

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Monthly Schedule	3
Thank You Notes	4
January Council Highlights	4
December Ministry Plan Report	5
Looking ahead to Lent	6
December General Fund Summary	7
2015 Year End Statements	8

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

- Souper Bowl of Caring (Page 2)
- Membership Changes (Page 2)
- Upcoming Events (Page 5)
- Wintry Weather (Page 5)
- Open Flower Dates (Page 7)
- Congregation Council members (Page 8)
- Announcements (Page 8)

## Pastor's Page

Our chief season of spiritual renewal, Lent, begins with Ash Wednesday worship at 12 noon and 7.30 PM on 10 February. This is an early start, for Easter is 27 March—also early.

The Church takes Lent very seriously, because it addresses the most serious aspect of our human condition: the reality of sin.

The Church responds to this condition by heeding the call of God, through the Law and the Prophets and the teachings of Christ and the apostles, for all godly people to examine ourselves thoroughly, recognize both the reality of sin in us and the specifics of our own sins, and lay them before God in humility and contrition.

God's gracious response to our honest self-examination includes the help of His Holy Spirit to discern and understand, to trust in His mercy and hope for His pardon, and to believe in the Gospel assurance that through Christ, the debt of our

sins is paid on His Cross.

Those who take seriously the suffering and death of our Lord—the price He chose to pay for our sake—respond to the Cross by welcoming the chance to lay our sins at His pierced Feet and thankfully accept the blessings of forgiveness, a fresh start, and a new identity as the forgiven and adopted children of God.

For believing Christians, Lent is therefore both an obligation and a blessing. It is a time I look forward to, for my own sake as a sinner saved by grace, and for your sakes, as people who can be greatly blessed and renewed by participation in it. I hope you will welcome Lent this year, resolve to stand firm in its disciplines, and see it through to the holy remembrance of our Lord's Passion and death, and to the celebration of His glorious Resurrection.

The Messiah tradition of midweek Lenten bread-and-soup suppers and study will continue, with

the first meal and study scheduled for Wednesday, 17 February. Meal sign-ups will be posted at the Information Center.

The focus of this year's five-week study is on "The Dynamics of the Christian Life," specifically:

*What does it mean to believe in God?*

*What does it mean to trust God?*

*What does it mean to worship God?*

*What does it mean to love God?*

*What does it mean to give (share) God?*

The words—believe, trust, worship, love, give—are simple, but their implications when applied to our lives lived "in Christ" are numerous and profound.

I hope you will resolve now to deepen your faith and understanding by making the most of these opportunities to grow as people of God. See you here. Pastor Kendall +

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

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**Web Site:** <http://www.messiahluthleb.org>

## Membership Changes

Please **amend your directory** to reflect they who joined the Church Triumphant last month:

**George Uhl**  
 1918-2016

**Joan Matthew**  
 1930-2016

*If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with Him.*



**Transfer**

Please remove **John and Sharon Garner** from your directory. They have transferred their membership to Hill Lutheran Church (see note posted on the Information Board).

## February Birthdays

- 2 Michael Bowman  
Vivian Mayopoulos
- 7 Mary Garrett
- 9 Margaret Shirey
- 10 Kacie Mullen  
Scott Runkel
- 12 Lori Oliver
- 13 Ramona Roush
- 15 Erin Kendall
- 16 Sherri Dolheimer
- 20 Dawn Hummel
- 21 Karen Fox  
Rodney Ledger
- 23 Nancy Cramp
- 24 Marion Bowman
- 25 Kelly Roof
- 27 Pastor Kendall



## February Anniversaries

- 4 Justin & Tessa Lilley
- 15 Frederick & Janet Grun  
George & Terry Wilson



## 2016 Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday February 7th** 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by lov-

ing their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

During the **Sundays in January and on February 7th, we will be collecting food items and monetary donations for the Lebanon Rescue Mission** as part of Messiah's Souper Bowl of Caring. Please support our efforts to tackle hunger.

Then on Super Bowl Sunday (February 7) we will travel to the Rescue Mission to deliver our donated items and throw a **pizza party** for the men while we enjoy watching the game. We hope to see you there!



# February 2016 Schedules

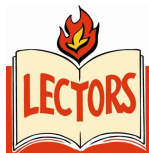
## Assisting Minister

- 7 Mary Garrett
- 10 12 PM Nicholas Adams
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 14 Michael Bowman
- 21 Pam Knouff
- 28 Sandra Smith



## Lector

- 7 Carey Kendall
- 10 12 PM Nicholas Adams
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 14 Michael Bowman
- 21 Pam Knouff
- 28 Sandra Smith



## Greeters

- 7 David Machamer
- 10 12 PM **NEEDED**
- 7:30 PM Deborah Lutz
- 14 Harry & Karen Hatt
- 21 Deb Lutz
- 28 Lori Oliver



## Finance Steward

Charlotte Varone



## Head Usher

Rita Savant

## Altar Guild

- Ernestine Batdorf, chair
- Holly McGuire
- Louise Scaramuzzino
- Nancie Whelan
- Mary Whelan



## Crucifer

### By Carol Artz

- 7 Andrew Hartman
- 10 12 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Kathaleen Lilley
- 14 Andrew Hartman
- 21 Daniel LaRue
- 28 Kathaleen Lilley



## Acolyte

- 7 Mary Whelan
- 10 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 14 Michael Bowman
- 21 Pam Knouff
- 28 Keeley Hartman



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

## February 7 — Souper Bowl Committee



## Thank You Notes

*Thank you notes were received from Lutheran World Relief, the Lebanon Rescue Mission, Lutheran Bible Translators, the NAL Seminary, the City of Lebanon, and the Atlantic Mission District of the NALC. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.*

Dear Messiah Members,

We would like to thank everyone in the congregation who contributed to the Christmas gift which was presented to us on Christmas Eve. We appreciate it very much and will put it to good use.

Thank you, also, to everyone who sent us a Christmas card. We're sorry we cannot send cards to everyone at Messiah, as we try to keep up with extended family and old friends outside the congregation, but we truly appreciate that you remember us at Christmas. May all of you have a very blessed New Year.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor and Carey Kendall +

I would like to thank the members of Messiah for the most generous Christmas gift you gave me. With having a new child in the house your generosity is much appreciated! Thank you!

In Christian love,  
Robin Harris

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. It was very generous of you, and I greatly appreciate it. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to play the organ at my own church so frequently. Having the opportunity to do something I love is truly a gift, and I feel grateful that I am able to use God's blessings to honor Him through musical worship. I hope that my music contributes to your ability to focus on the meaning behind each Sunday's service. Thank you for your support and love, it is always a pleasure to play at Messiah.

In Christian love,  
Erin Kendall

To Messiah Congregation,  
"How beautiful life is when kindness touches it." Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. The altar flowers were beautiful.

Love,  
Rod and Eileen Ledger

I would like to thank everyone who came to visit me, sing Christmas carols, and deliver Christmas cookies. It was just wonderful, and I enjoyed it so much I can't find the words. You are all such a blessing. It really was wonderful. Thank you all!

In Christian love,  
Annabel Karnes

Thank you for the wonderful gift basket!  
Michaela Blouch

## January Congregation Council Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

- One member was excused
- Devotions were led by Dave Machamer.
- The 2015 audit was approved. We thanked the audit committee for their work.
- A proposal was made to install a railing on the brick wall outside the narthex to the parking lot.
- Council reorganized and assigned new committee chairs (see page 8).
- The date of the Council retreat was moved to Saturday, February 6 due to the impending snow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Adams, Congregation Council president

# Ministry Plan Report for December, 2015



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

Date	Amount received	Attendance
12/6	\$3,854.00	59 + / 24 LiF
12/13	\$4,118.00	54 + / 15 LiF
12/20	\$2,074.25	51 + / 17 LiF
4 PM 12/24	\$5,827.00 (both services combined)	99 +
7:30 PM		50 +
12/27	\$2,670.00	50 + / 0 LiF

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

**Received to date: \$171,759.08**  
**Needed to date: \$180,791.00**

## Upcoming Events



### ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 10  
at noon  
&  
7:30 PM

### BIBLE STUDY



Thursday,  
February 11  
at 7 PM

We will begin our study of the  
Epistles of John.  
(I, II & III John)



### EVENT NIGHT

Thursday, February 18  
at 6:30 PM

Come out for a fun night of  
games and fellowship!

## Wintry Weather...

In the event of wintry weather or power outages on Sunday mornings, please listen to WLBR radio for information on worship schedules. If there is a power failure on a Sunday morning, worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The emergency generator provides enough light in that area.

Also, in the event of adverse weather/road conditions, the office will open as soon as conditions allow us to travel safely. On a Wednesday morning, if the Cornwall-Lebanon or Lebanon City school districts have a 2 hour delay or are closed, the Wednesday morning worship service is cancelled.



## LENT

## Weekly Worship Schedule

### SUNDAYS:

9 AM The Holy Communion  
10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour  
(4th Sunday of the month—Joint LiF class)

### WEDNESDAYS:

(as noted in the calendar and bulletin)  
10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion



## Ash Wednesday

The vital penitential season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 10**. On Ash Wednesday, you will have the option of attending either a mid-day liturgy, with proclamation



and the imposition of ashes beginning at 12 noon, or the customary evening liturgy at 7:30 PM.

Both liturgies will feature the same sermon. The noon lit-

urgy is to make the time easy to remember, and to make attendance possible for people who might take time at lunch, for those who do not drive at night, or who must work a late shift.

## Lenten Study Series



Messiah's Lenten discipline will be observed on Sunday mornings as well as **WEDNESDAY** evenings from 6:45 to 8:15 PM with a Lenten study series on **"What does it mean to..."**

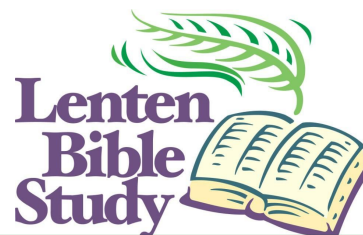
- February 17—believe in God
- February 24—trust in God
- March 2—worship God
- March 9—love God
- March 16—give (share) God

We will begin our Wednesday evenings with the **"Bread and Soup Supper" meal at 6 PM followed by study and discussion from 6:45 to 8:30 PM**. If the soup schedule does not suit then you are welcome to attend only the study portion of the evening.

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!



## Lenten 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.



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** will be posted in the narthex for each week so we may get a head count. This sheet will also list the soups that will be provided for that week.

Please consider joining us for nourishment and fellowship prior to our Lenten study series. It's food for the body and soul!



# December 2015 General Fund Summary

	<b>December</b>	<b>Year/date</b>
Income	\$17,896.43	\$171,759.08
Expenses	\$16,430.77	\$179,119.43
Income-expenses	<b>\$1,465.66</b>	<b>-\$7,360.35</b>

<b>Income</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Year/date</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>Year/date</b>
Regular giving	\$17,756.25	\$167,942.15	Staff	\$10,644.01	\$116,813.24
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$100.00	\$1,860.00	Administrative	\$270.92	\$4,524.77
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$281.00	Maintenance	\$2,131.54	\$33,863.12
Checking interest	\$0.18	\$2.93	Committee	\$0.00	\$9.00
Donations/use of church	\$0.00	\$800.00	Additional	\$625.00	\$5,750.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$40.00</u>	<u>\$873.00</u>	Benevolence	\$2,659.30	\$16,959.30
<b>Total Income</b>	\$17,896.43	\$171,759.08	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
			<b>Total expenses</b>	\$16,430.77	\$179,119.43
			Income less expenses	<b>\$1,465.66</b>	<b>-\$7,360.35</b>

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

## BENEVOLENCE GIVING

December 2015	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$1,571.37		\$1,571.37
Atlantic Mission District	\$195.32		\$195.32
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$113.23		\$113.23
Independent Church in India	\$113.23		\$113.23
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$113.23		\$113.23
NALC Disaster Response	\$113.23		\$113.23
Lutheran World Relief	\$113.23	\$241.00	\$354.23
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$113.23	\$55.00	\$168.23
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$113.23		\$113.23
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$50.00		\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,659.30</b>	<b>\$296.00</b>	<b>\$2,955.30</b>

## Open Flower Dates

There are three dates open this year for sponsoring flowers for worship:

- February 14
- August 7
- August 14

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



# For Your Information

## February 7 FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect food and personal care products for our neighbors in need. Unless there is a special request from a specific agency, the schedule is as follows:

### February Rescue Mission

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



**BLANK!!** Please consider signing up today!

The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2016 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex. Did you notice how empty it is?? Sign up today!



You are invited to the Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir concert on **Saturday, March 12 at 7 PM** at Zoar Lutheran Church (560 Freeport Road, Lebanon). Robin's daughter Anna (a senior) is a soprano in this choir. This is a free concert, but there will be a free will offering. Come enjoy a night full of beautiful sacred music from a nationally renowned university choir!



## Daily Devotionals Available

The NALC has daily devotionals available on their website. They are based on the lessons found in the daily lectionary in the LBW. The website is <http://thenalc.org>. Check it out!

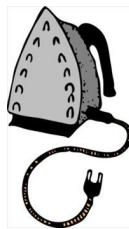
## 2015 Statements

The 2015 year-end statements are finished and are available for you to pick up in the narthex. If you have any questions or problems do not hesitate to call Robin in the office.



## Iron Needed

Do you have an extra iron at home that you are not using? If so then please consider donating it to the Altar Guild. The iron that the Altar Guild is currently using is not working properly, and they desperately need a new iron to help remove wax from the Fair Linen, etc. Please contact Janet Gassert at 272-3757 if you have an iron that they may use. Thank you!



## 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*

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥