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Pastor's Page

Hello ... Again.

It was great to see many of you for Holy Communion on 5/31, though in a different way from "Sunday as usual." But after all—what is "Sunday as usual?"

It occurred to me that the period from the ordered "lockdown" to 5/31 was the longest span without a Sunday in church that I can remember in my entire lifetime. This was certainly unusual for me; even though I "took a break" from every-Sunday attendance while in college, as many did, that interruption didn't last for two full months at a time.

I always took it as a given that on Sunday, the opportunity to worship in a church would be available. However, we have been reminded that such an opportunity is not a "given," even for people in a "free society" with "Constitutional safeguards."

My own opinion is that many governors exceeded their authority under the Constitution when they ordered churches not to gather in *any* manner. Even "parking lot worship" with people in their own vehicles, spaced well

apart, were prohibited. We still have arbitrary limits on numbers allowed at a gathering, without reference to the size of the room involved. We have heard some mayors voice threats to "close churches" for a year, or even for good, if those churches did not follow orders.

I found myself thinking of my "driver's ed" handbook, which emphasized: *Driving is not a right, it is a privilege. Freedom of worship is a right.* At least, it used to be. What the future holds for the free exercise of religion in this country is uncertain. Much has changed.

God, all-wise and all-powerful, can, and does, bring good out of even the worst situations. As people of faith, one of our most important tasks is to search for the good God is bringing forth in these days.

At the onset of the viral pandemic, I heard some say "This will bring people back to God." I disagreed. Some said the same thing after 9/11. But as we have seen, people did not become more godly, upright, or spiritually awakened after 9/11. They just wanted a

"bailout from God." Soon after, many stopped thinking about God in their lives just as they had before.

So let us concentrate, not on what *others* have, or have not, learned, but on what *we*, members of the Body of Christ, are being shown by God.

God shows us that "Sunday as usual" is an assumption, not a guarantee—and an unimaginative, rather lax assumption at that. We had it—until we didn't.

Now, we have the opportunity to worship in God's House, together, for a time. I am choosing NOT to say "going back to church." We can't "go back." It's not the same as it was.

I believe God means this for good—our good, the good of many. We are meant to be thankful for the opportunity to be in God's House, gathered to worship God, to hear the Word, to share the sacred Meal, and to be in *agape* community with our brothers and sisters. And we are meant to make the most of these opportunities while we have them.

(continued on page 2)

Pastor's Page (continued)

For now we know that such opportunities can be lost: lost because of disease; lost because of violence in the streets; lost because rights can be eroded by abuse of power.

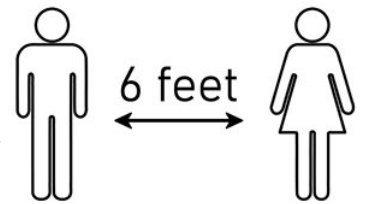
God calls us to “come back”—to *return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful*. But God never tells us to “go back.” God says: Go forth. Move ahead. *Follow My Son*.

Each of us must decide *how* we will respond to what God is showing us; each one will *order his or her priorities* in light of what has now been shown, to make the most of the opportunities we are given—and to guard and preserve them in the times to come. When we gather as the Church, we place ourselves on the front line of our response.

May God be with you. +

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.
- Living in Faith will resume on **Sunday, July 5**, and will be located in the nave.
- Conditions permitting, the Wednesday morning service of Anointing and Holy Communion will resume on **Wednesday, July 15**.



New Living in Faith Study

Beginning on **July 12** Karen Fox will be leading a NEW Living in Faith study in the nave.

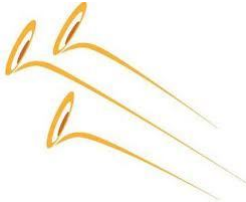
The goal of this study is to grow in our ability to make more faithful, Christ-centered choices both in serving God and in fostering our own wellbeing. This will not be a “how-to” program but an experience in conversation, reflection, prayer, and seeing ourselves more clearly.

Participants need not read anything in advance; the only materials needed will be a notebook, journal or tablet and a writing instrument. People will be welcome to share thoughts and ideas, or simply to listen and absorb. Some weekday prayer, reflection and, if desired, journaling will be helpful.



Membership Updates

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



Jacqueline Dohner

1945-2020

Irma Long

1934-2020

Janice Hartman

1940-2020

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

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Robin Harris (office): messiahluthleb@epix.net

Website: www.messiahluthleb.org

NALC website: www.thenalc.org

Atlantic Mission Region website:

www.atlantic-nalc.org



Prize Collection for Spang Crest

Every July Messiah has participated in the Friends of Spang Crest Prize Collection. The residents are very appreciative of your generosity as you provide them with fun and useful

prizes for them to choose.



During the month of July a box will be placed in the narthex to receive any

of the items listed below. These are the **most requested things** that the residents

of Spang Crest pick for Bingo or racing prizes:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Tissues (boxes or packs)
- Hand lotion
- Hair brushes
- Hair items (barrettes, headbands, etc.)
- Long necklaces
- Grippy socks
- Perfume/cologne/aftershave/body spray
- Chocolate bars
- Tic Tacs
- Sugar-free candy (hard and chocolate bars)
- Hard candy

- Small tablets
- Pens
- Snack packs of cookies
- Snack crackers (peanut butter or cheese)
- Pretzels (snack sized bags)
- Quarters to spend in the gift shop
- Small stuffed animals
- Coloring books for adults

Please contact **Nancie Whelan** with any questions. And thank you for continuing to support one of our local senior residences!

July 2020 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 5 Nancie Whelan
- 12 Deborah Lutz
- 19 Daniel LaRue
- 26 Kathaleen Lilley



Altar Guild

- Barbara Adams, chair
- Sherri Blouch
- Karen Zivic



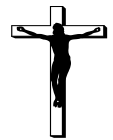
Lector

- 5 Nancie Whelan
- 12 Deborah Lutz
- 19 Daniel LaRue
- 26 Kathaleen Lilley



Crucifer

- 5 Rita Savant
- 12 Robert Bowman
- 19 Gayle Hoffman
- 26 **NEEDED**



Greeters

- 5 **NEEDED**
- 12 **NEEDED**
- 19 **NEEDED**
- 26 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 5 Nancie Whelan
- 12 Deborah Lutz
- 19 Daniel LaRue
- 26 Michael Bowman



Finance Steward
Nicholas Adams

WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

July 5— cancelled



Head Ushers
Harry & Karen Hatt



August 2020 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 2 Karen Fox
- 9 Ernestine Batdorf
- 16 Eugene Martin
- 23 Charlotte Varone
- 30 Nancie Whelan



Lector

- 2 Mary Garrett
- 9 Ernestine Batdorf
- 16 Eugene Martin
- 23 Charlotte Varone
- 30 Nancie Whelan



Greeters

- 2 **NEEDED**
- 9 **NEEDED**
- 16 **NEEDED**
- 23 **NEEDED**
- 30 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward
Deborah Lutz

Head Usher
Deborah Lutz



Altar Guild

- Carey Kendall, chair
- Elizabeth Surmacz
- Lori Wert



Crucifer

- 2 Ernestine Batdorf
- 9 Michael Bowman
- 16 Kathaleen Lilley
- 23 Eugene Martin
- 30 Daniel LaRue



Acolyte

- 2 Harry Hatt
- 9 Ernestine Batdorf
- 16 Karen Hatt
- 23 Karen Zivic
- 30 Nancie Whelan



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

August 2 —cancelled



Ministry Plan Report for April & May

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

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering received</u>
	4/5	church closed	\$2,825.00
Maundy Thurs.	4/9	church closed	
Good Friday	4/10	church closed	
Prayer Vigil	4/11	church closed	
	4/12	church closed	\$3,800.00
	4/19	church closed	\$3,340.00
	*4/26	church closed	\$2,637.38
	5/3	church closed	\$3,412.00
	5/10	church closed	\$3,796.00
	*5/17	church closed	\$2,050.00
	5/24	church closed	\$3,112.00
	5/31	46 (Communion by appt.)	\$3,265.00

NOTE: "+" denotes Worship

* - A Cappella Sunday

Wed. Lent Bible Study:
4/1

Attendance
O (church closed)



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met for an abbreviated meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2020.

- The March minutes were read and approved.
- Pastor's reports were read and approved.
- Appreciation was given to Rita Savant and Teenie Batdorf for coming to the church to count and deposit offering each week. Appreciation was made to Kathy Lilley for applying for and receiving a forgivable government loan during the COVID shutdown. Appreciation to Robin Harris for providing the electronic bulletins and the "hymn links" of same.
- Harry Hatt noted that there is a new sinkhole outside of the education building.
- The stage wall in the social hall was painted with the help of Dave Machamer, Pr. Angel Portes, and two members of his congregation.
- Property work days will continue to be held on the 2nd Saturday of the month—volunteers are always welcome!
- The meeting was recessed until July 14 at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Hoffman
Congregation Council Secretary

NOTE: The Congregation Council did NOT meet in April or May because of mandated closures due to COVID-19.

July Birthdays

- 3 Sherri Blouch
Christian Anspach
- 4 Carla Hartman
- 13 Beth Miller
- 14 Geraldine Bohr
Tammy Risser
- 15 George Felder
- 16 Elizabeth Surmacz



July Anniversaries

- 1 Greg & Linda Field
- 16 Edward & Karen Bickel
- 23 Rodney & Kathaleen Lilley
- 24 Kenneth & Kay Zellers
- 27 William & Judith Bechtold
- 28 Louis & Karen Zivic



2020 Congregation Council

- Karen Fox**, *President and Worship Planning*
- Harry Hatt**, *Vice-President, Personnel and Property Co-Chair*
- Gayle Hoffman**, *Secretary*
- Nancie Whelan**, *Treasurer*
- Nicholas Adams**
- Ernestine Batdorf**, *Assistant Finance Secretary and Volunteer Resources Chair*
- David Machamer**, *Evangelism and Property Co-Chair*
- Karen Zivic**

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

- Karen Hatt**, *Fellowship Chair*
- Kathaleen Lilley**, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*
- Rita Savant**, *Finance Secretary and Social Ministry Chair*

August Birthdays

- 1 Judith Bechtold
- 10 Ruth DeLong
Harry Hatt
- 11 Karen Bickel
- 15 Benjamin Risser
- 18 Nicholas Adams
- 19 Carl Lutz
- 22 Betty Wetzal
- 27 Justin Lilley
- 29 Shael Connatser
- 31 Rachel Anspach



August Anniversaries

- 1 Carl & Rosanne Lutz
- 11 Pastor & Carey Kendall
- 13 Robert & Debra Bowman
Lee & Rita Savant
- 15 Corey & Carla Hartman
- 21 Pastor J. Philip & Nancy Kline



New Addresses

Please update your directory with this new contact information for:

Nick and Barb Adams

28 Oxford Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042
Cell: 717-926-8346
Email remains the same.

Susan DeSendi

200 W. Swatara Drive
Jonestown, PA 17038
Cell: 717-644-1415
Email remains the same.



Upcoming Events

There will be
NO
THURSDAY EVENING
BIBLE STUDY
this summer.

We may begin a new study in September.



Bible Reading Covenant

Sunday, July 26

Psalm 27:1

&

Sunday, August 23

Philippians 4:6-7

in the Nave.

STAY TUNED!

The annual church picnic with Lowell & Kathy Smith and Pr. Britto from ICII may be sometime this fall.



Watch your bulletin for the date and sign up sheet!

School Kit and Health Kit Collections



When the summer draws to a close it will be time to think about school and school/health kits for Lutheran World Relief and the Independent Church in India. For the past couple of years with your generous donations, we

were able to assemble multiple kits for LWR and monetary offerings to the ICII orphans so that they would be able to start their school year with the proper supplies. **We collect the money and buy the supplies** in bulk at various stores in the area. This enables us to be good stewards of the offerings that are donated. Please consider a

generous donation again this year to see if we can send even more kits than last year. There will be an offering plate in the Narthex from **August 23—September 27**. Many thanks in advance for your support of this project.



For Your Information



FOOD
COLLECTION
SUNDAYS

July 5

August 2

All going to the Rescue Mission

The Good Samaritan Hospital no longer informs clergy when a parishioner is admitted. If you or a loved one are hospitalized please call the church office to let the pastor know.



The Atlantic Mission Region has a newsletter: **The Atlantic Vine**. It has all sorts of news and discipleship ideas from around our Mission Region. Please go to www.atlantic-nalc.org and look under the “news & events” tab or see Rob-in for more information.

Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

9 AM The Holy Communion
 10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
 4th Sundays: Bible Reading Covenant study

WEDNESDAYS:

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

Summer vacation is a great break for everyone. But the needs of the church never take a vacation. Please remember your offerings, gifts and tithes to Messiah when you are on vacation. Thank you.



School Supplies Needed

During the month of August the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a school supply drive that will benefit the mission church that worships here at Messiah (Pr. Angel's church).

A box will be placed on the table outside the sanctuary for you to place any of the following:

- Back packs
- Spiral notebooks (wide or college ruled)
- Pencils (if mechanical then also supply the lead)
- Pencil sharpeners
- Erasers
- Pens
- Crayons
- Rulers
- Glue sticks
- Blunt scissors



This school supply drive is in addition to the monetary collection for Lutheran World Relief and ICII (see page 8).

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



AMR Annual Fall Convocation



The Atlantic Mission Region's annual fall Convocation is currently being planned to be held on **Friday, October 16 & Saturday, October 17** at Holy Cross ELC, Nazareth, PA. *IF it needs to be held virtually it will be reduced to one day (Saturday, October 17—that decision will be made in August).*

The Convocation's theme this year—**The Fullness of God's Worship**—will center around the discussion and experience of different styles of worship (traditional and contemporary). We will discuss what is essential to worship and how worship is



experienced differently in different cultures.

Presenters at the live Convocation will be **Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen**, president of the North American Lutheran Seminary; **Rev. Gregory Fryer** (pastor at Immanuel, New York, NY) and **Rev. Kerry Maurer** (interim pastor at St. Luke, Bloomsburg, PA).

A morning-long **Women's Conference** and **informal Men's Bible Study** plus **Stuff the Truck** will be included in the 2-day event.

Much more information and registration sheets will be available in mid-August. Look for them in your bulletins and the fall newsletter!

A Thank You Note

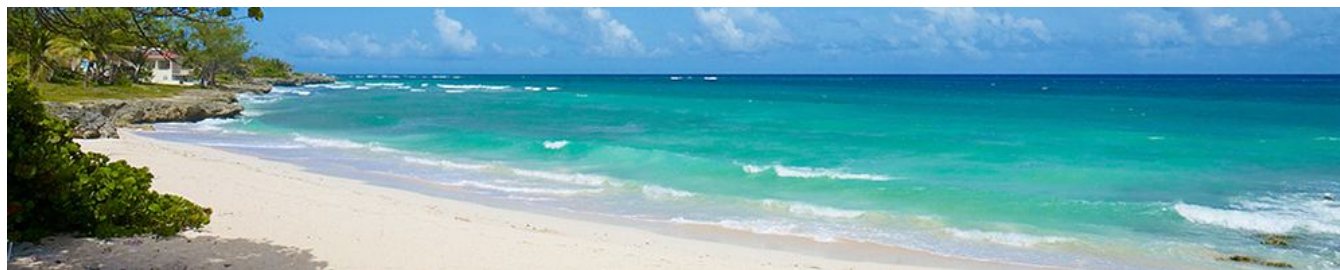


Thank you to the people who made soup for the bread and soup meals. Any money that was not used for bread or soup was given to the General Fund since we had a short time this year.

Karen Hatt
Fellowship Committee chair

Autumn Newsletter

The **deadline** for the September/October issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Friday, August 14**. This issue will cover events, meetings and schedules for the months of **September and October**. Please make sure you have all your information turned in to the office (and on the work room calendar) by this date. Thank you!



NALC Disaster Response 2nd Mobile Tool Trailer



Join with Emanuel Lutheran Church, Elmer, NJ and the Atlantic Mission Region to help equip the **second** fully functioning Disaster Response mobile tool trailer to help rebuild

the lives of those affected by disasters.

We know how devastating disasters can be—hurricanes, tornadoes, fire, flooding, etc. Volunteers who donate their time, hands, skills and hearts for needed clean up and rehab work do not always have the appropriate equipment for needed tasks. By equipping a fully loaded rapid response mobile tool trailer this necessary work can be accomplished.

To date: now that some restrictions have been lifted the construction of the interior shelving is

currently underway. The next step is to begin purchasing tools with donations from people like YOU!

If you would like to sponsor a tool or help to sponsor the tool trailer please make your check payable to **Emanuel Lutheran Church** and have “**tool trailer**” on the memo line. Please mail the check to **Disaster Response Tool Trailer Project, c/o Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 363, Elmer, NJ 08318**. You may visit www.atlantic-nalc.org for more information.

With your help we hope to turn the tool trailer over to NALC Disaster Relief Coordinator Mary Bates at the October 16 & 17 Convocation in Nazareth, PA. Thank you!

