



Messiah Lutheran Church

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Messiah Messenger

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL, 2021

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Pastor's Page

As this Lenten season progresses, we respond to God's Call to examine ourselves with honest intent, identify lapses in moral restraint or spiritual self-control, and present our discernments to God in a spirit of penitence. Lent is not a "slap across the face" intended to hurt or shame us, but a gift intended to re-awaken us both to our need for God's Grace, and for the reality of that grace.

One might think of Lent as a "daily splash of cold water on the face of our soul" which awakens us and causes us to be spiritually alert again. It's hard to "wake up" sometimes, but it's also not good to sleep all the time. God gives us life in order to bless us, and to enable us to bless others through our presence in this world. Lenten spiritual renewal puts us in the right place again to benefit from God's blessings, and to share them with others in our lives.

Restoring a worn house or old car takes time, resources, and persistence. It's the same with a worn soul: time (patience), resources (support) and persistence (steadfastness in our faith-walk) are necessary, along with a vision—a goal. Sometimes, it help me to state the "goal" as simply as I can—to "reduce it" (as one "reduces" chicken stock to a savory, concentrated broth) to its vital essence.

For instance, this year I think

of my "spiritual goal" in term of "loving God better." To this end, one can ask such questions as "What would make God take pleasure in me, if He was the only One watching me today?"

Or, "What shall I ask God for this morning? I know, I'll ask God to help me so that I notice the people He puts in my path."

Or one might pray: "Father, open my eyes to blessings I haven't noticed yet, and help me respond to these blessings as a grateful child of Yours." The examples go on and on; I'm sure you will think of some on your own. I hope that when you do, you also act on them, to foster the restoration and renewal of your soul in these forty days.

One blessing of the past year has been the continuing regular giving of members to support the ministries of Messiah. This involves, of course, tithes (10%) and offerings, which despite the attendance restrictions imposed in response to the Covid crisis, very nearly matched those of 2019, pre-Covid. In addition, offerings of time—by Council members and particularly by those who have cleaned and sanitized on 'workdays'—have been very important.

Because Treasurer Kathy Lilley gave hours of her time to the application and verification process for a "forgivable

Federal loan" authorized by Congress during the Covid crisis, Messiah also received \$22,000 (toward payroll and utility expenses, all documented) in 2020. This funding substantially improved our financial condition, although even so, we did not quite finish "in the black."

But we have been blessed, with faithful member support and with consistent Sunday worshippers. Most congregations returning to "in-person" worship report seeing 20 to 40% of their pre-Covid attendance. At Messiah, we are closer to 65% of pre-Covid. Given that many of us must exercise caution due to age or pre-existing conditions, this is very commendable. It is a blessing for all of us to see so many of our brothers and sisters at worship, even though we miss others who must still stay home. Let us recognize our blessings in all this, and discern God's encouragement as we walk through Lent with God and with one another.

Peace to you, Pastor +

P.S. . . . You'll recall that I encouraged all of us to contribute a tithe of last year's "stimulus checks" to Messiah. I'm asking you all to do the same with the 2021 stimulus funds we are receiving. Carey and I are doing this (10%) again, and we invite you to take this opportunity to join us in "loving God and one another" in this way if you are able. To God be the glory.

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS

9 AM Service of Holy Communion
 10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour

WEDNESDAYS:

10 AM Communion by appointment
 10:30 AM Communion by appointment
 (as noted on the calendar)

Cards Needed!

Please recycle your **Christmas cards** by placing them in the box on the oak table in the narthex. The supply is running low. More cards are needed to make an adequate supply of Christmas books for our shut ins for this coming Christmas. 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 for you to use. If you feel you can’t care for one or two flowerbeds by yourself please feel free to team up with someone else to work together. What a great outdoor fellowship opportunity! Your offerings of time and energy are greatly appreciated.

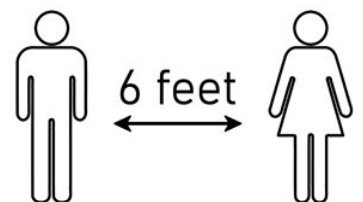
Communion by Appt.

Pastor Kendall continues to offer Communion by appointment on Wednesday mornings at 10 AM and again at 10:30 AM for those who are limiting their exposure to others. Please call the church office at 717-272-2922 to make an appointment. Please wear a mask until receiving the Sacramental elements.



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.

Lenten Study Series



With the current pandemic still in play the decision was made by Congregation Council to continue to suspend all non-worship activities at the church for the time being. Unfortunately, this includes the annual Wednesday evening Lent soup & bread meal and in-person Lenten Bible study series.

However, Messiah will still mark this important season of reflection with an e-study series. Pastor Kendall will be providing a midweek Lenten study series on *Understanding Spiritual Warfare*.

Every Wednesday during the season of Lent Robin will email that week's study to every member. This study may be printed from the email so you may read, reflect and write down your responses.

Each study will also be posted on the Messiah website at www.messiahluthleb.org. It can be located under the Resources tab on the "2021 Lenten Study Series" page.



Lenten Devotional

The 2021 NALC Lenten devotional *From Ashes to Easter* is available online. You may access the link at <https://thenalc.org/lent2021/>. This webpage will guide to the various ways you may access the devotional to best suit your needs (either printed, via text or email, or as a podcast).



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 28: The Sunday of the Passion:
9 AM The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms

10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour

Monday, March 29 - OFFICE CLOSED

Maundy Thursday, April 1:

OFFICE CLOSED

7:30 PM The Liturgy of the Last Supper with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 2:

7:30 PM The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, April 3:

7—8:30 PM Prayer Vigil on the Eve of Easter

Sunday, April 4, The Resurrection of Our Lord:

9 AM The Holy Communion

(No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)

Lent



Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from the NALC, NAL Seminary, City of Lebanon, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Lutheran World Relief, and the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC. 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 am glad I was able to play this year despite the changes in worship. I have always enjoyed the opportunity of playing music, and am so grateful for your flexibility and support in these ever changing times.

Thank you all again for your kindness and generosity!

Erin Trovinger



To Pastor and Carey and those who sent flowers and best wishes to make my birthday the wonderful time it was. I wish you a wonderful year ahead, and may God bless you all.

Love and best wishes,
Mary Ellen Dietrich



Dear Members of Messiah,

I wish to thank all of you for the generous Christmas gift. Last year challenged all of us, and your gift was very gracious in these difficult times. May God continue to bless Messiah, all the servants and members in the New Year.

Karen Fox
Cantor Emerita



Dear Members of Messiah,

I would like to thank all of you for the very generous Christmas gift. I feel so blessed to be working here, especially in these challenging times. I appreciate your kind words of encour-

agement as we adjusted to worshiping from home for a bit and then adjusting to worshiping in person again. Thank you for keeping me busy even when I was working from home.

I would also like to thank you for the prayers, particularly for my husband Bennett. It has been a challenging year in many ways, and your love and support are very appreciated. You have blessed my family in so many ways—thank you!

In Christian love,
Robin Harris



Dear friends,

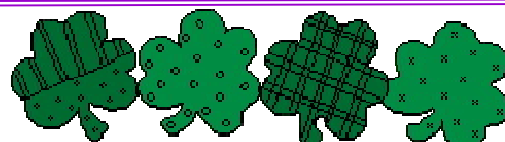
Thank you for the gifts you brought to Agape House for our families. They enjoyed Christmas so much this year. We appreciate your kindness and caring spirit.

Blessings,
Cynthia Smith
Director, Agape Family Shelter



Thank you for your prayers. I miss you all very much. I continue to feel connected with you through online services and newsletters and updates. God's blessings!

Love,
Eileen Ledger



It's a Girl!



Congratulations to Alyssa Knouff (and to grandparents Rick and Pam Knouff) on the birth of

Alivia Marie Knouff.

Alivia was born on February 8, 2021. She weighed in at 9 lbs. 11 oz. and was 21" long. May God richly bless this new family.

March 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 7 Karen Fox
- 14 Kathaleen Lilley
- 21 Deborah Lutz
- 28 Kathaleen Lilley



Altar Guild

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



Lector

- 7 Carey Kendall
- 14 Ernestine Batdorf
- 21 Deborah Lutz
- 28 Kathaleen Lilley



Crucifer

- 7 Gayle Hoffman
- 14 Rita Savant
- 21 Kathaleen Lilley
- 28 Ernestine Batdorf



Greeters

- 7 **NEEDED**
- 14 **NEEDED**
- 21 **NEEDED**
- 28 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 7 Karen Hatt
- 14 Ernestine Batdorf
- 21 Karen Zivic
- 28 Harry Hatt



Head Usher
Eugene Martin



Finance Stewards
Deb Lutz & Michael Ernst

WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

March 7 – CANCELLED



April 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 1 7:30 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 4 Nancie Whelan
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Charlotte Varone
- 25 Daniel LaRue



Altar Guild

- 1 Teenie Batdorf & Deb Lutz (set up); Lori Wert, Karen Hatt, Gayle Hoffman during the liturgy
- 2 Deborah Lutz
- 4 Deborah Lutz
- 11 Barb Adams & Karen Zivic
- 18 Rita Savant & Gayle Hoffman
- 25 Karen Hatt & Nancie Whelan



Lector

- 1 7:30 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 4 Nancie Whelan
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Charlotte Varone
- 25 Daniel LaRue



Crucifer

- 1 7:30 PM Gayle Hoffman
- 4 Eugene Martin
- 11 Sandra Smith
- 18 Daniel LaRue
- 25 Kathaleen Lilley



Greeters

- 1 7:30 PM **NEEDED**
- 4 **NEEDED**
- 11 **NEEDED**
- 18 **NEEDED**
- 25 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 1 7:30 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 4 Karen Zivic
- Deborah Lutz
- 11 Nancie Whelan
- 18 Deborah Lutz
- 25 Daniel LaRue



Head Ushers
Harry & Karen Hatt



Finance Stewards
Harry Hatt & Michael Ernst

WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

April 4 — CANCELLED



Souper Bowl of Caring Update

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Souper Bowl of Caring another great success. We donated **\$450 in cash and 406 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. Maybe

next year we can share the pizza and watch the game with them.



2021 Congregation Council

- Nicholas Adams**, *President*
David Machamer, *Vice-President, Evangelism, Personnel and Property Co-Chair*
Gayle Hoffman, *Interim Secretary, Volunteer Resources*
Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary*
Michael Ernst
Harry Hatt, *Property Co-chair*
Deborah Lutz, *Stewardship Chair*
Karen Zivic

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

- Karen Fox**, *Worship Planning*
Karen Hatt, *Fellowship Chair*
Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*
Rita Savant, *Assistant Finance Secretary and Social Ministry Chair*
Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer*



Messiah Lutheran Church

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

E-mail

Pastor Kendall: messiahpastor@epix.net
 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>

For Your Information

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS



MARCH 7
 &
APRIL 4

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*.



The annual Friends of Spang Crest membership drive has been cancelled this year.

Please keep them in your prayers.



2020 General Fund Financial Summary

Income & Expenses At-A-Glance			
			Year-to-date
	Income		\$143,373.05
	Expenses		\$169,101.76
	Income Less Expenses		-\$25,728.71

		<u>Year-to-date</u>
Income:		
Total Giving		\$143,373.05
Total Income		<u>\$143,373.05</u>
Ministry Plan Year-to-date		\$177,845.00
Expenses:		
Staff		\$118,548.08
Administrative		3,379.05
Maintenance		27,840.33
Committee		0.00
Additional		4,500.00
Benevolence		13,634.30
Loan Repayment		1,200.00
Total Expenses		<u>\$169,101.76</u>
Income Less Expenses		<u><u>(\$25,728.71)</u></u>

January through June	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total to Charity
NALC	\$7,930.83		\$7,930.83
Atlantic Mission District	\$685.94		\$685.94
Mission Partners*	\$450.00		\$450.00
NALC Seminary	\$552.82		\$552.82
NALC Disaster Response	\$552.82		\$552.82
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape	\$552.81		\$552.81
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$552.81		\$552.81
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$552.82		\$552.82
Lutheran World Relief	\$552.82	\$145.00	\$697.82
ICII	\$552.82		\$552.82
City of Lebanon	\$552.81		\$552.81
Total	\$13,489.30	\$145.00	\$13,634.30

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

December & January Ministry Plan Summaries

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
*12/6	\$3,441.00	30 + / 12 LiF
12/13	\$2,465.00	33 + / 13 LiF
12/20	\$1,771.00	30 + / 13 LiF
4 PM 12/24	(rolled into 12/27)	39 +
7:30 PM 12/24	(rolled into 12/27)	14 +
12/27	\$6,612.00	39 + / no LiF

Budgeted need per week for 2021: \$3,396.13

1/3	\$6,199.00	22 + / no LiF
1/10	\$4,628.46	37 + / 14 LiF
*1/17	\$2,031.00	29 + / 15 LiF
1/24	\$2,395.00	34 + / 14 LiF
1/31	\$2,070.00	23 + / no LiF

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 19, 2021.

- The motion to continue the previous suspension of all non-worship activities was made and approved by the Congregation Council.
- Financial reports were reviewed and approved, pending audit.
- The Congregation Council wishes to thank everyone for being compliant with the COVID-19 guidelines.
- Officers and committee chairs for 2021 can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.



February Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

- The Pastor's report, financial and treasurer's reports were reviewed and accepted.
- Kathy Lilley provided the Finance Committee report regarding Zeller Trust earnings.
 - A new dehumidifier for the nave will be purchased and installed within the month.
 - There was a motion to continue the suspension of all non-worship activities with the church (due to COVID-19).



Respectfully submitted,
 Gayle Hoffman
 Interim Congregation Council Secretary

March Birthdays

- 2 Drew Surmacz
- 8 John Schimminger
- 12 Carol Anspach
Cash Anspach
Jaxson Roof
- 13 Ivy Lutz
Janet Miller
- 14 Robert Donmoyer
- 15 Brenda Beegle
- 19 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 Walter & Margaret Shirey
- 25 Bryan & Gayle Hoffman
- 27 Matthew & Jessica Lutz



Spring Convocation

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 8** for the annual spring gathering of the twelve congregations of the Central Mission District.

This spring's Convocation is currently scheduled to be held at **St. John's Lutheran Church** (1035 Old River Road) **Birdsboro, PA**. There will be a virtual option for those who may be more comfortable attending virtually.

Guest speakers at our spring convocation will be members of a prayer ministry team from Reformation LC (Culpeper, VA). We will also be discussing the upcoming election of a new Regional Dean in October and enjoy fellowship with one another (safely, of course).

Please see Pastor or Robin if you are interested in attending. More details (like times and cost) will be announced as the event is planned.



Spring Forward!



Don't forget to **set all your clocks forward one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 13 so you will be on time for church on **March 14**.