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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Pastor's Page

This month marks a year since I came to you as an interim pastor. In the course of our time together, I have come to learn a lot about you both individually and communally. Just as I have been praying regularly for you I believe you are praying for me as well. As a result, there will be a change in my personal life.

As you are well aware, I have been separated from my ex-wife and began to live alone in Lititz, PA since July of 2021. My physical separation from my ex-wife came to its closure in November of 2023 after the divorce decree had been issued.

During the period of separation from my ex-wife, I began to have a serious conversation with a wom-

an far away from the United States. This casual phone conversation with this woman developed into another level. I have learned from her that she had been divorced about ten years ago and that she has two sons.

As you recall, I went to Ethiopia at the end of September 2022 to visit family and friends. During this time I had an opportunity to meet this woman, Tahitian, in person and our long-distance love developed into serious love and commitment.

For the fact that it is not practical and very expensive for me to travel to Ethiopia often, I proposed to her and she accepted my proposal to marry me in the near future and we

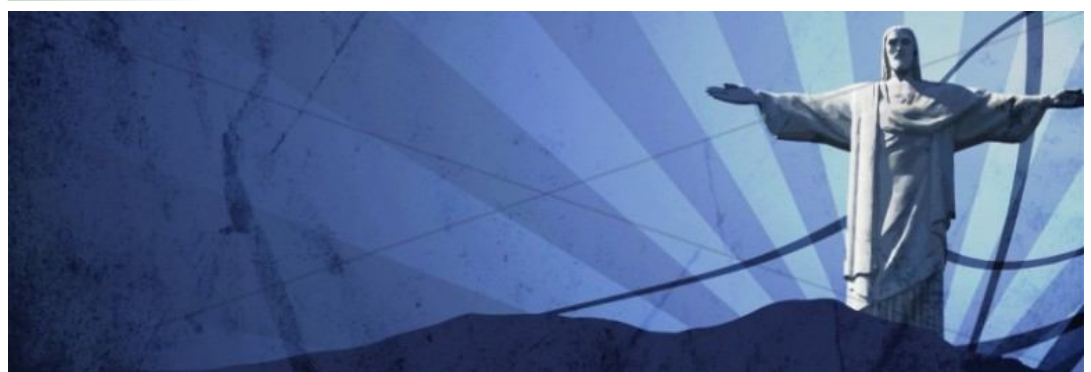
threw an engagement party.

The near future is now approaching fast and I will be going back to Ethiopia sometime in April to get married.

I am sure all of you might be thinking, "Is she coming back with you?" No, she is not; it is not that simple. After I get my marriage certificate I will come back and file a petition for a spousal visa for her. The immigration process will take from six months to a year and half. Please pray for us so that the Lord might shorten her coming to the United States to live with me happily ever after.

I remain a servant of Christ,

The Rev. Abera Hellemo



Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 19

Messiah Lutheran Church
 1800 Oak Street
 Lebanon, PA 17042-5852
 Office Phone 717-272-2922
 Pastor's phone: 717-344-9051

E-mail

Pastor Abera: pastor.hellemo@gmail.com
 Robin Harris/office: messiahluthleb@epix.net

Web Site: <http://www.messiahluthleb.org>
NALC website: thenalc.org
AMR website: www.atlantic-nalc.org

Intentional Prayer

Prayer petitions for the month of February as we travel through the Call Process:

We pray:

- For God's continued guidance in the call process.
- That the interviews will be productive for both the committee and the candidate showing strengths, weaknesses, and personality.
- That God will give the committee members patience throughout the rest of the process, remembering that He already knows who is right for Messiah and the correct timing of His plan for us.

February Birthdays

- 2 Michael Bowman
- 7 Mary Garrett
- 8 Alivia Knouff
- 10 Kacie Mullen
- Scott Runkel
- 13 Ramona Roush
- 15 Erin Trovinger
- 16 Daniel Trovinger
- 21 Karen Fox
- Rodney Ledger
- 23 Nancy Cramp
- 24 Marion Bowman
- 25 Kelly Roof



HELP WANTED!

Wanted:

- ⇒ Head usher(s) for September
- ⇒ Greeters!
- ⇒ Interested in serving as assistant minister or acolyte? We could use your help! Contact Robin in the office if interested.



2023 Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday February 12th** 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 congregations 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 through February 12th, 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 12) we will travel to the Rescue Mission to deliver our donated items and throw a **pizza party** for the men and *finally* get to stay to watch the football game. We ask if you have any kind of under-the-weather thing going on that you do not stay for the game.



We hope to see you there! And thank you!

February 2023 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 5 Charlotte Varone
- 12 Sandra Smith
- 19 Nancie Whelan
- 22 (12 PM) Charlotte Varone
- 26 Kathaleen Lilley



Altar Guild

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



Lector

- 5 Mary Garrett
- 12 Sandra Smith
- 19 Nancie Whelan
- 22 (12 PM) Charlotte Varone
- 26 Kathaleen Lilley



Crucifer

- 5 Mary Whelan
- 12 Gayle Hoffman
- 19 Andrew Surmacz
- 22 (12 PM) Sandra Smith
- 26 Eugene Martin



Greeters

- 5 Charlotte Varone
- 12 **NEEDED**
- 19 **NEEDED**
- 22 (12 PM) Charlotte Varone
- 26 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 5 Karen Zivic
- 12 Karen Hatt
- 19 Nancie Whelan
- 22 (12 PM) Karen Fox
- 26 Deborah Lutz



Finance Steward

Brenda Beegle



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month after worship.)

February 5— Souper Bowl Committee




Head Usher

Rita Savant



Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from Lutheran World Relief, the City of Lebanon, the Caring Cupboard, the Rescue Mission, and the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Many thanks to all the good bakers of Messiah Lutheran Church. The cookies were delicious!
Dawn Stickler



I would like to thank all the Messiah members for their prayers, cards, and well wishes during my recent knee surgery and recovery.
Peace,
Harry Hatt



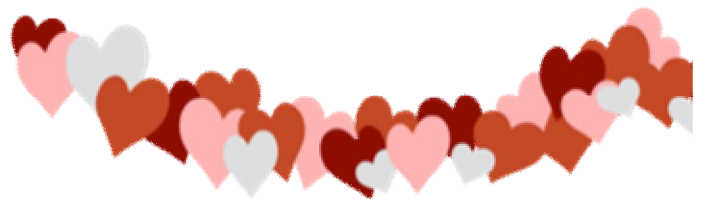
I would like to thank my wonderful church family for all their cards, prayers, and phone calls during my recent illness. I want to especially thank Pr. Abera for his phone calls and prayers for they were especially comforting.
In Christian love,
Mary Ann Hartman



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Messiah,
Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. It is a pleasure to serve God and the people of Messiah.
Thank you,
Karen Fox

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Messiah:
Thank you for your prayers and concerns with my husband's surgery and recovery. Several doctors have told us that, had I not been with him, he would have died from the pulmonary embolism and sepsis. He appears recovered on the outside but continues to heal on the inside.
Thank you for your continued prayers.

Karen Fox



2022 Statements

The 2022 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.



January Congregation Council Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, January 17, 2023.

- December and year-end financial reports were read and approved.
- Committee reports were given.
- Election of Council Officers and Committee Chairs were held.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zivic, Congregation Council Secretary



Ministry Plan Report for December, 2022

Budgeted need per week for 2022: **\$3,364.92**

| | <u>Date</u> | <u>Offering received</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|----------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| | 12/4 | \$3,557.00 | 16 LiF / 31 + |
| | 12/11 | \$3,951.00 | 13 LiF / 30 + |
| | 12/18 | \$3,285.16 | 15 LiF / 33 + |
| Xmas Eve | 12/24 | rolled into 12/25 | 64 + |
| | 12/25 | \$3,577.00 | no LiF / 19 + |



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

Upcoming Events

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22
at noon
ONLY



A Liturgy of Holy
Communion with the
Imposition of Ashes



Saturday, April 29
from
9 AM—1 PM



Central Mission District
Convocation

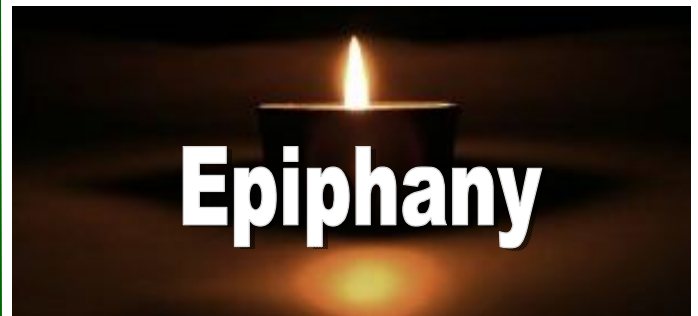
St. Michael's LC
529 St. Michael's Rd.
Hamburg, PA

Wintery Weather...



In the event of wintry weather or power outages on Sunday mornings, please **check your email or wait for a phone call** to relay the message that church is cancelled. 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 during the week, the office will open as soon as conditions allow us to travel safely.



Weekly Worship Schedule

9 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
10:30 AM Liturgy of Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday

The vital penitential season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 22**. On Ash Wednesday, we will have one mid-day liturgy with proclamation, holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes begin-



ning at 12 noon.

This liturgy marks the beginning of our 40-day journey of Lent. All are welcome to attend as we reflect on our sinful nature and all that Je-

sus Christ has done for us.

O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.
(LBW 99)

Lenten Study Series



the NALC's Lenten devotional.

Messiah's Lenten discipline will be observed on Sunday mornings as well as THURSDAY evenings from 7-8 PM with a study on

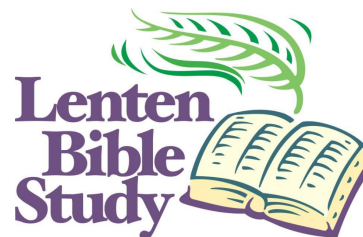
- March 2
- March 9
- March 16
- March 23
- March 30

We will begin our Thursday evenings with the **"Bread and Soup Supper"** meal at 6 PM followed by **study and discussion from 7-8 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 Thursday evening in Lent the Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring a soup and bread supper beginning at 6 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. This year the meal and study to follow will be **held in the conference room**.



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 Thursday**, so we would prefer two volunteers per week. The commit-

tee 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!



2022 General Fund Summary

| Income & Expenses At-A-Glance | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|
| | | Year-to-date |
| Income | | \$134,650.73 |
| Expenses | | \$110,290.97 |
| Income Less Expenses | | \$24,359.76 |

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | <u>Year-to-date</u> |
| Income: | |
| Total Giving | \$134,650.73 |
| Total Income | <u>\$134,650.73</u> |
| Ministry Plan Year-to-date | \$177,845.00 |
| Expenses: | |
| Staff | \$56,931.95 |
| Administrative | 2,846.64 |
| Maintenance | 29,483.83 |
| Committee | 422.53 |
| Additional | 7,345.42 |
| Benevolence | 13,260.60 |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$110,290.97</u> |
| Regular Income Less Expenses | <u>\$24,359.76</u> |
| Love Offering | (\$35,560.00) |
| Total Income Less Expenses | <u>(\$11,200.24)</u> |

| January through December | Regular Giving Benevolence | Additional Designated Giving | Total to Charity |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| NALC | \$7,976.00 | | \$7,976.10 |
| Atlantic Mission Region | \$652.00 | | \$652.00 |
| Mission Partners* | \$450.00 | | \$450.00 |
| NALC Seminary | \$521.55 | | \$521.55 |
| NALC Disaster Response | \$531.55 | | \$521.55 |
| Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape | \$521.55 | | \$521.55 |
| Lebanon Free Clinic | \$531.55 | | \$531.55 |
| PACC Caring Cupboard | \$521.55 | | \$521.55 |
| Lutheran World Relief | \$521.60 | | \$521.60 |
| ICII | \$521.60 | | \$521.60 |
| City of Lebanon | \$521.55 | | \$521.55 |
| Total | \$13,270.50 | \$0.00 | \$13,260.60 |

For Your Information



We received two postcards from sister congregations in our Mission Region last month:

In the name of Jesus, we prayed for you this past Sunday [Dec. 25] from Camp Hill, PA. May Our Lord Jesus bless you and your ministry!

Yours in Christ,
St. Tim's Prayer Ministry

Just dropping you a line to let you know that on December 25, 2022 we were praying for you in Nazareth, PA. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and your ministry!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Nazareth, PA

(The Atlantic Mission Region has a "congregation of the week" prayer list posted on their website. Each AMR congregation is listed and receives specific prayers on their designated Sunday.)



LENT

Membership Changes

New Address:

Betty Wetzel

Orwigsburg Nursing & Rehab, #209
1000 Orwigsburg Manor Dr.
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Women's Retreat in May

LADIES! You are invited to the second annual Women of the Atlantic Mission Region weekend retreat on **Friday, May 5—Sunday, May 7 at Mount Asbury Retreat Center in Newville, PA** (off I-81 south of Carlisle).

We will be using chocolate as a metaphor as we savor God's grace through small group discussion, worship, fellowship, quiet time, and more! "Save my spot" pre-registration sheets are available on the table outside the nave.

If you have any questions please see Carey Kendall or Robin. **Pre-registration deadline is February 28.**



2023 Congregation Council

Brenda Beegle, *President, Christian Ed. co-chair*

Nick Adams, *Vice President, Christian Ed co-chair, and Personnel chair*

Karen Zivic, *Secretary*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary*

Michael Ernst

Deborah Lutz, *Publicity and Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Evangelism and Property chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship Chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

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

Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer*