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Pastor's Page

Ash Wednesday is March 1st (late this year, because Easter is not celebrated until 16 April) but given that February is a short month, and bad weather can distract us from planning, it's worth mentioning now, and announcing the 2017 Lenten midweek series.

This year marks the 500th Anniversary of Luther's posting of the "95 Theses" (not a proclamation of revolution, but an invitation to scholar debate on the theses listed).

Loads of things come to my email address, and more to the church's mailbox, offering all sorts of things to "help" commemorate the "500th Anniversary of Lutheranism."

Nearly all of these involve buying something.

I'll admit that last year I bought a little Playmobil toy figure of Martin Luther, just for fun (we've always liked Playmobil toys—ask our kids) but I'm not inclined to spend money that's not necessary on "stuff" to mark the

Reformation. We'll do that another way.

This year's Lenten midweek Bread-and-Souper supper/study gatherings (yes there WILL be bread and soup!) will take a fresh look at Luther's "Small Catechism."

The text of the SC can be found online (free!) and participants will each have a copy to view (and make notes on) as we proceed through the five study Wednesdays.

You will find that the Catechism itself is simple (so much so that Luther also wrote the "Large Catechism" to give some depth to each subject) but its implications for Christian belief and life are profound.

The SC is divided into subject areas: the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments, Confession, and the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). Each will receive its own Wednesday for study and discussion.

If you have maintained

your Lenten midweek discipline in recent years, you know we begin the study as early as possible after the meal is cleared (around 6:45 PM) and conclude by around 8:30 (this will be a firm goal).

You may also attend the study alone, if your schedule or diet do not allow you to share the bread/souper supper.

If you've drifted away from keeping Lent intentionally (be aware, "not eating chocolate" is not keeping Lent in a spiritual manner), this will be a good opportunity for you to renew your commitment and to renew your soul.

Mark your calendars now for Wednesday evenings in March and early April.

In closing, I'll remind you that we still have February and March before Winter is over, so maintain a "weather eye" and take care with your traction, your driving and your back muscles!

Peace to you. Pastor +

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Open Flower Dates

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



- April 30
- June 18
- August 6
- August 13
- December 10

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



February Birthdays

- 2 Michael Bowman
Vivian Mayopoulos
- 7 Mary Garrett
- 9 Margaret Shirey
- 10 Kacie Mullen
Scott Runkel
- 13 Ramona Roush
- 15 Erin Trovinger
- 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

- 15 Frederick & Janet Grun



2017 Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday February 5th** 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 5th, 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 5) we will **meet a the church at 6 PM** and 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 2017 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 5 Michael Bowman
- 12 Kathaleen Lilley
- 19 Karen Fox
- 26 Sandra Smith



Lector

- 5 Robert Bowman
- 12 Kathaleen Lilley
- 19 Karen Fox
- 26 Sandra Smith



Greeters

- 5 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 12 Daniel LaRue
- 19 Carol Artz
- 26 Charlotte Varone



Finance Steward

Karen Fox



Head Usher

Rita Savant

Altar Guild

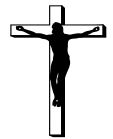
- Ernestine Batdorf, chair
- Holly McGuire
- Louise Scaramuzzino
- Nancie Whelan
- Mary Whelan



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 5 Ernestine Batdorf
- 12 Robert Bowman
- 19 Michael Bowman
- 26 Gayle Hoffman



Acolyte

- 5 Michael Bowman
- 12 Keeley Hartman
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Harry Hatt



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

February 5— Souper Bowl Committee



Thank You Notes

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

Thank you for your prayers, visits and cards while I was in the hospital and recuperating after my surgery. They were much appreciated.

Dave Machamer



Thank you to Matt & Jess Lutz, Nancie and Mary Whelan and Andy, Jill and Abbey Hartman for helping with the luminaries before and after the Christmas Eve Services. The luminaries are a special welcome to friends and family attending the Services. Thank you for your help.

The Evangelism Committee



Messiah Members,
Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits while Gordon was in the hospital. A special "thank you" to Pastor Kendall for being there for us in our time of need at the hospital and at home. We are truly blessed. Also, thank you to Janet and Tom Gassert for the delivery of the

beautiful altar flowers. We truly enjoyed your visit to our home.

Gordon and Laura Ebright



Dear Friends,

Thank you to the Pastor and to the bakers who made the wonderful Christmas cookies for Fred and I to receive. We enjoyed the visit and the thoughtfulness. The cookies were excellent!

Love in Him,

Fred and Caroline Harnisch



I would like to thank the members of Messiah for the most generous monetary Christmas gift you gave me. We are putting it towards a much needed new sofa for our living room. Thank you!

In Christian love,

Robin Harris



On behalf of Alyssa and Erin, I would like to thank the members of the congregation for remembering us with a cash gift for Christmas. It is our privilege to lead worship with the organ and always our delight to hear the congregation singing. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the congregation organists.

Karen Fox

Cantor Emerita

January Congregation Council Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

- All members of the Council were present.
- The 2016 year-end audit was approved.
- New officers and committee chairs for 2017 were discussed. For a complete listing please see page 8.
- Pastor Kendall informed the Council of a trespasser incident that occurred the evening of January 6. A written accounting of this incident and the contact information for the responding police officers are posted in the office and sacristy in the event that the police need to be contacted again.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancie Whelan, 2016 Congregation Council secretary

Ministry Plan Report for December, 2016



Budgeted need per week: \$3,575.60

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
	12/4	\$3,818.00	45 + / 12 LiF
	12/11	\$2,535.00	43 + / 14 LiF
	12/18	\$3,050.50	38 + / 13 LiF
(4 PM)	12/24	(offering rolled into 12/25)	92 +
(7:30 PM)	12/24	(offering rolled into 12/25)	42 +
	12/25	\$8,491.00	26 + / (no LiF)

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

Received to date: \$155,503.86
Needed to date: \$170,436.75

Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY



**Thursday,
February 9
at 7 PM**

We will continue our in-depth study of the Book of Romans.

EVENT NIGHT

**Thursday, February 16
at 6:30 PM**

Come out for a fun night of games and fellowship!

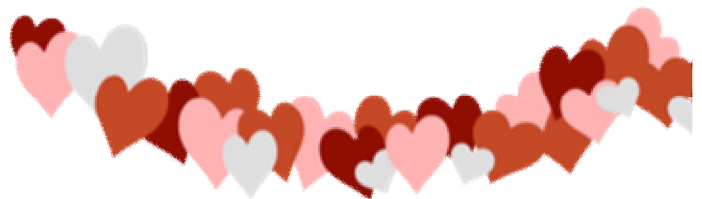


ASH WEDNESDAY
**Wednesday, March 1
at noon
&
7:30 PM**

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.



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, March 1.** 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 the following

WEDNESDAY evenings from 6:45 to 8:30 PM with a Lenten study series on **Luther's Small Catechism.**

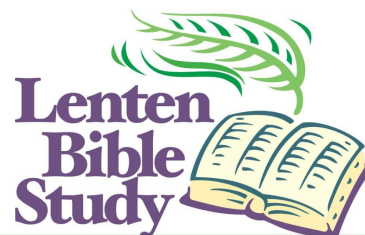
- March 8
- March 15
- March 22
- March 29
- April 5

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 2016 General Fund Summary

	December	Year/date
Income	\$17,312.65	\$155,503.86
Expenses	\$13,504.35	\$171,858.53
Income-expenses	\$3,808.30	-\$16,354.67

Income	December	Year/date	Expenses	December	Year/date
Regular giving	\$17,068.50	\$151,363.90	Staff	\$10,004.83	\$120,878.84
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$35.00	\$1,548.00	Administrative	\$311.05	\$3,840.19
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$374.00	Maintenance	\$1,933.63	\$26,501.33
Checking interest	\$0.15	\$1.96	Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations/use of church	\$0.00	\$880.00	Additional	\$625.00	\$5,500.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$209.00</u>	<u>\$1,336.00</u>	Benevolence	\$529.84	\$13,938.17
Total Income	\$17,312.65	\$155,503.86	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
			Total expenses	\$13,504.35	\$171,858.53
			Income less expenses	\$3,808.30	-\$16,354.67

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



BENEVOLENCE GIVING

4th Quarter Charity Distributions—includes expenditures for October, November and December, 2016.

October—December 2016	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$59.32		\$59.32
Atlantic Mission District	\$85.02		\$85.02
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$95.73		\$95.73
Independent Church in India	\$95.73		\$95.73
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$95.73		\$95.73
NALC Disaster Response	\$95.73		\$95.73
Lutheran World Relief	\$95.73		\$95.73
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$95.73		\$95.73
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$95.73		\$95.73
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$487.21		\$487.21
Lutheran Bible Translators	\$162.50		\$162.50
Total	\$1,464.16	\$0.00	\$1,464.16

For Your Information

February 5 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.



Please sign up today to be a **Greeter!** The sign up sheet for spring is almost **c o m p l e t e l y BLANK!!** Please consider signing up today!

The annual Church Women United **World Day of Prayer** will be held on **Friday, March 3 at 7 PM** at a local church. The location will be announced in the March newsletter.



The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2017 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex. Did you notice how empty it is?? Sign up today!



2016 Statements

The 2016 year-end statements are finished and are available for you to pick up on the long table outside the choir room in the narthex. If you have any questions or problems do not hesitate to call Robin in the office.



Membership Changes

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

Esther Jarrett
1927-2017

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



New Address:

Seth Hartman is in recruit training for the Air Force. His current address is
AB Hartman, Seth A.
323 TRS/FLT 180, Dorm 3A1
1320 Truemper St, Unit 369546
Lackland, TX 78236-6407

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*

