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Pastor's Page

'Happy New Year.' Lots of people say it, but have you ever thought about what might constitute a "happy" new year?

Many think of good health, fun with friends, work going without a hitch, a new car or a nice vacation. Ordinary stuff.

To me, there can be no happiness apart from God. Without the sense that God is actively walking with us through our days—*every* day—how can anything truly bring happiness?

So I believe—make that *Christians* believe—that the foundation for true happiness—we also call it "contentment," "inner peace" or "*shalom*" - is founded upon God.

How is this foundation established and maintained? First of all: worship. Worship is not an act of duty, for us to carry out, get out of the way, then move on to what we really want to do. Worship IS what we really want to do—when we understand that *worship* is

time set aside to be with God, as He has prescribed for us, so that we will be blessed, strengthened, renewed, reminded, nourished, and prepared.

Worship gives us the place, and time, and message that lifts before our eyes what our God has done, now does, and will do for us. We HEAR the Good News. We SEE the signs that link us to God's acts—the Cross, the font, the altar table, the Body and Blood of Christ conveyed in bread and wine.

We RECEIVE what we most need: forgiveness of sins, new life, and the assurance of salvation, received and celebrated in a holy assembly of people like us—sinners, welcomed, cleansed, redeemed, called, equipped, and sent by our Lord, Who lived and died for us. *For US*. Each of you can, indeed, must say, with awe, wonder, and thankfulness: *For ME*.

Worship—the gathering, the activity ("liturgy" means "the work/activity of the people"), the set-

aside, designated, HOLY time in our week—provides the strong platform on which our sense of blessedness, assurance, and sufficiency is built. This is because through worship, we come to trust unshakably that God is *for us, with us, and working within us*.

Our worship this year will sometimes differ from what we've been used to; one Sunday per month, we will use a spoken order. We do not have adequate funds for an organist every Sunday. This saves us about \$1500 in 2015—which reflects less than ten percent of our current shortfall. If we find that giving keeps the whole Ministry Plan "in the black" by mid-year, we can restore every-Sunday music as long as that situation holds. But we can't spend what we don't have.

We can worship God, fully, faithfully, and gladly, because worship does not mean just singing—it means *being with God*. He will be here, as He has always been. +

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January Birthdays

- 2 John Garner
- 4 Debra McGowan
- 6 Mary Ann Hartman
Dorothy Martin
- 8 Joyce Wagner
- 10 Jean Patschke
- 12 Dawn Stickler
- 16 Tilman Frye
- 18 Suzette Buffamoyer
- 19 Greg Field
- 22 Thomas Lilley
- 24 Leah Connatser
Gayle Hoffman
Ryan Runkel
- 25 Ernestine Batdorf
- 26 Michaela Blouch
- 31 Betty Murray



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Brenda Miller and Barry Beegle** who were united in Holy Matrimony on December 6. We pray God's richest blessings on this couple as they begin their new life together.



New Member

David Machamer

211 Poplar Street
 Lebanon, PA 17042
 (717) 450-4630

dmach58@comcast.net



Please remember to notify the church office if you have **moved**, are planning to move, have a **new email address**, or have a **new phone number**. It is really important for the church office to stay current with addresses and phone numbers. Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.

Open Flower Dates

There are three Sundays in 2015 that do not have a flower sponsor. Those dates are:



June 21
 September 13
 December 6

Please contact Janet Gassert at 272-3757 if you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these Sundays. Thank you.



Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

9 AM THE HOLY COMMUNION
 10:30 AM LIVING IN FAITH
 (4th Sunday of the month—Joint class)

WEDNESDAYS:

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

Thank You Notes



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

Dear Members of Messiah,
Thank you for the wonderful “thinking of you” care package. I enjoyed a bag of popcorn and a cup of hot chocolate that night while studying for a test. This new year I will start using my new inspirational daily calendar.

Thanks to everyone!
Michaela Blouch



Thank you for the care package you sent to me at school. It is nice to know people back home are thinking of you. It had some great food in it! Thanks!

Hailey Hartman



Dear Members of Messiah,
We pulled into home port on Monday, November 24th for the first time since April, and much to my surprise I received a very wonderful package of goodies from all of you. We had not been able to receive mail or packages for the past month while we were out on patrol; so needless to say, mail call was a wonderful welcome home event for me and my buddies. Thank you so much for the care package. I have already started enjoying the goodies!

It has been an interesting experience being out to sea for 6 months on an aircraft carrier. It was a very different experience than being on a submarine. I was able to visit Hong Kong, Singapore, Bussan, South Korea, and Guam.

I cannot begin to express how much your thoughtfulness blesses me. I know that you are all praying for me and my shipmates every day, and I want you to know that it means so much to me. I think of you often and pray for all of you, too. I want to wish you all a Blessed Christmas, a Happy New Year, and I hope to see

you all in January, 2015.

Love,
Justin Lilley



I would like to thank you all for the cards, meals, and words of encouragement throughout my second round of cancer. I now consider myself cancer free. I thank God for His faithfulness and leading me to the skilled physicians who treated me. Wishing you all a blessed 2015.

Carey Kendall



I would like to thank Pastor Kendall, the Social Ministry ladies and the congregation for making my job as chairperson of the Social Ministry committee easy the last five years. I would also like to thank Sean Behney for being chairperson of the CROP Walk.

The Social Ministry committee is responsible for fostering the extension of Christian compassion and help to persons in need. The committee shall strive to enlist the members and organizations of the congregation. I am looking forward to working together under new leadership with fresh ideas for Social Ministry.

In Christian love,
Kay Zellers



My sister, Beth Mease, and my son, David Ledger, received prayer shawls and are using them with great appreciation of being remembered in prayer and comforted by the warmth of the prayers and shawls.

Eileen Ledger



The residents of Kindred Place in Annville join us in thanking carolers Carol Artz, Erin Kendall, Pam Knouff, Kathy Lilley, and Nancie and Mary Whelan for their recent visit. They join us, too, in thanking Carol Artz and her bakers for the delicious cookies they made for us. We wish them all a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Esther Jarrett, Fae Appleby, and
Mary Ellen Dietrich

2015 Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday February 1st** 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 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 1st, 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 1) 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 football game. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Events

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



BIBLE STUDY
On the Gospel of John
Thursday, January 8
At 7 PM

EVENT NIGHT

Thursday, January 15
At 6:30 PM

Come out for a fun night of games and fellowship!



Ministry Plan Report for November

(Budgeted need per week: : \$3,605.71)

11/2	\$4,403.50	69 + / 10 LiF
11/9	\$2,954.00	76 + / 24 LiF
11/16	\$2,940.00	68 + / 28 LiF
11/23	\$4,220.00	74 + / 38 LiF
(Thanksgiving Eve)11/26		0 (canceled/snow)
11/30	\$3,182.00	67 + / 36 LiF

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

Received to date: \$146,322.52
Needed to date: \$171,872.25



January 2015 Schedules

Assisting Minister

By Sharon Garner

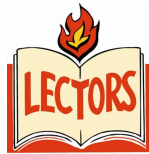
- 4 Ernestine Batdorf
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Karen Fox
- 25 Mary Garrett



Lector

By Sharon Garner

- 4 Robert Bowman
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Karen Fox
- 25 Mary Garrett



Greeters

- 4 Marion Bowman
- 11 Dolores Rittle
- 18 **NEEDED**
- 25 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward

Nicholas Adams



Head Usher

Sean Behney



Altar Guild

- Janet Gassert, chair
- Marjorie Beard
- Tom Gassert



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 4 Nicholas Adams
- 11 Nicholas Adams
- 18 Carol Artz
- 25 Carol Artz



Acolyte

By Sharon Garner

- 4 Mary Whelan
- 11 Abbey Hartman
- 18 Joshua Risser
- 25 Keeley Hartman



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

January 4 –NEEDED



November 2014 General Fund Summary

	November	Year/date		November	Year/date
Income					
Expenses					
Income-expenses					
Income	November	Year/date	Expenses	November	Year/date
Regular giving	\$16,942.00	\$142,757.99	Staff	\$9,466.05	\$106,079.36
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$150.00	\$1,370.00	Administrative	\$189.08	\$4,377.79
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$710.00	Maintenance	\$1,869.07	\$34,002.08
Checking interest	\$0.22	\$2.53	Committee	\$0.00	\$55.70
Donations	\$175.00	\$555.00	Additional	\$625.00	\$6,125.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$5.00</u>	<u>\$927.00</u>	Benevolence	\$1,380.00	\$15,720.00
Total Income	\$17,272.22	\$146,322.52	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$1,100.00</u>
*initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc.			Total expenses	\$13,629.20	\$167,459.93
			Income less expenses	\$3,643.02	-\$21,137.41

SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPES

November 2014	Regular Giving Benevolence	Special Giving Envelopes	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$1,050.00			\$1,050.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$150.00			\$150.00
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$60.00			\$60.00
Independent Church in India	\$60.00			\$60.00
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$60.00			\$60.00
NALC Partner Ministries	\$0.00			\$0.00
Lutheran World Relief		\$56.00		\$56.00
Lebanon Free Clinic		\$56.00		\$56.00
NALC Disaster Response		\$56.00		\$56.00
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter		\$56.00		\$56.00
Total	\$1,380.00	\$224.00	\$0.00	\$1,604.00

For Your Information

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY
JANUARY 4
Caring Cupboard



Please sign up today to be a **Greeter!** The sign up sheet for the next few months is almost completely **BLANK!!** The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2015 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex.



Tree of Giving



The following Tree of Giving donations were made and were delivered to the Agape Family Shelter, the Rescue Mission and the Lebanon Free Clinic:

Agape Shelter:

For the mothers:

5 puffy scrubs, 7 body soap wash, 2 body lotion, 7 hand cream, 13 hand sanitizer, 4 toothbrushes, 4 floss, 1 pair crew socks, 1 wallet.

For children:

15 tubes of toothpaste, 24 toothbrushes, 9 body wash, 9 animal wash cloths, 6 animal puffy scrubs, 9 bath toys.

Household items:

1 bottle of dish soap

Gift Cards:

A total of \$300 in gift cards were given to the director to purchase other needed items for the operation of Agape House.

Rescue Mission:

1 belt, 1 shampoo, 1 mouth-wash, 1 body wash, 23 bars of

soap, 1 deodorant, 5 pairs of socks, 10 underwear, 3 tee shirts, and a total of \$75 in gift cards to purchase needed items for the Mission.

Lebanon Free Clinic:

The Clinic received \$45 in checks to further help those who come to the clinic for medical assistance.

The members of the Social Ministry committee would like to thank all those who participated in helping our neighbors in need.



December Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

- Devotions were led by Pam Knouff.
- Nine Council members were present as were the two newly elected members, Lori Oliver and Nancie Whelan.
- Sean Behney, who is leaving Council, was thanked for his years of service.
- Property: Council is waiting for the final invoice for the roof project.
A proposal from Eco Cleaning was approved to pressure wash the dryvit (the white outer wall) of the church. Cost is \$1,530.
- Publicity: An ad was placed for the Christmas Eve services on cable TV and the newspaper.
- Social Ministry: A Christmas party was held at the Agape Shelter on December 7.
- A motion was made to pay the lawyer, Patrick Reb, for his work on the property line dispute out of the Memorial Fund. Motion was approved.
- Christmas cookies were baked for delivery to our shut ins.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Adams
Congregation Council secretary

Agape Family Shelter Christmas Party



The Social Ministry Committee and Pastor truly enjoyed another Christmas time visit to the Agape House to meet the five mothers and seven children. As always, we were greeted at the door by the mothers and Cynthia Smith, the director. The mothers carried the donations into the house while the children patiently waited in the Christ-

mas-decorated living room. Joan Smith gave them her entertaining Busy Bags to explore while we waited for Pastor to arrive and involve the children in his annual nativity story. Joan also got the children singing along with two animated stuffed animals that sang.

One of the children, a girl, entertained the group with her singing, and then the whole group sang with her. She also

demonstrated how to sign *Jesus Loves Me*.

After Pastor's absorbing story, everyone enjoyed the cookies and other snacks provided by the committee members and the punch that Pastor always provides. The Christmas stockings, filled with needed items (see Tree of Giving on page 7), will be given to the children on Christmas Eve by Cynthia Smith.

2015 Congregation Council

- Nicholas Adams
- Ernestine Batdorf
- Brenda (Miller) Beegle
- Pam Knouff
- Deborah Lutz
- Lori Oliver
- Donald Smith
- Charlotte Varone
- Nancie Whelan

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

We also thank **Nick Adams, Brenda Beegle, Deb Lutz and Don Smith** for returning for a new two-year term, and welcome newly elected members **Lori Oliver and Nancie Whelan**.

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. +

In Case of 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.



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!