christian love,  
Mary Ann Hartman



Thank you for the flowers. They are beautiful and smell like spring!

Janet Pazsik



# April 2018 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 1 Nancie Whelan
- 8 Eugene Martin
- 15 Karen Fox
- 22 Michael Bowman
- 29 Sandra Smith



## Altar Guild

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



## Lector

- 1 Carey Kendall
- 8 Eugene Martin
- 15 Karen Fox
- 22 Michael Bowman
- 29 Sandra Smith



## Crucifer

- 1 Eugene Martin
- 8 Sandra Smith
- 15 Michael Bowman
- 22 Andrew Hartman
- 29 Robert Bowman



## Greeters

- 1 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 8 **NEEDED**
- 15 **NEEDED**
- 22 **NEEDED**
- 29 **NEEDED**



## Acolyte

- 1 Ernestine Batdorf
- Harry Hatt
- 8 Deborah Lutz
- 15 Mikayla Bowman
- 22 Michael Bowman
- 29 Nancie Whelan



**Head Ushers**  
Harry & Karen Hatt



**Finance Steward**  
Harry Hatt

There will be **NO WELCOME TIME** this month due to the Easter Breakfast on April 1.



# Trip to the Choo Choo Barn Planned

The Fellowship Committee is planning a trip to the Choo Choo Barn—Traintown, USA in Strasburg on **Saturday, April 21!** The Choo Choo Barn offers a 1,700 square foot model train layout featuring over 150 handmade animated features and 22 operating trains.

Admission prices are \$8.50 for adults (age 12 and up); \$5 (ages 3-11); and children under 3 get in for free.

Following our time at the barn we will have a meal at the **Primanti Brothers Restaurant** in Lancaster. Please make plans to join us in this yummy portion of our time together.

We will be carpooling and **leaving the church parking lot at 10 AM.** A sign up sheet will be posted on Easter Sunday. See you then!



## Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 1  
7:30 AM

Cost is **\$2 per person** (to help defray the cost and get a more accurate head count). Tickets sales will be completed **after worship** March 25. See Harry and Karen Hatt for tickets or more information.

### Menu



Scrambled Eggs  
Little Smokies



French Toast Sticks



Fruit Cup  
Coffee  
Tea  
Juice



## A Veggie-Table Covered Dish

*Time to eat more veggies!*



The Fellowship Committee is planning a Veggie-Table covered dish on **Sunday, April 29** following the Living in Faith Education Hour.

What is this? A meal where everything is made out of vegetables, of course!

The committee is asking that everything be made of vegetables—like vegetable lasagna, zucchini casserole, pumpkin bread, spinach quiche, etc. Be creative! Paper products will be provided.

A sign up sheet will be posted after Easter. Make plans now to enjoy a delicious, healthy, creative and fun afternoon with your church family!

## 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 Soup & Bread (April 4 ONLY)  
6:45 PM Lenten study (April 4 ONLY)

# Upcoming Events

Make-Up Lenten Soup & Study

**Wednesday, April 4**

At 6 PM (soup—AND dessert)  
6:45 PM Final session on *How Did the Early Christians Learn The Faith: The Didache*

This will make up the session that was postponed due to the no-snow storm.

We will be continuing our in-depth **Bible Study on the Book of Romans**

**Thursday, April 12**  
At 7 PM



**GAME NIGHT**



**Friday, April 20**  
At 6:30 PM

Come out for a fun night of games and fellowship!

# Ministry Plan Report for February

*(Budgeted need per week: \$3,420.10)*

Date	Amount Received	Attendance
2/4	\$3,270.00	46 + / 12 LiF
2/11	\$2,303.50	47 + / 12 LiF
12 PM 2/14	(rolled into 2/18)	24 +
7:30 PM 2/14	(rolled into 2/18)	30 +
2/18	\$2,300.50	26 + / 13 LiF
2/25	\$1,458.00	37 + / 13 Covenant study



NOTE: "+" denotes Worship

"LiF" denotes Living in Faith

## Discount Available

Turf Corps, our lawn care providers here at the church, are offering a 10% discount to all Messiah members for their lawn care services. All you have to do is mention you attend Messiah Lutheran Church to get this discount! You may contact Turf Corps (Steve and Sally McNally) at [turfcorps@gmail.com](mailto:turfcorps@gmail.com) or 610-589-2398.



## Greeters Needed



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



# March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

- Fellowship reported that tickets for the Easter breakfast are on sale after worship.
- The Atlantic Mission District Kitchen meeting went fairly well. A second meeting is planned for April 28.
- The Veggie-Table covered dish meal is planned for April 29.
- The Choo Choo Barn trip is planned for April 21.
- Property reported that the mowing contract was approved for 2018.
- Council has received some complaints about loud or distracting conversations going on in the narthex before worship while others are trying to mentally prepare for worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Karen Fox  
 Congregation Council Secretary

## It's a Boy!



Congratulations to Andrew and Elizabeth Surmacz on the birth of

**Andrew Jed Surmacz.**

Drew was born on March 2, 2018. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz and was 21" long. May God richly bless this new family!

## Membership Change

Please remove from your church directory:

**Lisa, Sean, Amber and Kate Lineaweaver**

They transferred their membership.



## For Your Information



**FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY**

**April 1**

Rescue Mission

**Communion Gift Sponsorship Available**



Communion gift sponsorship for **January** is still available. Cost is \$30 for the month, and you may sponsor them in honor or in memory of whomever you would like. If you are interested in sponsoring the Communion gifts for January please contact Robin in the office.

**Open Flower Dates:**

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



**Altar Flowers**

April 29  
 June 10  
 July 1  
 August 5  
 August 12  
 December 30

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these Sundays please contact Janet Gassert at 717-272-3757.

**PA Dutch Church Service Sunday, April 8**

**2:30 PM**

Zoar Lutheran Church  
560 Freeport Road  
Lebanon

