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Pastor's Page

As we greet the new year, we also greet the Wise Men, strangers from a strange land, who brought strange news to those in “the halls of power” in Jerusalem.

Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews? We have come a long way to greet Him.

This is not what King Herod either expected or wanted to hear, nor his toadies and minions, nor anyone who wanted things to stay just as they are because it was more advantageous for them that way. “A new King” suggested that things might soon be turned upside-down.

The Season of Epiphany is a good time for us to see ourselves through the eyes of those around us in neighborhood, workplace, community, even family.

To many of these, you and I are also “strangers from a strange land.” How so?

Recall what Jesus said to Pontius Pilate shortly before His Crucifixion. Pilate had interrogated Jesus, at one point asking: *So you are a king?*

The Lord replied: “My Kingdom is not from this world.”

As citizens, through Baptism, in the Kingdom of Jesus, these are important words to remember. Paul wrote to the Philippians: *Our citizenship is in heaven, and from there we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ . . .*

You and I are citizens of Heaven: the Word of God says so. This world is most definitely **not** Heaven. We are not “at home” in this world, and if we are “born anew” by water and the Spirit, we can never be at home here.

We are strangers from a faraway Land, strange to those who do not know what is to have the King of Kings enthroned in our hearts and lives.

Nowadays people may grumble and complain about things like taxes, health insurance, traffic, crime, the cost of things or the latest scandal.

But many people think of “change” only in terms of annoying things in this life becoming less annoying, or

hard things getting easier, or the desirable things of this life becoming more attainable. Most don’t get up in the morning hoping something turns the whole world upside-down.

The Epiphany theme is: This is exactly what has happened, and God is the One Who has done it—for all humankind!

God “put on flesh” and came among us to turn everything in this world, indeed everything in the *universe*, upside-down. Jesus overturns every worldly definition of “power,” “hope,” “love” and even “life” itself. In their place, Jesus brings altogether better meaning to all these—and applies these to all who believe.

As His emissaries from the New Land of the Kingdom, we have much to make known to people we love, people we know, and even to strangers. In Christ, God has “turned the world upside-down” in the most wonderful, astounding ways. This Good News is our mission and our gift to share as we adore and serve the King. +

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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
- 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—Bible Reading Covenant)

WEDNESDAYS:

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

Pot Luck Luncheon



Church Potluck The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a congregation pot luck luncheon on **Sunday, January 28** following the Living in Faith Hour that morning. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Information Board early this month. Make plans to join us for some good food and good fellowship!

Open Flower Dates

There are **FIVE** Sundays in 2018 that do not have a flower sponsor. Those dates are:



**Altar
 Flowers**

- April 29
- July 1
- August 5
- August 12
- December 30

Please contact Janet Gassert at 717-272-3757 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.

2018 Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday February 4th** 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 4th, 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 4) 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 2.**



IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY
on the Book of Romans
Thursday, January 11
at 7 PM

GAME NIGHT

Friday, 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: : \$3,483.79)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
11/5	\$3,978.00	38 + / 27 LiF
1/12	\$2,723.00	41 + / 19 Hymn study
11/19	\$1,608.00	51 + / 31 Covenant study
Thanksgiving Eve 11/22	(rolled into 11/26)	30 +
11/26	\$2,974.00	41 + / 20 Covenant study

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



January 2018 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 7 Kathaleen Lilley
- 14 Daniel LaRue
- 21 Charlotte Varone
- 28 Deborah Lutz



Lector

- 7 Robert Bowman
- 14 Daniel LaRue
- 21 Charlotte Varone
- 28 Deborah Lutz



Greeters

- 7 Tom & Janet Gassert
- 14 Kathaleen Lilley
- 21 **NEEDED**
- 28 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward
Gayle Hoffman

Head Ushers

Nicholas and Barbara Adams



Altar Guild

- Janet Gassert, chair
- Tom Gassert
- Lori Wert



Crucifer

- 7 Michael Bowman
- 14 Sandra Smith
- 21 Nicholas Adams
- 28 Kathaleen Lilley



Acolyte

- 7 Mikayla Bowman
- 14 Nancie Whelan
- 21 Harry Hatt
- 28 Deborah Lutz



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

January 7 — David Machamer



December Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, December 12, 2017.

- The Spaghetti Miracle was a success. 89 pounds of food were received and delivered to the Rescue Mission in addition to 2 trays of cooked food. Special thanks to Bob and Mike Bowman for cooking.
- Cookies for the shut-ins were received the same day as the Spaghetti Miracle.
- A covered dish social will be held in January. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Information Center.
- Thanks were expressed to all who helped with the Fae Appleby memorial service luncheon.
- Second Saturday property work days are going well. Thanks were expressed to those to participate.
- The annual Agape Shelter Christmas party was held on Sunday, December 3. The mothers and children received Christmas gift bags with items received from the Tree of Giving. In addition, Thrivent dollars were used to purchase sheets, towels, toilet paper and cleaning supplies for the shelter. The party included cookies, candy and punch for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Fox
2017 Congregation Council Secretary

Agape Family Shelter Christmas Party



On Sunday, December 3 members of the Social Ministry Committee along with Pastor Kendall hosted the annual Agape Children's and Mothers' Christmas party at the Agape House. Pastor Kendall presented the Christmas story for the children, and Joan Smith had a teddy bear which told

Bible stories.

Gift bags were given to the children and gift bags were given to the mothers. These gift bags

contained the items collected during the Sundays in November from our Tree of Giving. Gifts included toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath toys, hand creams, shampoos, shower gels and body creams.

Using a \$250 Thrivent gift card obtained by Harry and Karen Hatt, we purchased sheets, towels, toilet paper, and cleaning supplies for the shelter. Cookies, candy and Pastor's special punch were enjoyed by all.



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 2018 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex.

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.



Dear Members of Messiah,

Thank you so much for the delicious cookies and pretty Christmas booklet. They are both being thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you, too, Pastor Kendall, for the very nice visit and administering the Communion. I appreciate it so much.

Leontine Vavrous



I would like to thank the members of Messiah for the generous monetary gift you gave me for Christmas. With my eldest daughter getting married in October I am squirreling away gifts like this to help celebrate her Big Day. It is much appreciated!

It is such a joy to work here at Messiah. Thank you for making my job here so pleasant.

In Christian love and gratitude,
Robin Harris



**FOOD COLLECTION
SUNDAY**

JANUARY 7

Caring Cupboard

New Members

Messiah welcomed two new members last month:

Sue DeSendi

636 Hill Street
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-272-1401

Michael Ernst

450 Smith Lane
Palmyra, PA 17078
717-383-7240



+ + +

Leontine Vavrous has a new address. It is Lebanon Valley Home, Room E-4
550 E. Main Street
Anville, PA 17003

2018 Congregation Council

Ernestine Batdorf
Karen Fox
Harry Hatt
Gayle Hoffman
Rita Savant
Nancie Whelan

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

We also thank **Harry Hatt and Rita Savant** for returning for a new two-year term, and welcome newly elected member **Teenie Batdorf**.

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. +

