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## Pastor's Page

*Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.* (Is. 42:9)

I am sure you either heard or yourself have said, "If I were given a chance to go back in time. . ." I would have changed or I would corrected this or that.

The fact of the matter is that we cannot go back in time to change anything. If we can change anything, it is at the present to change or amend our ways, our actions, or our plans.

The last year is gone for good with its impacts, and we are not going to re-live it again.

However, the Lord our God has given us this new year, 2023 and we are to ask God what He wants us to do and what He wants us not to do both individually and collectively. The trees which seem barren now will not be clothed with the leaves of last year but with leaves and beauty of this new year. Thus this new year is given

The prophet Joel calls God's people to blow the trumpet in Zion; alarming the people of God to repent and return to God. The

prophet was warning the people against the impending judgment of God. As you may know, God always warns His people before He brings any disasters upon them.

I do not know whether you remember or not, but this passage from Joel is often read on Ash Wednesday.

During this time of the year, I am calling you to join me to devote your time for prayer, Scripture reading, and fellowship with the whole family of God's people. It is always in the sense of unity, fellowship, and the bond of spirit that the church can thrive in its mission, vision, and outreach for the sake of the Gospel. It is only in promoting the well-being of the whole body of the Church that we grow stronger in mission and vision.

Sisters and brothers, our individual security and well-being can only be realized when the whole community is well and secure. You see, what affects the community and the neighbors affects us individually as well.

During this season of Epiphany, I encourage all of you to ask yourselves one fundamental question; "What is the most im-

portant thing which God wants me to do in life?" The way we answer this question informs the direction of our spiritual journey as well as the maturity of our faith in the knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I am not trying to lecture you about some sort of philosophy, but what I am trying to do is challenge you to take your spiritual journey to another level. Asking the right question helps us to find the right answer.

In the coming weeks, I am also compelled to preach on the theme "maturity," and please pray for me and come to church in the coming weeks, and also invite someone with you, which is what I mean when I say to "blow the trumpet."

Therefore, my sisters and brothers in Christ, let us all blow trumpets in Lebanon and beyond, and remind all people of the need to repent and return to God. Blow the trumpet and call people to worship and service.

I remain, your servant in Christ,

Pastor Abera Hellemo +

### Messiah Lutheran Church

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 Lebanon, PA 17042-5852  
 Office Phone 717-272-2922

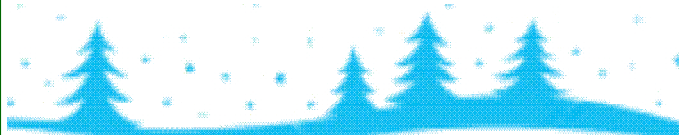
**Pastor Abera Hellemo:** 717-344-9051  
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**NALC Web Site:** <http://www.thenalc.org>  
**AMR Web Site:** <http://www.atlantic-nalc.org>

## Sunday Worship Schedule

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




## January Birthdays

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



## Wintry 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.



# Ministry Plan Report for October & November

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

|      | <u>Date</u> | <u>Offering received</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
|      | 10/2        | \$3,871.00               | 15 LiF / 35 +     |
|      | 10/9        | \$2,370.00               | no LiF / 28 +     |
| ICII | 10/16       | \$1,360.00               | 17 LiF / 28 +     |
|      | 10/23       | \$2,369.00               | no LiF / 33 +     |
|      | 10/30       | \$1,512.00               | 18 LiF / 31 +     |
|      | 11/6        | \$4,912.09               | 17 LiF / 37 +     |
|      | 11/13       | \$2,803.00               | 15 LiF / 34 +     |
|      | 11/20       | \$3,472.00               | 17 LiF / 35 +     |
|      | 11/27       | \$1,427.00               | 14 LiF / 28 +     |

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



# Update from the Call Committee

A new/revised Congregation Profile is available for your viewing on the NALC website. I encourage all of you to read it. Click on <https://thenalc.org/call-process/> then scroll down to “part time” and “Pennsylvania.” You’ll find it there. This profile was created from the information we received from the participants at Messiah’s Congregation Workshop in September.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit will be our guide as we proceed through this journey for a pastor who will lead and shepherd Messiah Lutheran Church.

Charlotte Varone  
Call Committee Chair

## Intentional Prayer

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

We pray:

- For God’s continued guidance in the call process.
- That the Call Committee will be given the insight to prepare questions for the interview 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.



## For Your Information...

- ⇒ **HEAD USHERS ARE NEEDED** for September! If you are interested please contact Robin in the office.
- ⇒ Updated membership directories are still available on the oak table on the table outside the nave. Pick up your copy today!
- ⇒ The office will be **CLOSED** on Wednesday, January 4. Robin is taking a personal day to head to NYC with her daughter for the day.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

January 8

All going to the  
Rescue Mission



## Lent Activities

Plans are being discussed for this upcoming Lenten season beginning at the end of February. There will be soup and bread meals followed by a Bible study. Which day of the week (Wednesday or Thursday evening) and the theme are being discussed now. Watch your bulletin and the February newsletter for more information!



# 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 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 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 maybe even stay to watch the football game. We hope to see you there!



## Upcoming Events

### WELCOME TIME

will be held on

**Sunday, January 8**  
after worship



**Sunday, January 15**  
**10:30 AM**

Installation of  
Re-elected  
Congregation  
Council  
Members



**Ash Wednesday**

**February 22**



**12 PM ONLY**

A Liturgy of  
Holy Communion and the  
Imposition of Ashes



## Membership Changes

Please remove **Clyde and Gail Peters** from your directory. They have moved to Hershey and can no longer attend worship here at Messiah.

Please remove **Debbie Miller** from your directory. She has transferred her membership.

**Gayle Hoffman** has a NEW EMAIL ADDRESS. It is [gayleh8265@gmail.com](mailto:gayleh8265@gmail.com). Update your address book!

# January 2023 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 1 Eugene Martin
- 8 Kathaleen Lilley
- 15 Deborah Lutz
- 22 Ernestine Batdorf
- 29 Karen Fox



## Lector

- 1 Nancie Whelan
- 8 Kathaleen Lilley
- 15 Eugene Martin
- 22 Ernestine Batdorf
- 29 Karen Fox



## Greeters

- 1 **NEEDED**
- 8 Lori Wert
- 15 Lori Wert
- 22 **NEEDED**
- 29 **NEEDED**



**Finance Steward**  
Karen Zivic



**Head Usher**  
Nancie Whelan



## Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Gayle Hoffman
- Lori Wert



## Crucifer

- 1 Gayle Hoffman
- 8 Andrew Surmacz
- 15 Kathaleen Lilley
- 22 Eugene Martin
- 29 Sandra Smith



## Acolyte

- 1 Karen Hatt
- 8 Deborah Lutz
- 15 Karen Zivic
- 22 Ernestine Batdorf
- 29 Karen Hatt



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time will be held after worship the **second Sunday** of the month this month.)

**January 8** — Carey Kendall



# Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.



- Financial reports were reviewed and accepted pending audit.
- Michael Ernst and Deb Lutz agreed to run for re-election for a second term.
- The Giving Tree is up and gifts are being collected for the mothers and children at the Agape House.
- The Altar Guild held their annual meeting. Poinsettias have been ordered for Christmas.
- Congregation Council unanimously agreed that no political brochures will ever be placed in the bulletin.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.



- Financial reports were read/approved pending audit.
- Committee reports were given.
- Mike Ernst and Deb Lutz will be installed as Congregation Council members in January.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Zivic  
2022 Congregation Council Secretary

## Agape Family Shelter Christmas Party

The Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank all the members of Messiah for contributing to the Agape House this year. The following items were collected for the mothers and children during our annual Tree of Giving:

- 19 coloring books
- 19 packs of crayons
- 19 reading books
- 5 puzzles
- 2 dolls
- 7 baby items



- 2 teddy bears
- 1 bracelet kit
- 2 candy cane candies
- 11 bus passes
- 6 gift cards to the Jubilee Store
- 6 gift packets for the mothers
- 1 gift for a mother



The gifts were delivered on December 8 by Tee-nie Batdorf and Rita Savant. Thank you to Harry & Karen Hatt for obtaining a \$250 grant from Thrivent.

## 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!** There are many open dates.

The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2023 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex.

# Thank You Notes

Dear members and friends,

Thank you very much for the flower arrangement and visitation by Carey Kendall.

It is comforting to know that the prayers and best wishes for recovery surround us every day. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Beth and Dick Miller



Dear Messiah and everyone,

Thank you for your prayers and support for NALC Disaster Response! Your donation will be used for our first volunteer team going into Fort Myers, FL the week of November 13—it's really bad there and I am so thankful for your help.

God bless!  
Mary Bates  
NALC Disaster Response Coordinator



You have been a part of every life changed through Christ at the Agape Family Shelter. On behalf of the families we serve, THANK YOU for your generosity and support!

Cynthia Smith  
Director, Agape Family Shelter



Thank you to everyone who baked Christmas cookies for our shut-ins, and thank you to all who came out to pack and deliver the containers. Your help and generosity were greatly appreciated!

Many thanks, as well, to those who donated spaghetti and sauce for our Spaghetti Miracle in November! We had much to donate to the Rescue Mission.

Karen Hatt  
Fellowship Committee chair



Dear Messiah brothers and sisters in Christ, Thank you for the delicious cookies and prayer support.

Miss and love you!  
Rod and Eileen Ledger

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the very generous Christmas gift this past year. With one child in college and another growing up way too fast (plus a dishwasher that is trying to decide if it wants to stop working or not) this gift is much appreciated. You are all such a blessing to me and my family. Thank you!



*Thank you*

Blessings,  
Robin Harris

## 2022 Year End Statements

Your 2022 year end statement will be available to pick up in the beginning of January. They will be located in a box on the narthex table by the choir room.



## 2023 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams  
Ernestine Batdorf  
Brenda Beegle  
Michael Ernst  
Deborah Lutz  
David Machamer  
Karen Zivic

**OUR SINCERE THANKS** are due to outgoing Council member **Gayle Hoffman** for her faithful leadership and important contributions throughout her terms of service. Those remaining on Council will miss serving with her.

We also thank **Michael Ernst and Deborah Lutz** for returning for a new two-year term.

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. +

### Messiah Lutheran 2023 Ministry Plan

|  | 2023          | 2022           | Net Change     | Percent Change |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Staff Ministries</b>                      |               |                |                |                |
| Pastor Salary & Housing (2/3 Part-time)      | 41,440        | 71,120         | -29,681        | -41.73%        |
| Pastor's Social Security                     | 3,170         | 5,857          | -2,687         | -45.88%        |
| Car Allowance                                | 2,600         | 2,600          | 0              | 0.00%          |
| Pension                                      | 5,353         | 9,852          | -4,499         | -45.67%        |
| Medical/Dental/Disability/Survivor Insurance | 18,000        | 18,000         | 0              | 0.00%          |
| Pastor's Continuing Ed                       | 600           | 100            | 500            | 500.00%        |
| Office Manager Salary                        | 13,357        | 12,143         | 1,214          | 10.00%         |
| Office Manager Social Security               | 1,023         | 929            | 94             | 10.11%         |
| Workers Compensation Insurance               | 800           | 700            | 100            | 14.29%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>86,343</b> | <b>121,301</b> | <b>-34,958</b> | <b>-28.82%</b> |
| Percent of Total Plan                        | 64.15%        | 74.46%         |                |                |
| <b>Administrative Ministries</b>             |               |                |                |                |
| Consumable Supplies                          | 1,500         | 1,400          | 100            | 7.14%          |
| 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                            | 350           | 350            | 0              | 0.00%          |
| NALC/AMR Convocations                        | 1,500         | 0              | 1,500          | 150.00%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>5,550</b>  | <b>3,950</b>   | <b>1,600</b>   | <b>40.51%</b>  |
| Percent of Total Plan                        | 4.12%         | 2.42%          |                |                |
| <b>Maintenance Ministries</b>                |               |                |                |                |
| Electric                                     | 9,000         | 8,000          | 1,000          | 12.50%         |
| Gas  | 3,500         | 3,500          | 0              | 0.00%          |
| Water & Sewer                                | 900           | 900            | 0              | 0.00%          |
| Refuse Removal                               | 400           | 350            | 50             | 14.29%         |
| Equipment Service                            | 4,000         | 4,000          | 0              | 0.00%          |
| 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               | 6,500         | 6,000          | 500            | 8.33%          |
| Organ/Piano Tuning/Repairs                   | 1,300         | 1,300          | 0              | 0.00%          |
| Chesapeake Bay Stormwater Runoff             | 500           | 500            | 0              | 100.00%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>32,825</b> | <b>31,275</b>  | <b>1,550</b>   | <b>4.96%</b>   |
| Percent of Total Plan                        | 24.39%        | 19.20%         |                |                |

The 2023 Ministry Plan approved by those members in attendance at Messiah's Annual Meeting held on November 19, 2022



### Messiah Lutheran 2023 Ministry Plan

|                             | 2023       | 2022       | Net Change | Percent Change |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| <b>Committee Ministries</b> |            |            |            |                |
| Publicity/Advertising       | 100        | 100        | 0          | 100.00%        |
| Christian Ed                | 450        | 50         | 400        | 800.00%        |
| 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              | 50         | 0          | 50         | 0.00%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>765</b> | <b>315</b> | <b>450</b> | <b>142.86%</b> |
| Percent of Total Plan       | 0.57%      | 0.19%      |            |                |

|                              |              |              |              |               |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Additional Ministries</b> |              |              |              |               |
| Speakers & Substitutes       | 240          | 170          | 70           | 0.00%         |
| Organist Substitutes         | 8,850        | 5,875        | 2,975        | 50.64%        |
| 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%         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                 | <b>9,120</b> | <b>6,075</b> | <b>3,045</b> | <b>50.12%</b> |
| Percent of Total Plan        | 6.78%        | 3.73%        |              |               |

|                           |                |                |                |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>General Fund Total</b> | <b>134,603</b> | <b>162,916</b> | <b>-28,313</b> | <b>-17.38%</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|

|                               |               |               |          |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| <b>Benevolence Ministries</b> |               |               |          |              |
| NALC Benevolence              | 8,040         | 8,040         | 0        | 0.00%        |
| Other Benevolence             | 4,020         | 4,020         | 0        | 0.00%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>12,060</b> | <b>12,060</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0.00%</b> |

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

|                    |                |                |                |                |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>146,663</b> | <b>174,976</b> | <b>-28,313</b> | <b>-16.18%</b> |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|

|                                |          |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Future Ministries</b>       |          |          |
| Organist Salary                | 0        | 0        |
| 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        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                   | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

These figures are here for information only in the event that the congregation would hire an organist, choir director or cantor in the future.

## Notes for 2023 Ministry Plan

1. The Pastoral compensation package for 2023 was approved at the Special Congregational meeting on October 23, 2022. The decision was made to provide 2/3 part-time compensation. The compensation package also includes covering the costs to attend the AMR and NALC convocations. This increase is reflected in NALC/AMR Convocations line item under Administrative Ministries.
2. The Office Manager's salary amount reflects a 10% increase for 2022, which defrays some of the cost of living increases resulting from current inflation rates.
3. These line items have been increased or decreased to better reflect the change in costs for those expenses.
4. The Christian Education line item has been increased to reflect the cost of materials for Living in Faith hour at all age levels.
5. This amount reflects a compensation rate of \$150.00 per Sunday and elimination of the A Capella Sundays.
6. **Benevolence Breakdown for 2023:** The Council recommends the following benevolence amounts for 2023 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. Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries
    - 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 2022 estimated giving)

7. **\*\*\*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.