



Messiah Lutheran Church

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Messiah Messenger

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MARCH/APRIL, 2020

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Pastor's Page

The Season of Lent is upon us once again. We've had so little "winter" this year that it almost seems as though Lent shouldn't be here yet.

As I wrote those words just now, it occurred to me that I can't remember ever hearing anybody ask: "Are you ready for Lent yet?"

People often ask: "Are you ready for Christmas?" Or "Are you ready for summer?" Or "Ready for the new school year?"

But not "Are you ready for Lent?" That troubles me.

For most of us, "Christmas" is a joyous time. We associate the season with family get-togethers, pretty lights, special food and treats, excited children, gifts, beloved music. There's a lot to look forward to.

Ditto for summer, and a new school year. Things to do, things to learn: positive things.

To be "ready for" any of these is, really, to be "looking forward to" them.

Many regard Lent, on the other hand, as a

"negative" time. Not something to "look forward to" or "get ready for." Perhaps even something to avoid.

During Lent, there's a sense that we "talk about 'sin' a lot." Often these days, "sin" is an unwelcome concept.

People don't "sin," they "make mistakes." We shouldn't hold each other accountable for our "sins," because "nobody's perfect." Let's talk about "God's love" instead.

I believe that no one can talk about God's love—GOD'S love—without talking about sin. St. John wrote: *God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life.*

There's that sweet word: "love." But WHY did God give His only Son? What was the danger Jesus died to save us *from*?

The consequences of *our sins*. The same author, John, wrote: *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the Truth is not in us.*

St. Paul wrote: *All have*

sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The Bible warns: *The wages of sin is death.* Again and again, the Word of God warns us urgently regarding sin—not theoretical, or potential, or somewhere else, but *within ourselves*.

Lent is like a spiritual medical exam, bringing to light our true condition. If we know our condition, we can act accordingly, and deliberately "return to the Lord our God" Who gave His Son for our sake.

There's a line in a Lenten hymn which haunts me: *Do we pass that Cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow?* I hope and pray not. The answer to that sobering question is revealed in how you are deciding to *keep* this Lenten season. God gives *you* this decision to make.

Your church is here to help you keep Lent: in worship, in the midweek Lenten series, this year titled *How God Uses Suffering*, in opportunities to be with other believers traveling the Road of Repentance.

Make the most of these gifts God provides. +

Thank You Notes



Thank you!

Thank you notes were received from the NALC, NAL Seminary, City of Lebanon, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Lutheran World Relief, the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC, and Lutheran Bible Translators. All these notes are available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.



Dear Messiah Congregation,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. It was so thoughtful of you all to think of me. Playing at Messiah has always been such a blessing. I have always enjoyed the opportunity of playing music as part of worship, and am so grateful for your flexibility and support this year with our new addition to our family.

Thank you all again for your kindness and generosity!

Erin Trovinger



Thank you for gathering all those young people to celebrate the New Year with my 106-year old role model and 100 year-old me.

It was wonderful to be remembered by people who have much longer church history than I do and by those who became active the same time I did.

I wish you all a wonderful 2020 and good health and prosperity in the years that follow.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Dietrich



Dear Friends,

Thank you for the wonderful gifts you shared with Agape. We appreciate your kindness and support. We appreciate each of you!

May God bless you as you continue to serve Him by serving others.

Blessings in the New Year!

Cynthia Smith

Agape Family Shelter Director



To our family at Messiah,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Messiah family for remembering us at Christmas. Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Karen Fox and Alyssa Knouff



For Your Information

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS



MARCH 1
&
APRIL 5

All donations will be given to the Rescue Mission

Graduation information sheets are on the oak table in the narthex. If you know of a Messiah member graduating from high school, college, trade school, etc. this spring please share that information so we may include it in the May/June edition of the *Messiah Messenger*.



PA Dutch Church Service Sunday, April 26 2:30 PM



Zoar Lutheran Church
560 Freeport Road
Lebanon

The entire liturgy will be conducted in PA Dutch. Refreshments will follow.

March Birthdays

- 2 Drew Surmacz
- 8 John Schimminger
- 10 Richard Markey
- 12 Carol Anspach
Cash Anspach
Jaxson Roof
- 13 Ivy Lutz
Janet Miller
- 14 Robert Donmoyer
- 19 Jacquelyn Dohner
Pr. Rodney Lilley
- 20 Alyssa Knouff
- 24 Seth Hartman
- 28 Deborah Lutz
- 29 Kay Zellers



March Anniversaries

- 11 Gordon & Laura Ebright
- 29 Rod & Eileen Ledger



April Birthdays

- 3 Terri Brightbill
- 6 Karlyn Roof
- 9 Cheryl Lutz
- 10 Debra Bowman
- 11 Adam Brossman
Carey Kendall
- 12 Angela Gassert Fair
- 14 Caroline Harnisch
- 22 Joshua Risser
- 29 Karen Zivic



April Anniversaries

- 4 Thomas & Janet Gassert
- 16 Donald & Karen Munford
- John & Vicki Schimminger
- 24 Gary & Jacquelyn Dohner
Walter & Margaret Shirey
- 25 Bryan & Gayle Hoffman
- 27 Matthew & Jessica Lutz



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.



Spring Convocation

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 2** for the annual spring gathering of the nine congregations of the Central Mission District.

This spring Convocation will be held at **St. John's Lutheran Church** (1035 Old River Road) **Birdsboro, PA**. Registration and fellowship will be at 8:30 AM with the day's events beginning at 9:00 AM. We will conclude around 1:30 PM.

Plans are being made to learn about congregation renewal, hear from the AMR Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team, have Bible study, and enjoy lunch and fellowship with our fellow disciples of Christ. If you are interested in attending or have any questions please see Pastor or Robin.

Spring Forward!



Don't forget to **set all your clocks forward one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 7 so you will be on time for church on **March 8**.

March 2020 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 1 Karen Fox
- 8 Daniel LaRue
- 15 Sandra Smith
- 22 Kathaleen Lilley
- 29 Karen Fox



Lector

- 1 Mary Garrett
- 8 Daniel LaRue
- 15 Sandra Smith
- 22 Kathaleen Lilley
- 29 Karen Fox



Greeters

- 1 Karen Zivic
- 8 David Machamer
- 15 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 22 Carey Kendall
- 29 Karen Zivic



Head Usher
Eugene Martin



Finance Steward
Harry Hatt

Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Ernestine Batdorf
- Debra Bowman
- Mikayla Bowman
- Wendy Brossman
- Kelly Roof



Crucifer

- 1 Sandra Smith
- 8 Michael Bowman
- 15 Andrew Hartman
- 22 Daniel LaRue
- 29 Kathaleen Lilley



Acolyte

- 1 Deborah Lutz
- 8 Harry Hatt
- 15 **NEEDED**
- 22 Harry Hatt
- 29 Ernestine Batdorf



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

March 1 — Laurite Vranesic



April 2020 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 5 Charlotte Varone
- 9 7:30 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 12 Eugene Martin
- 19 Nancie Whelan
- 26 Michael Bowman



Lector

- 5 Carey Kendall
- 9 7:30 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 12 Eugene Martin
- 19 Nancie Whelan
- 26 Michael Bowman



Greeters

- 5 **NEEDED**
- 9 7:30 PM **NEEDED**
- 12 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 19 Clyde & Gail Peters
- 26 **NEEDED**



Head Ushers
Harry & Karen Hatt



Finance Steward
Karen Zivic

Altar Guild

- 5 Lori Wert & Janet Gassert
- 9 Janet Gassert & Teenie Batdorf (set up);
Lori Wert, Karen Hatt, Gayle Hoffman
during the liturgy
- 10 Janet Gassert
- 11 Tom & Janet Gassert, Lori Wert, Rita
Savant & Karen Zivic
- 12 Tom & Janet Gassert
- 19 Bard Adams & Karen Zivic
- 26 Rita Savant & Gayle Hoffman



Crucifer

- 5 Eugene Martin
- 9 7:30 PM Rita Savant
- 10 7:30 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 12 Robert Bowman
- 19 Kathaleen Lilley
- 26 Sandra Smith



Acolyte

- 5 Nancie Whelan
- 9 7:30 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 12 Ernestine Batdorf
Michael Bowman
- 19 Nancie Whelan
- 26 Michael Bowman



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

April 5 — Charlotte Varone and Gail Peters



Ash Wednesday

The vital penitential season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 26**. On Ash Wednesday, you will have the option of attending either a mid-day liturgy, with proclamation and



the imposition of ashes beginning at 12 noon, or the customary evening liturgy at 7:30 PM.

Both liturgies will feature the same sermon. The noon lit-

urgy is to make the time easy to remember, and to make attendance possible for people who might take time at lunch, for those who do not drive at night, or who must work a late shift.

Lenten Study Series

Pastor Kendall will be leading a Lenten study series on **how God uses suffering** every Wednesday evening during the season of Lent.



March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25
April 1

The Soup and Bread meal (see below) will be held at 6 PM with the study series to follow at 6:45 PM. If the meal does not work for you, then you are welcome to come to only the study portion of the evening.

In accord with our mission **“to bring Christ to people and people to Christ,”** you are invited and encouraged to bring friends with you to experience the renewing power of the Season of Lent and its glorious fulfillment in the celebration of

the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord.

Bring your Bible!

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS

9 AM Service of Holy Communion
10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
4th Sunday—Bible Reading Covenant study

WEDNESDAYS:

10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion
(as noted on the calendar)
6 PM Soup and Bread Supper
6:45 PM Lenten Study Series

Lenten Bread and Soup Meals



Every Wednesday evening in Lent the Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring a soup and bread supper beginning at 6 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

We need **volunteers** to either make soup or to give a donation to Karen Hatt so soup may be purchased. We would like to have **two varieties of soup per Wednesday**, so we would prefer two volunteers per week. The committee will

supply the bread, drinks and paper products. Sign up sheets are posted on the Information Board in the narthex so we may get a head count. This sheet will also list the soups that will be provided for that week.

Please consider joining us for nourishment and fellowship prior to our Lenten study series. It's food for the body and soul!



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 5: The Sunday of the Passion:
9 AM The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms
10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
10:30 AM Welcome Time

Monday, April 6 - OFFICE CLOSED

Maundy Thursday, April 9:
 OFFICE CLOSED
7:30 PM The Liturgy of the Last Supper with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 10:
7:30 PM The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, April 11:
7—8:30 PM Prayer Vigil on the Eve of Easter

Sunday, April 12, The Resurrection of Our Lord:
7:30 AM Easter Breakfast
9 AM The Holy Communion
 (No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)



Wertz Candies Program

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a trip to the **Lebanon County Historical Society** (924 Cumberland St.) on **Sunday, March 15**, to hear a program on Wertz Candies.

This program runs from 1:30—2:30 PM and will be led by the Wertz Bros.

There will NOT be a sign-up sheet for this event. You are invited to join us directly at the Lebanon Historical Society that day. See you there!

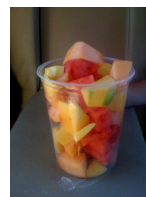


Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 12
 7:30 AM

Cost is **\$2 per person** (to help defray the cost and get a more accurate head count). Tickets will be on sale from March 15 – April 5 **after worship**. See Harry and Karen Hatt for tickets or more information. We will be eating in the Chapel Room.

Menu



Scrambled Eggs
 Little Smokies
 French Toast Sticks
 Fruit Cup
 Coffee
 Tea
 Juice



Set up is on Saturday, April 11 at 9 AM.

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*

2019 General Fund Financial Summary

Income & Expenses At-A-Glance			
			Year-to-date
	Income		\$148,757.80
	Expenses		\$171,033.56
	Income Less Expenses		-\$22,275.76

	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Income:	
Total Giving	\$148,757.80
Total Income	<u>\$148,757.80</u>
Ministry Plan Year-to-date	\$88,922.50
Expenses:	
Staff	\$116,218.46
Administrative	3,856.02
Maintenance	30,533.10
Committee	0.00
Additional	3,975.00
Benevolence	15,250.98
Loan Repayment	1,200.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$171,033.56</u>
Income Less Expenses	<u>(\$22,275.76)</u>

January through March	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total to Charity
NALC	\$8,923.78		\$8,923.78
Atlantic Mission District	\$714.48		\$714.48
Mission Partners*	\$380.00		\$380.00
NALC Seminary	\$654.09		\$654.09
NALC Disaster Response	\$654.09		\$654.09
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape	\$654.09		\$654.09
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$654.09		\$654.09
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$654.09		\$654.09
Lutheran World Relief	\$654.09		\$654.09
ICII	\$654.09		\$654.09
City of Lebanon	\$654.09		\$654.09
Total	\$15,250.98	\$0.00	\$15,250.98

*Ethiopian Church Relief Fund, The Great Commission Society, Water Missions International, Lutheran Bible Translators

December & January Ministry Plan Summaries

Budgeted need per week for 2019: \$3,346.31

	12/1	\$3,106.00	29 + / 14 Covenant
	*12/8	\$3,000.00	39 + / 13 LiF
	12/15	\$3,152.00	45 + / 16 Covenant
	12/22	\$3,083.00	55 + / 16 LiF
4 PM	12/24	\$6,877.00	71 +
7:30 PM		(from both services combined)	33 +
	12/29	\$2,752.00	51 + / 11 LiF

Budgeted need per week for 2020: \$3,327.52

	1/5	\$3,915.00	44 + / 13 LiF
	1/12	\$2,681.63	46 + / 18 LiF
	1/19	\$1,237.00	29 + / 14 LiF
	*1/26	\$1,566.00	43 + / 15 Covenant

NOTE: "+" denotes Worship
 "LiF" denotes Living in Faith
 * denotes an A Cappella Sunday



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

January Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, January 21, 2020.

- Financial reports were read and approved. The 2019 audits were completed.
- Officers and committee chairs for 2020 can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
 Gayle Hoffman
 Congregation Council secretary



February Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 11, 2020.

- Pastor's report, Treasurer's Report, Financial Secretary's report read and approved (pending audits)
- Discussion on property insurance will be continued into March 2020.
 - Property report on repairs made to sound system, women's restroom, office thermostat, and new LED lights in the social hall
 - Beginning of Lent is on Ash Wednesday with services at noon and 7:30 pm.



Respectfully submitted,
 Gayle Hoffman
 Congregation Council Secretary

Happy 100th Birthday, Mary Ellen!

On December 31, 2019 Mary Ellen Dietrich turned 100 years old. Members of the congregation surprised her with a party!



A bouquet of flowers for the birthday girl!



♪♪ Happy birthday, dear Mary Ellen! ♪♪

Look at all these young people!



A basket full of cards from the members of Messiah.



“Happy 100th birthday, Mary Ellen!”



Friends of Spang Crest



The Friends of Spang Crest is an auxiliary organization dedicated to supporting activities and projects benefitting the residents of Spang Crest, Luthercare's Senior Living Community in Lebanon. In 2019 the Friends of Spang Crest donated over \$23,000 to Spang Crest for programs, services and purchases including:

- Outdoor patio furniture
- Activity program events
- Resident Halloween event
- Outdoor band concerts
- Family entertainment picnics
- Fish Tank maintenance

Membership levels are:

Membership	\$2.00
Contributing	\$5.00
Sustaining	\$10.00
Patron	\$25.00

Benevolent care
Resident Christmas gifts

Your membership dues, combined with generous donations from congregations, individuals, annual fundraising events and proceeds from the Spang Crest Gift Shop, will allow Friends of Spang Crest to continue its work in 2020.

For more information about being a "friend" to our residents or to make a contribution, please see **Nancie Whelan** (our Key Person). The membership drive will run until the end of March.



Souper Bowl of Caring Update



Thanks to everyone who made this year's Souper Bowl of Caring another great success.

We donated **\$770 in cash and 230 items of food** to stock the shelves at the Rescue Mission. The folks who run the Rescue Mission and the guys who are living at the Mission

truly appreciated the Super Bowl party and everything that the congregation does for them throughout the year.

Mission Church Food Giveaway

Iglesia Misionera Asamblea Cristiana sponsored their first food giveaway in January. It was a huge success and helped to feed many people in our community. Pictured below are Pastor Angel and many of his helpers.



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Robin Harris (office): messiahluthleb@epix.net

Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>

NALC Web Site

<http://www.thenalc.org>

Atlantic Mission Region Web Site

<http://www.atlantic-nalc.org>