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Pastor's Page

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the church, 'twas heard the voice of Robin saying, *Don't leave me in the lurch!*

Well, she didn't really say that, she said (politely but repeatedly) "I need your newsletter article."

December is busy for pastors as we try to accommodate both parish and family preparations for Christmas, but it's busy for parish secretaries/office managers too (especially one who's married to a pastor!) so I thought: *I must adapt to Robin's needs here.*

Which started my train of thought running . . .

I'll get to that in a moment, but first, I hope that by the time you read this, you will have had a blessed, safe and joyous celebration of Christmas, family, feasting, and contented reflection upon God's marvelous gifts to us. I also wish you a very fulfilling and healthful New Year as we adapt to writing "2017."

Now back to that train, because it's running along the track making this sound: *adapt-adapt . . . adapt-adapt . . . adapt-adapt . . .*

We enter each New Year wondering what will transpire. Some of us make resolutions. Many wonder about what will change.

We know "change" is upon us as Messiah, for the old model of congregation life is no longer sustainable. The small adjustments we have made already are only the beginning of what will be experienced over the next few years.

Sometimes "change" is worrisome. Sometimes it is reason for gladness. Baby Jesus was surely glad when His mother changed Him—all babies appreciate such a change.

Mary and Joseph marveled and rejoiced at the new child, born safely and spirited away to refuge in Egypt, promised as God's Gift to Israel. They accepted the necessity of

this exile as the best way to deal with the murderous threat of King Herod, until, three years later, welcome change came in the form of Herod's death. Then they could return to Nazareth.

Mary and Joseph *adapted* to their circumstances. Here is a lesson for us. "Change" may be something we choose to effect, or "change" may be imposed upon us. But God gives us all *the power to adapt* in the best possible way in every circumstance.

We adapt to life changes, like a stiff knee or diminished vision, to children moving away and to new work requirements. Christians are adapting all the time to faith challenges and faith opportunities. In fact faithful disciples *look forward* to adapting, with God's Help, and so serving God and neighbor in the best possible way. We know that *to adapt* means *to follow where Jesus leads*: and our Lord always leads us according to His loving Plan for us all. +

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January Birthdays

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



Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

9 AM The Holy Communion
 10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
 (4th Sunday of the month—Joint class, Bible Reading Covenant)

WEDNESDAYS:

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

New Office Hours



Beginning this month office hours have changed. Robin will now be in the office from 9 AM—12:30 PM Tuesday through Friday.



Open Flower Dates

There are **FIVE** Sundays in 2017 that do not have a flower sponsor. Those dates are:



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

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

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.



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 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 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 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!

Come join us!



Upcoming Events

The church office will be closed on **Tuesday, January 3.**



IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY
On the Book of Romans
Thursday, January 12
at 7 PM

EVENT NIGHT

Thursday, January 19
at 6:30 PM

Come out for a fun night of games and fellowship!



Ministry Plan Report for November

(Budgeted need per week: : \$3,575.60)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Offering Received</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11/6 | \$3,680.00 | 51 + / 19 LiF |
| 11/13 | \$2,938.00 | 51 + / 19 LiF |
| 11/20 | \$3,016.00 | 51 + / 16 LiF |
| Thanksgiving Eve 11/23 | (rolled into 11/27) | 38 + |
| 11/27 | \$3,668.00 | 51 + / 14 cookie bakers |

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

Received to date: \$138,864.71
Needed to date: \$170,436.75



January 2017 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 1 Charlotte Varone
- 8 Daniel LaRue
- 15 Eugene Martin
- 22 Karen Fox
- 29 Nicholas Adams



Lector

- 1 Carey Kendall
- 8 Daniel LaRue
- 15 Eugene Martin
- 22 Karen Fox
- 29 Nicholas Adams



Greeters

- 1 Marion Bowman
- 8 Tom & Janet Gassert
- 15 Deborah Lutz
- 22 Kathaleen Lilley
- 29 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward

Deborah Lutz



Head Ushers

Nicholas and Barbara Adams



Altar Guild

- Janet Gassert, chair
- Marjorie Beard
- Tom Gassert



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 1 Eugene Martin
- 8 Rita Savant
- 15 Sandra Smith
- 22 Nicholas Adams
- 29 Carol Artz



Acolyte

- 1 Harry Hatt
- 8 Keeley Hartman
- 15 Mary Whelan
- 22 Mikayla Bowman
- 29 Ernestine Batdorf



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time will be held the **second Sunday** of the month at 10:30 AM this month.)

January 8 — Fellowship Committee



November 2016 General Fund Summary

| | November | Year/date | | November | Year/date |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Income | | | | | |
| Expenses | | | | | |
| Income-expenses | | | | | |
| Income | November | Year/date | Expenses | November | Year/date |
| Regular giving | \$12,668.00 | \$133,741.40 | Staff | \$10,004.83 | \$110,874.01 |
| Jesus Tree envelopes | \$100.00 | \$1,887.00 | Administrative | \$311.05 | \$3,283.94 |
| Bowl of Blessings | \$0.00 | \$374.00 | Maintenance | \$1,328.97 | \$24,567.70 |
| Checking interest | \$0.11 | \$1.81 | Committee | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Donations/use of church | \$365.00 | \$880.00 | Additional | \$500.00 | \$4,875.00 |
| Other Gen. Fund* | <u>\$169.00</u> | <u>\$1,980.50</u> | Benevolence | \$75.00 | \$13,408.33 |
| Total Income | \$13,302.11 | \$138,864.71 | Loan Repayment | <u>\$100.00</u> | <u>\$1,100.00</u> |
| *initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc. | | | Total expenses | \$12,319.85 | \$158,108.98 |
| | | | Income less expenses | \$982.26 | -\$19,244.27 |

SPECIAL GIVING ENVELOPES

| November 2016 | Regular Giving Benevolence | Additional Designated Giving | Total Given to Charities |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| NALC | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Atlantic Mission District | \$75.00 | | \$75.00 |
| North American Lutheran Seminary | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Independent Church in India | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| PACC Caring Cupboard | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| NALC Disaster Response | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Lutheran World Relief | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Lebanon Free Clinic | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes) | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Lutheran Bible Translators | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Total | \$75.00 | \$0.00 | \$75.00 |

For Your Information



**FOOD COLLECTION
SUNDAY**

JANUARY 1

Caring Cupboard

Please sign up today to be a **Greeter!** There are many open dates.

The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2017 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex.



December Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

- Seven members were present; two were excused absent.
- Newly elected Congregation Council member-to-be Gayle Hoffman was present and welcomed as a guest.
- Deb Lutz led the devotions. Pastor Kendall will lead the devotion next month.
- Matt and Jess Lutz will be contracted in 2017 to clean the church as the new Facility Services Contractors.
- The Social Ministry Committee hosted a Christmas Party at the Agape Women’s Shelter, and it was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,
 Nancie Whelan
 2016 Congregation Council Secretary

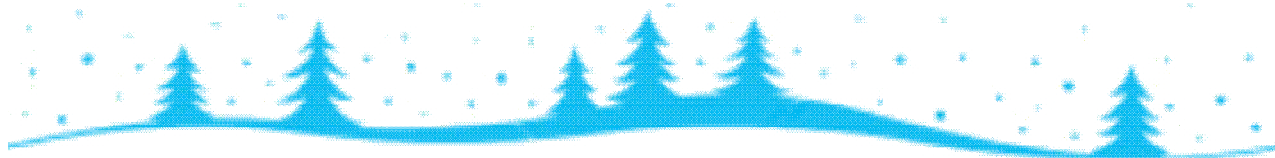
Agape Family Shelter Christmas Party



On Sunday, December 4 members of the Social Ministry Committee along with Pastor Kendall hosted the annual Agape Christmas party at the Agape House. This year Harry and Karen Hatt obtained a \$250 grant from Thrivent Financial to purchase supplies for the Agape House which included bath towels, sheet sets for twin and double beds, toilet paper, batteries, mops, paper towels, etc.

The members of Messiah contributed bath items for the children and mothers—toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand creams, shampoo, bath toys, lip balms, hand sanitizers, baby wipes, etc.

A special thank you to Harry and Karen Hatt for going shopping with members of the committee to obtain these supplies, and thanks to the members of Messiah for caring for these mothers and children during this Christmas season.



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!

Membership Change

Please remove **Terry Wilson** from your membership directory. She is no longer attending Messiah.



Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from Lutheran World Relief, Water Missions International, the NAL Seminary, and the Atlantic Mission District of the NALC. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.



My family and I would like to thank Carol Artz and the other talented bakers for the wonderful container of Christmas cookies. We are thoroughly enjoying them, and we love the variety. Thank you for including us in this wonderful (and tasty) ministry.

Blessings to all of you,
Robin Harris and Family



Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers given to me. By giving altar flowers on a particular Sunday to the glory of God and in memory, thanksgiving, or celebrations for people or events that are important to the donor, contributes to the beauty of our worship.

Thank you to those who provide flowers for the altar. They are a wonderful way of showing praise and thanksgiving to the glory of God.

Janet Gassert



Thank you for the “Thinking of You” package from the Evangelism committee. It was much appreciated—we really enjoyed the gummy worms! It is always nice to receive mail, and we had fun opening and eating the contents of the package.

Justyn and Jordan Connatser

500 Years!

October 31, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany and set in motion the Reformation. Here are a couple of trivia questions to see how much you know about Luther:



1. In 1546 Luther died while:
 - A. Leading a worship service
 - B. Fighting against his adversaries
 - C. On a journey to mediate a disagreement
2. In Luther's lifetime, the Lutheran Church struck its deepest roots in this region:
 - A. Germany
 - B. Scandinavia
 - C. Italy
3. Martin Luther led his family in devotions:
 - A. Occasionally
 - B. Once a week
 - C. Every morning and evening

Answers: (1) C (2) B (3) C

2017 Congregation Council

Karen Fox
Harry Hatt
Gayle Hoffman
Rita Savant
Charlotte Varone
Nancie Whelan

OUR SINCERE THANKS are due to outgoing Council members **Nick Adams, Deb Lutz and Dave Machamer** for their faithful leadership and important contributions throughout their terms of service. Those remaining on Council will miss serving with them.

We also thank **Nancie Whelan** for returning for a new two-year term, and welcome newly elected members **Karen Fox and Gayle Hoffman**.

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. +