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The Call Process from a Pastor's Family Perspective

In 1977 Barry and I met during our last semester at Lebanon Valley College. After graduation I “followed him home” as he liked to say.

My first job as a medical technologist was at the Osteopathic Hospital on the East Shore of Harrisburg. He returned home to his mother who had been widowed the prior summer. After painting the outside woodwork, he began working in the automotive department of the local Sears on the West Shore near his home.

For the next two years, as our relationship grew, he struggled with how to use his English degree. He took the tests and qualified for getting a masters in business administration. He was contemplating a career in hospital administration.

In the beginning of 1979 Barry realized that, although several schools were interested in him, he was being led in a different direction. Some time prior to proposing marriage, he asked me how I felt about being a pastor's wife. My response was that, although it would be like living in a glass house and as long as it was OK to hang out laundry, I was agreeable.

So, on St. Patrick's Day we were engaged; in April he interviewed with the seminary review board; in August we married and moved to the seminary in Gettysburg. I worked at the Gettysburg Hospital to pay our bills and tuition. Four years later, with our first child on the way, Barry graduated.

At the time of graduation Barry did not have a call, and we were a bit anxious since our baby was due in October. When filling out paperwork for his first call Barry had requested a small town in a rural setting not too far from his mother. The Bishop found him an opening in

July at Salem Lutheran Church, Oberlin. He accepted without further searching, was ordained and began ministry in August. Within about three years it became evident it was time to seek a new call.

This time around there were more things to consider as we had grown to a family of four. We began praying in earnest for guidance and for the Spirit to lead us to our next church.

The ELCA call process allowed a church to look at several candidates at the same time, but a pastor seeking a call could only receive one church at a time. We made a trip to look at a church in the Upper Susquehanna Synod, and Barry spoke with their call committee. He also talked with a call committee for a church in Lancaster County before meeting with Messiah's committee. After each visit we pondered pros, cons, and prayed.

We had many questions—what is the location like? Neighborhood of the church? Condition of the church building? How much of the congregation's resources go to maintenance? To ministry? What are the congregation's demographics? Do they have active committees? Are they spiritually alive? What expectations do they have for the pastor? His spouse? Is the financial package adequate? Is it a good environment for our children? Will we need to buy a house? What is the reputation of the schools? Are there job opportunities for Carey? How far from parents and other family?

Barry and I became pretty savvy about what he would consider after our experience at Salem. We prayed for the ability to know if we should reject a church or continue in the call process. We were seeking God's will for us and for the church in question.

The next step after meeting with the call committee was preaching for the call committee. We got to that point only with Messiah and arranged for a pulpit exchange with a

nearby church. That meant I was taking our 2 and 4 year old sons to a strange church and out to lunch with a group of strangers. I explained to Scott that it was important for him to be a good boy (and hoped David would be, too). Fortunately, all went well both at the church and in the restaurant. We went home and prayed some more as we anxiously waited to see if Messiah would extend a call.

At last, after two years in this process, the invitation came for the trial sermon at Messiah and the vote. You know the ending of the story, but you may not know how blest we felt to be here where we could

feel the Spirit was alive and know this was where He wanted us to be.

A pastoral call is a unique relationship. It involves both the pastor and congregation submitting to the will of God. Unlike the secular world of employee/ employer both pastor and congregation are under the authority of God. Let us remember that God has a plan for Messiah and continue in prayer for a pastor to lead us to fulfill our purpose in His Kingdom.

Peace be with you.
Carey Kendall

Special Congregation Meeting Called

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 4!

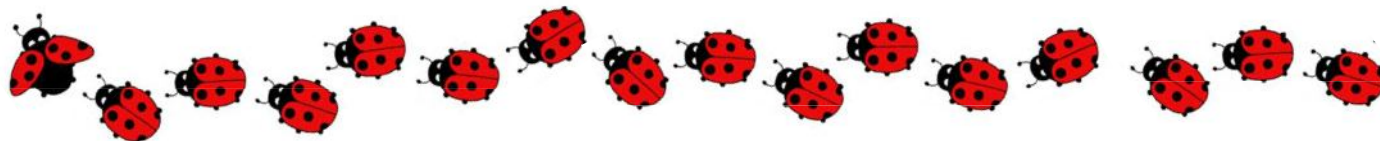
Atlantic Mission Region dean the Rev. Steve Shipman will be leading us in worship that day. Following worship we will have a specially called Congregation Meeting during which we will discuss the next steps in our quest for a new pastor.

Pr. Shipman has an intentional interim in mind for us. This pastor would like more information from us as to how he can help us in our time of

transition. Hopefully you all took advantage of putting your thoughts, comments, etc. in the box in the narthex that will help our new interim pastor help us.



Please make plans to attend this meeting to hear what happens next. Keep Messiah in your prayers as we travel together down this uncertain road, and remember that Jesus is with us every step of the way.



Ministry Plan Report for April

(Budgeted need per week: \$2,820.44)

	4/2	\$3,233.00	14 LiF / 43 +
Maundy Thurs.	4/6	(rolled into 4/9)	27 +
Good Fri.	4/7		23 +
Easter	4/9	\$3,783.00	no LiF / 41 +
	4/16	\$1,684.00	no LiF / 46 +
	4/23	\$2,480.00	10 LiF / 37 +
	4/30	\$1,926.00	13 LiF / 32 +



NOTE: "LiF" denotes Living in Faith

"+" denotes Worship

June 2023 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 4 Deborah Lutz
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Kathaleen Lilley
- 25 Charlotte Varone



Altar Guild

- Nancie Whelan
- Karen Hatt
- Mary Whelan



Lector

- 4 Carey Kendall
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Kathaleen Lilley
- 25 Charlotte Varone



Crucifer

- 4 Kathaleen Lilley
- 11 Gayle Hoffman
- 18 Mary Whelan
- 25 Andrew Surmacz



Greeter

- 4 Kay Zellers
- 11 **NEEDED**
- 18 Deborah Lutz
- 25 Charlotte Varone




Acolyte

- 4 Deborah Lutz
- 11 Harry Hatt
- 18 Karen Hatt
- 25 Karen Zivic



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

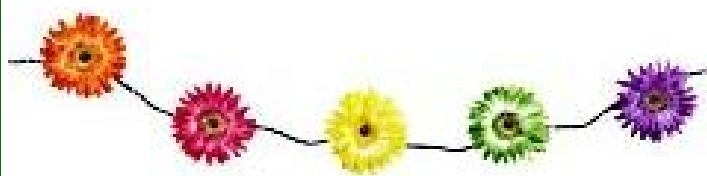
 (Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month after worship.)

June 4 — The Surmacz Family



Head Ushers
Raymond & Carol Anspach

Finance Steward
Karen Zivic



May Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, May 9, 2023.

- Treasurer’s report was presented and approved pending audit.
- Financial report was presented and approved pending audit.
- Committee reports were given.
- The national Convocation of the NALC will be held in Oklahoma City, OK on August 7-11.
- Discussion was held regarding lay leaders being trained to give communion to the shut-ins.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zivic
Congregation Council secretary

Congratulations, Graduates!



Samantha Grace Miller (daughter of Michael & Kristen Miller and granddaughter of Edward & Karen Bickel) is graduating from Palmyra HS in June. Samantha will be attending Lehigh University this fall and plans to major in English Education.

Congratulations!



Looking for Volunteers

The Finance Committee is looking for volunteers who would be interested/willing to count money after church. You don't need to be a math wiz or an accountant. All you need is the willingness to learn and to work with others. You would be working with teams of three and counting money once every 4 Sundays. Training will be provided. If you are interested or have any questions, please see Kathy Lilley after church, or give her a call on her cell phone at 717-926-8614. Thank you.



For Your Information

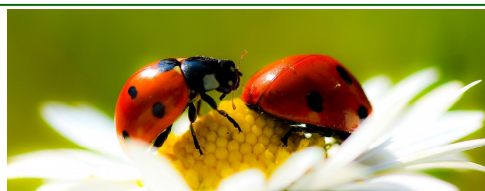
June 4 FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect food and personal care products for our neighbors in need.

Rescue Mission



We still need sponsors for **ALL the Welcome Times this coming fall!** Please prayerfully consider giving of your time and talents for these Sundays. If no one signs up for these Sundays then there will be no Welcome Time.



The **deadline** for the summer combined issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Friday, June 16th**. This issue will cover events, meetings and schedules for the months of **July and August**. Please make sure you have all your information turned in to the office (and on the work room calendar) by this date. Thank you!



Newsletter Info **Wanted!**

Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from the Lebanon Rescue Mission and the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

The Altar Guild wishes to thank everyone who donated towards the purchase of geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost.

Deborah Lutz
Altar Guild President



To the members of the Messiah Call Committee Karen Fox, Harry Hatt, Deb Lutz, Dave Machamer, Gene Martin, and Sandy Smith:

My gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all of you for your dedication through these many months of planning, meetings, and discussions in our mission for a pastor to lead our congregation. Let us pray that it will be fulfilled in God's time for our community of believers.

Continuing in His service,
Charlotte Varone
Call Committee Chair



THANK YOU to the anonymous donor of the new furniture for the pastor's office. The new arm chair, recliner, corner table, and floor lamp look so very nice and are very comfortable (yes, Robin tried them out). This furniture will be very nice for the pastor to have a visitor, a conference, or even to take a short nap if needed. What a blessing this gift will be for our new pastor!



A big thank you also goes out to all who removed the old sofa, large arm chair, and large square table from the pastor's office. That was not easy! Thank you to Dave Machamer for arranging for Jubilee to pick them up so another family may enjoy this gently used furniture.



Membership Changes

New Members:

Bernard "Skeeter" Batdorf

1711 Jay St.
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-273-2051
ebbatdorf@verizon.net

John & Susan Lentz

804 Shore Landing Dr.
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-579-4708

Larry & Carol Watkins

603 Cat Tail Court
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-769-2082
Larry cell 717-314-7143
Carol cell 717-215-8793
lewcaw@comcast.net



Transfer:

Please remove **Greg & Linda Field** from your directory. They have transferred their membership to Salem Lutheran Church.

New Address:

Michelle Blouch

USS Gerald R. Ford, CVN78
Unit 100328 Div. Medical
FPO AE 09523-2800

Karen Bickel's email is abickel@comcast.net.

Messiah Lutheran Church

1800 Oak Street
Lebanon, PA 17042-5852
Office Phone 717-272-2922

E-mail

Brenda Beegle (Congregation Council President)
diamonds3158@gmail.com
Robin Harris/office: messiahluthleb@epix.net

Web Sites

Messiah: www.messiahluthleb.org
NALC website: www.thenalc.org
AMR website: www.atlantic-nalc.org

June Birthdays

- 1 David Machamer
- 2 Ray Mayopoulos
- 3 Kathaleen Lilley
- 5 Michelle Blouch
Karen Munford
Vicki Schimminger
- 13 Janet Gassert
- 14 Mike Adams
- 16 Laura Ebright
- 18 Sue DeSendi
- 24 Wendy Brossman
- 26 Andrew Lutz
- 27 Eugene Martin
- 29 Charlotte Varone



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.

Landscape Care Servants



As in previous years, we again invite you to serve God and neighbor by signing up to care for a portion of Messiah's grounds. The area chart and sign-up form are posted on the Information Center in the narthex. Tools and mulch will be available.

Your offerings of time and energy are greatly appreciated.

Head Usher Needed

Please prayerfully consider serving as a head usher during **September**. Serving with a friend would be fun! Please see Robin if interested.



June Anniversaries

- 11 Peter & Holly McGuire
Andrew & Elizabeth Surmacz
- 24 Daryl & Karen Artz
Eugene & Beth Martin
Richard & Lori Wert
- 27 Kenneth & Dorothy Martin
- 28 Bernard & Ernestine Batdorf



2023 Congregation Council

Brenda Beegle, *President, Christian Ed. co-chair*

Nick Adams, *Vice President, Christian Ed co-chair, and Personnel chair*

Karen Zivic, *Secretary*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary*

Michael Ernst

Deborah Lutz, *Publicity and Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Evangelism and Property chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship Chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

Rita Savant, *Assistant Finance Secretary and Social Ministry Chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer*

Supply List for June

June 4 The Rev. Steve Shipman

June 11 The Rev. Michael Tamorria
The Rev. Karen Tamorria

June 18 The Rev. Paul Hansen

June 25 The Rev. Gerald Kramer