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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Pastor's Page

Another New Year is upon us—and, though many wondered if 2020 would ever end, it does not seem so very long since “2020” was new. Much has happened this year, some of it tragic, some disappointing, some hopeful. There is a lot to be thankful for.

A number of Messiah members contracted Covid 19 in some form this past year, and we rejoice that each has recovered. Whether the symptoms were mild or severe, God provided the strength and healing necessary, along with good care from health professionals. Let us remember to give thanks for those of our own faith community who serve in the health care field and contributed to the healing and restoration of many sick folks.

Unfortunately, not everyone recovers, and some of us personally knew victims who succumbed to Covid, or to some other serious illness. Loss is always part of this mortal life, whatever the cause. But again, we can be profoundly thankful for God's strength and com-

fort, and most of all for the Promise of the Gospel that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ will be raised to live with Him and with His People forever in the Kingdom of our Father. I read this morning that recent surveys inquiring about people's self-assessment of mental health and wellbeing are consistently showing higher positive results given by people who regular participate in worship than among those who do not. I will not waste time arguing with unbelievers or cynics about the reasons for this. To those with eyes to see, it is plain that God sustains and blesses His People in all times and seasons. With St. Paul, we can say confidently: “I have learned to be content in all circumstances; I can do all things through Christ Jesus my Lord.”

God is good . . . all the time. This passing year proves it, and affirms to us all that God will not fail us or forsake us. We have been guarded and we have been blessed; let us be glad and rejoice in His Goodness, and continue to pray with trust that God will keep us and guide us in the New Year.

Before continuing, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has worked throughout 2020 to keep the building and property safe and sanitized, and our congregation operating as effectively as circumstances allowed. Thanks to everyone's care and respect for one another's wellbeing, we have operated with in-person worship for six months with no spread of C19 through in-church contact. We have also been able to provide a home-worship experience for those whose condition warrants extra caution and isolation.

One of my goals as your pastor has been to foster as “normal” a sense of congregational life as possible, most of all in regard to the central activity of every Christian congregation: worship. My belief was, and is, that we benefit greatly from the ability to continue regular worship with minimal restrictions. The Church has worshiped together for nearly twenty centuries, and gathering around Word and Sacraments is the foundation of Christian faith and

life. I hope you have been comforted, encouraged, and sustained over these challenging months by the gifts God has continued to provide us all.

Our hope is to continue both in-person worship, with prudent measures, and resources for home worship throughout 2021. I believe it will be late in the coming year, if at all in 2021, before the world is able to relax the precautions now necessary. We should not be surprised at this, as history teaches that epidemics and pandemics often stretch over several years. We can be patient and remain in good spirits and strong confidence as long as necessary; we've made it this far, and can endure by the Help of God.

In the 2021 Lenten season, we will not have in-person midweek gatherings. I will again prepare resources for your use at home (since people are no longer "locked in" by government edict, these will be shorter than those sent out last year when folks had to stay home with little to do). Remember that expression I so appreciate: "This, too, shall pass." (In God's good Time.)

I commend all of you who have continued to support Messiah's presence and ministries through faithful and sacrificial tithes and offerings, and urge you to continue. With a new round of "stimulus checks" promised, I ask you again to prayerfully consider tithing this unlooked-for income as an extra gift to God in thanks for His mercies. Our expenses were not diminished in 2020, as we continued to operate for your benefit despite the lockdown period.

I also commend all of you who endeavored to stay in contact with one another and encourage one another through cards and letters, phone calls and emails, and other social media during the social restrictions imposed by Covid circumstances. Many of you have told me with feeling how important these contacts from your fellow members have been to you, and how meaningful your outreach to others is as you give them your time and concern. Well done, diligent and faithful servants!

Thank you all for participating in the life, fellowship and ministries of Messiah. Our faith community is a blessing to those who take part in it. May we continue to bless one another, and to be blessed through one another, as we enter 2021. May God be glorified in the lives of His saints.

Peace and wellbeing to each of you from your pastor. +

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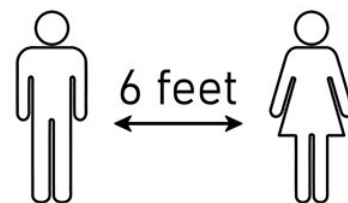
E-mail

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

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

Protocols for Safe Worship

- Doors are propped open before worship so fewer people will handle the door handles.
- Pews are marked at proper "physical distancing" intervals, with every-other-row seating including, if necessary, the choir loft as an "overflow space."
- Offering plates are placed beside Communion cup trays to receive Sunday offering.
- All worshipers and worship leaders are asked to wear masks except during the sermon and to receive the Sacrament for the foreseeable future.
- Everyone will refrain from shaking hands or hugging during sharing of the Peace, while greeting each other or taking their leave from one another.
- Remember, if you cough or sneeze, to do so in the crook of your arm with your head tilted away from others. Wash your hands after you use the restroom. Restroom doors are propped open.



Communion by Appointment



During this time of caution due to the COVID pandemic, Pastor Kendall is offering Holy Communion by appointment on **Wednesday mornings** in lieu of the Wednesday morning service of anointing and Holy Communion. One appointment will be available at **10 AM** and one at **10.30 AM**, in order to allow air circulation between appointments.

Appointments must be made through the parish office (717-272-2922) and are on a first-come, first-served basis. Because only two appointments are available per week, persons may only make one appointment per month.

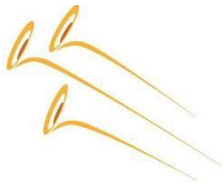
Please arrive promptly for your appointment, and wear a mask from the time you enter the building until you depart (except when receiving the Sacramental elements).

Please do not make an appointment if you can attend Sunday worship; these limited appointments are for people who have compromised health and are avoiding exposure to others.

The Wednesday morning Bible study and service of anointing and Holy Communion has been suspended for the foreseeable future.

Membership Changes

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



Geraldine Bohr
1926-2020

Richard "Dick" Markey
1925-2020

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

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

(as noted in the calendar and bulletin)
10 AM Communion by appointment
10:30 AM Communion by appointment

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS

January 3
February 7

All going to the Rescue Mission



HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

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.

January Birthdays

- 6 Mary Ann Hartman
Dorothy Martin
- 10 Jean Patschke
- 12 Dawn Stickler
- 18 Suzette Buffamoyer
- 19 Greg Field
- 22 Thomas Lilley
Gail Peters
- 24 Leah Connatser
Gayle Hoffman
- 25 Ernestine Batdorf
- 26 Michaela (Blouch) Swoyer
- 31 Betty Murray



February Birthdays

- 2 Michael Bowman
- 7 Mary Garrett
- 9 Margaret Shirey
- 10 Kacie Mullen
Scott Runkel
- 13 Ramona Roush
- 15 Erin Trovinger
- 21 Karen Fox
Rodney Ledger
- 23 Nancy Cramp
- 24 Marion Bowman
- 25 Kelly Roof
- 27 Pastor Kendall
- 28 Vivian Mayopoulos



2021 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams
Ernestine Batdorf
Michael Ernst
Harry Hatt
Gayle Hoffman
Deborah Lutz
David Machamer
Karen Zivic

OUR SINCERE THANKS are due to outgoing Council members **Karen Fox and Nancie Whelan** for their faithful leadership and important contributions throughout their terms of service. Those remaining on Council will miss serving with them.

We also thank **Gayle Hoffman** for returning for a new two-year term, and welcome newly elected members **Michael Ernst and Deb Lutz**.

Please keep these, and all our Congregation Council members, in your prayers as they seek to serve our Lord and His people in leadership at Messiah. They welcome your prayers, your input into the life of our congregation, and your expressions of encouragement and appreciation for their efforts. +

Ash Wednesday



The vital penitential season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**. 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 liturgy 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.

Lent Activities

There will be NO mid-week in person Lenten studies or soup & bread meals this year. Pastor Kendall will be offering an emailed weekly Lenten study. Those who receive a paper copy of the weekly sermon and prayers will also receive a paper copy of the Lenten study.



November Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

- Reports were provided, reviewed, discussed and accepted pending audit.
- Paving proposal for the parking lot accepted; approximately \$1,000 designated for same.
- Disbursement of Zeller Trust benevolence was made.
- Discussion of Christmas Eve services and accommodations for worship (i.e. alternating pew row seating for each service; candles on pews will not be lit; ushers will need to be attentive to seating of parishioners; masks will need to be worn appropriately covering the nose and mouth.)

December Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

- Reports were provided, reviewed and accepted pending audit.
- Finance stewards for January and February were appointed.
- Progress on the shed roof was discussed as well as other property issues. Snow stakes have been placed around the parking lot (for the snow plow to know where the grass starts).
- Property work day is scheduled for Saturday, December 12. This is to continue every second Saturday of each month.
- Motion made and accepted to continue the suspension of all events/activities within the church during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Thank you for your diligence in keeping us safe!

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Hoffman
Congregation Council secretary

Ministry Plan Report for October & November

Budgeted need per week for 2020: **\$3,327.52**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
10/4	\$3,013.00	33 + / 17 LiF
*10/11	\$1,817.00	31 + / 16 LiF
10/18	\$2,463.00	31 + / 11 LiF
10/25	\$2,749.00	34 + / 14 LiF
11/1	\$4,399.00	37 + / 14 LiF
*11/8	\$2,722.00	31 + / 10 LiF
11/15	\$2,022.00	38 + / 14 LiF
11/22	\$2,210.00	35 + / 15 LiF
Thgv Eve 11/25	(offering rolled into 11/29)	17 +
11/29	\$2,077.00	33 + / 14 LiF

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

* denotes an *A Cappella* Sunday



Thank You Notes



I would like to thank my church family for their continued support with prayers, cards, and phone calls during Ken's illness. It was an emotional rollercoaster for us with good days and bad days. We were blessed to be able to be with Ken every day, especially in his final hours.

In Christian love,

Kay Zellers, Keldeen Stambaugh, Kelly-Jean Horney and families



I would like to thank the members of Messiah for many prayers you raised for my husband Bennett and for my family over the past few months. It has been quite the year! I appreciate your patience with my unexpectedly fluid work schedule as well.

May God richly bless you all in the New Year.

Robin Harris

Address Changes

Michelle Blouch

4836 Linshaw Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Sherri Blouch

1690 Heilmandale Road
Lebanon, PA 17046
Cell number: 717-926-7638 (no land line)
Email: sblouch917@gmail.com

Please update your directory.

2020 Year End Statements

Your 2020 year end statement will be available to pick up in the beginning of January. They will be located on the narthex table by the choir room.



Agape Family Shelter Christmas Party



A hearty THANK YOU to the members of Messiah who contributed so generously to the needs of the children and mothers at the Agape House. Thanks to Harry Hatt who obtained a \$250 grant from Thrivent and for purchasing gift cards for the mothers.

Thanks goes to Morrissey TV in Myerstown who donated a microwave oven for the Agape House and to Pastor and Mrs. Kendall who picked it up.

On Thursday, December 3 Dave Machamer, Carey Kendall, Kay Zellers, and Rita Savant delivered all the gifts to the Agape House.

Again, thank you to the congregation for participating in this annual event for the Agape House.

Delivered to the Agape House were 6 under the bed containers, a dozen coloring boxes, multiple crayons, coloring books, stickers and markers, 2 Libman mop heads, several boxes of trash bags, cleaning supplies, and 2 bus passes.

Unfortunately, the Social Ministry Committee could not throw a party this year for the mothers and children, but the gifts were much appreciated.



January 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 3 Sandra Smith
- 10 Daniel LaRue
- 17 Eugene Martin
- 24 Karen Fox
- 31 Deborah Lutz



Lector

- 3 Carey Kendall
- 10 Daniel LaRue
- 17 Eugene Martin
- 24 Karen Fox
- 31 Deborah Lutz



Greeters

- 3 **NEEDED**
- 10 **NEEDED**
- 17 **NEEDED**
- 24 **NEEDED**
- 31 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward
Karen Zivic

Head Usher
Nancie Whelan



Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Gayle Hoffman
- Lori Wert



Crucifer

- 3 Ernestine Batdorf
- 10 Rita Savant
- 17 Sandra Smith
- 24 Eugene Martin
- 31 Daniel LaRue



Acolyte

- 3 Harry Hatt
- 10 Daniel LaRue
- 17 Karen Hatt
- 24 Karen Zivic
- 31 Deborah Lutz



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

January 3 — CANCELLED



February 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 7 Ernestine Batdorf
- 14 Kathaleen Lilley
- 17 12 PM Charlotte Varone
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 21 Sandra Smith
- 28 Daniel LaRue



Lector

- 7 Mary Garrett
- 14 Kathaleen Lilley
- 17 12 PM Charlotte Varone
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 21 Sandra Smith
- 28 Daniel LaRue



Greeters

- 7 **NEEDED**
- 14 **NEEDED**
- 17 12 PM **NEEDED**
- 7:30 PM **NEEDED**
- 21 **NEEDED**
- 28 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward
Nicholas Adams

Head Usher
Rita Savant



Altar Guild

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



Crucifer

- 7 Gayle Hoffman
- 14 Sandra Smith
- 17 12 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Daniel LaRue
- 21 Kathaleen Lilley
- 28 Eugene Martin



Acolyte

- 7 Ernestine Batdorf
- 14 Karen Hatt
- 17 12 PM Pr. Kendall
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 21 Harry Hatt
- 28 Daniel LaRue



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

February 7 — CANCELLED



2021 Souper Bowl of Caring Pizza Party

On **Sunday February 7th** 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. Folks will watch the game with abundant food and much laughter. 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 loving 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 2nd, 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 gather the donations and take them to the Rescue Mission along with the makings for the traditional

pizza party for the men which they may enjoy while watching the football game.

Thank you for your continued support for this ministry, especially as we will not be able to enjoy the party or game with the men in person.



Upcoming Events

The church office will be closed on **Friday, January 1.**



There will be NO IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY



in January or February.

Be safe. Be well.



ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, February 17
Liturgies at Noon and at 7:30 PM

Recycle Christmas Cards

Please recycle your Christmas cards by placing them in the box on the oak table in the narthex. They will be used to make Christmas books to be distributed to shut-ins next year. Thank you!



Help Wanted!



Please sign up today to be a **Greeter!** All of 2021 is open.

Reminder: Welcome Time will remain suspended until safe to resume again.

Messiah Lutheran 2021 Ministry Plan

	2021	2020	Net Change	Percent Change
Staff Ministries				
Pastor Salary	40,760	40,760	0	0.00%
Pastor Housing	30,000	30,000	0	0.00%
Pastor's Social Security	5,827	5,827	0	0.00%
Car Allowance	2,600	2,600	0	0.00%
Pension	9,852	9,852	0	0.00%
Medical/Dental/Disability/Survivor Insurance	18,000	17,000	1,000	5.88%
Pastor's Continuing Ed	100	100	0	0.00%
Secretary Salary	11,783	10,583	1,200	11.34%
Secretary Social Security	901	810	92	11.34%
Workers Compensation Insurance	700	600	100	16.67%
TOTAL	120,524	118,132	2,392	2.02%
Percent of Total Plan	73.79%	73.94%		
Administrative Ministries				
Consumable Supplies	1,400	1,400	0	0.00%
Technology Support	0	0	0	0.00%
Non-Consumable Supplies	100	100	0	0.00%
Postage	100	100	0	0.00%
Worship Supplies	500	500	0	0.00%
Telephone & Internet	1,500	1,500	0	0.00%
Offering Supplies	400	400	0	0.00%
NALC Convocation	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%
Percent of Total Plan	2.45%	2.50%		
Maintenance Ministries				
Electric	9,000	9,000	0	0.00%
Gas	3,500	3,500	0	0.00%
Water & Sewer	800	625	175	28.00%
Refuse Removal	400	400	0	0.00%
Equipment Service	5,000	4,000	1,000	25.00%
Grounds Care	4,400	4,400	0	0.00%
Facilities Services (Contractor)	0	0	0	0.00%
Snow Removal	1,800	1,800	0	0.00%
Janitorial - Non-paper Supplies	325	325	0	0.00%
Janitorial - Paper Supplies	200	200	0	0.00%
Property & Liability Insurance	5,300	5,300	0	0.00%
Organ/Piano Tuning/Repairs	1,300	1,300	0	0.00%
Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Runoff	500	500	0	100.00%
TOTAL	32,525	31,350	1,175	3.75%
Percent of Total Plan	19.91%	19.62%		

The 2021 Ministry Plan was approved by those members in attendance at the November 21, 2020 Annual Congregation meeting.

Messiah Lutheran 2021 Ministry Plan

	2021	2020	Net Change	Percent Change
Committee Ministries				
Publicity/Advertising	0	0	0	0.00%
Christian Ed	50	50	0	0.00%
Evangelism	50	50	0	0.00%
Fellowship	25	25	0	0.00%
Social Ministry	40	40	0	0.00%
Stewardship	50	50	0	0.00%
Youth Ministry	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	215	215	0	0.00%
Percent of Total Plan	0.13%	0.13%		
Additional Ministries				
Speakers & Substitutes	170	170	0	0.00%
Organist Substitutes	5,875	5,875	0	0.00%
Pastoral Care Resources	0	0	0	0.00%
Awards & Gifts	30	30	0	0.00%
VBS	0	0	0	0.00%
Library	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	6,075	6,075	0	0.00%
Percent of Total Plan	3.72%	3.80%		
Future Ministries				
Organist Salary	0	0	These figures are here for information only in the event that the congregation would hire an organist, choir director or cantor in the future.	
Organist Social Security	0	0		
Continuing Education	0	0		
Choir Director Salary	0	0		
Choir Director Social Security	0	0		
Continuing Education	0	0		
Chime Choir Director Stipend	0	0		
Chime Choir Dir. Soc. Security	0	0		
Music	0	0		
Choir Fellowship	0	0		
TOTAL	0	0		
Percent of Total Plan	0.00%	0.00%		
General Fund Total	163,339	159,772	3,567	2.23%
Benevolence Ministries				
NALC Benevolence	8,040	8,040	0	0.00%
Other Benevolence	4,020	4,020	0	0.00%
TOTAL	12,060	12,060	0	0.00%
Loan Repayment				
Loan - Repay endowment fund	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
TOTAL	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	176,599	173,032	3,567	2.06%

* Total Benevolence Commitment: The congregation's tithes that is designated as this congregation's benevolence support will consist of 10% of offerings received in regular giving envelopes and other benevolences as specifically determined by Congregation Council.

Notes for 2021 Ministry Plan

1. Pastor's Letter of Call was modified in 2018 total salary and housing amounts as the minimum salary guideline rate going forward. The 2021 salary amount reflects a 0% increase in salary and housing for 2020 from the 2019 amounts. The word "amount" refers to the minimum salary guidelines that are used to calculate Pastor's salary. Pastor requested no increase in salary for 2021.
2. The secretary's salary amount reflects an 11% increase for 2021. This is to reflect added responsibilities and duties for a job well done.
3. In light of the deficit, this figure reflects one a Capella Sunday per month.
4. **Benevolence Breakdown for 2021:** The committee recommends the following benevolence amounts for 2021 as follows:
 1. NALC - \$8040 per year or \$670 each month (6.0%)
 2. Atlantic Mission District - \$600 per year or \$50 per month (.5%)
 3. NALC Partner Ministries (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter (.4%)):
 - a. Ethiopian Church Relief Fund
 - b. The Great Commission Society
 - c. Water Missions International
 - d. Lutheran Bible Translators
 4. North American Lutheran Seminary– (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)
 5. Independent Church in India – (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)
 6. Caring Cupboard - (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)
 7. Lutheran World Relief - (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)
 8. Lebanon Free Clinic - (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)
 9. NALC Disaster Response - (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)
 10. Lebanon Rescue/Agape - (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)
 11. City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes) - (\$380 - divided \$95.00 per quarter) (.4%)

TOTAL Estimated Benevolence Giving: \$12,060 (represents 10% of 2020 estimated giving)

5. *****Please Note:** In December of each year, the finance committee will review offerings given for the year to determine if there are additional offerings to send to each organization based upon our 10.00% tithe. The additional offerings will be divided according to the percentages listed above and sent to each organization.

