

**INSIDE THIS  
 ISSUE:**

Thank You Notes	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Monthly Schedules	3
Lenten Meals & Bible Study	4
Holy Week Schedule	5
Easter Egg Hunt	5
February Council Meeting Highlights	6
General Fund Summary for January	7
January Ministry Plan Report	8
Worship Schedule	8

**SPECIAL  
 POINTS OF  
 INTEREST**

- Address Changes (Page 2)
- Upcoming Events (Page 4)
- Easter Breakfast (Page 5)
- 2015 Congregation Council (Page 5)
- Announcements (Page 6)
- Souper Bowl of Caring Update (Page 7)
- Friends of Spang Crest (Page 8)

## Pastor's Page

Lent and New Babies . . .

Well, this is how Robin, our Office Manager, summed up "March 2015" after conducting me to her chair to write this in time for the Newsletter deadline.

It is indeed Lent, and as you read this, we will be well underway in the observance. I hope you are able to participate in the special opportunities which Lent provides, both individually and corporately. This is how we are renewed spiritually as sinners rescued from living death in unbelief and rebellion by a loving God Who wants so much more for us.

God wants for us a life lived in the certain knowledge that we were created for good purposes; that we are loved by our Creator; that our broken nature has not put God off, but has moved Him to come down, in the Person of Jesus, just for us; and that the life we now live, made clean by the Cross of Christ, is eternal in its nature, as has been proven by the glorious

Resurrection of Jesus.

This is the most important thing in the whole world. It transcends where we live, what we can or cannot do, how long our mortal lives may span, and all our human relationships and experiences.

Only the love of God and the salvation of God are forever.

I think of this every time I think of new babies. Several families in our congregation have welcomed new additions in recent months, with another coming very soon.

Further away, as most of you now know, another new baby has changed the status of Carey and myself from merely "parents" and "in-laws" to "grandparents" as well.

In March, God willing, we'll fly to Denver to see our granddaughter, Colbie Grace Kendall. Sometime in this period, Colbie's title will also change, from daughter and granddaughter to "child of God" as well.

As I reflect on this sweet little girl (whom my wife cannot WAIT to hold; me, I'm just going to make sure I don't get run over as Carey makes a beeline to do just that), I find myself thankful for one thing above all others.

I'm thankful that our granddaughter has two informed, committed, actively Christian parents to raise her, and that they have found a faithful congregation in which to worship and live their Baptism as a family.

I know that they will take their Christian vocation as parents very seriously. I also know, from personal experience, that both of them will gain new insights into God's love as our Father as they themselves shower love upon their child.

There's nothing better for a grandparent to ask for any new grandchild, and nothing more encouraging for a grandparent than to know this prayer is answered: that his/her grandchild will grow up knowing, trusting, and loving the Lord. +

## Thank You Notes



Thank you!

Thank you notes were received from the Rescue Mission, the Caring Cupboard, Water Missions International and Lutheran World Relief. They are available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.



Thank you for your recent gift to Lutheran Bible Translators. We welcome your partnership in bringing Scripture to those who do not have it in a language they can clearly understand.

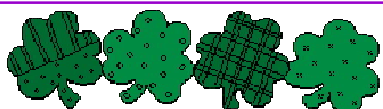
God bless,  
Sharon Vega  
Lutheran Bible Translators

## Greeters Needed



Have you noticed how EMPTY our Greeter sign up sheets are? They are rather dismal for March and totally empty for April, and the May–August sign up sheet is equally EMPTY. We need YOU and your friendly smile to greet your fellow worshippers on a Sunday morning.

It is not hard, and it is a lovely way to get your Sunday morning going. Please help us out and sign up today to be a Greeter!



## Address Changes

**Gene Martin** has a new email address. It is now [genemartin389@gmail.com](mailto:genemartin389@gmail.com). He is no longer using his old account.

Please remember to notify the church office if you have **moved**, have a **new email address**, or have a **new phone number**.

## March Birthdays

- 1 Ashley Artz  
Katelyn McGuire
- 4 April Via
- 8 John Schimminger
- 10 Richard Markey  
Trevia Matthew  
Joan Smith
- 12 Carol Anspach  
Cash Anspach  
Fred Van Winkle
- 13 Janet Miller
- 14 Robert Donmoyer
- 15 Brenda Beegle
- 19 Jacquelyn Dohner  
Rev. Rodney Lilley
- 20 Alyssa Knouff
- 22 Nicolle Smith
- 24 Seth Hartman
- 28 Deborah Lutz
- 29 Kay Zellers



## March Anniversaries

- 8 Fred & Caroline Harnisch
- 11 Gordon & Laura Ebright
- 21 George & Donna Felder
- 29 Rod & Eileen Ledger



## It's a Girl!



Congratulations to David and Christy Kendall (and first time grandparents Pastor and Carey Kendall) on the birth of

**Colbie Grace Kendall.**

Colbie was born on February 9, 2015. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 13 oz and was 19-1/4" long. May God richly bless this new family!

# March 2015 Schedules

## Assisting Minister By Sharon Garner

- 1 Deborah Lutz
- 8 Sandra Smith
- 15 Nicholas Adams
- 22 Karen Fox
- 29 Pam Knouff



## Lector By Sharon Garner

- 1 Carey Kendall
- 8 Sandra Smith
- 15 Nicholas Adams
- 22 Karen Fox
- 29 Pam Knouff



## Greeters

- 1 Marion Bowman
- 8 **NEEDED**
- 15 **NEEDED**
- 22 **NEEDED**
- 29 **NEEDED**



**Head Usher**  
Nicholas Adams



**Finance Steward**  
Lori Oliver



## Altar Guild

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



## Crucifer By Carol Artz

- 1 Michael Bowman
- 8 Michael Bowman
- 15 Gayle Hoffman
- 22 Gayle Hoffman
- 29 Andrew Hartman



## Acolyte By Sharon Garner

- 1 Keeley Hartman
- 8 Michelle Blouch
- 15 Mikayla Bowman
- 22 Mary Whelan
- 29 Abbey Hartman



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

**March 1** — Fellowship Committee



# Lenten Bible Study



Pastor Kendall will be leading a series using **The Stations of the Cross** for study and personal devotions every Wednesday evening in Lent. There will be printed material distributed at each class. **Please sign up** on the Information Board so Robin may make the number of copies needed for each week. The schedule is as follows:

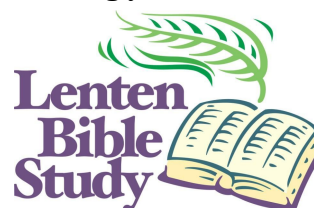
- March 4
- March 11
- March 18
- March 25

The Soup and Bread meal (see below) will be held at 6 PM with the Bible study to follow at 6:45 PM.

If the meal does not work for you, then you are welcome to come to only the Bible 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!



## 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. We are posting **sign up sheets** at the end of the month in the narthex for each week so we may get a head count. This sheet will also list the soups that will be provided for that week.

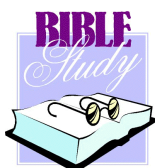
Please consider joining us for nourishment and fellowship prior to our Lenten study series. It's food for the body and soul!



## Upcoming Events

### Bible Study

**Thursday, March 12**  
At 7 PM



We will continue our study on the Gospel according to St. John



### First Communion Instruction

**Sunday, March 15 at 2 PM**

For all youth 3rd grade and higher

There will be

**NO EVENT NIGHT**

this month.



# Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 29, The Sunday of the Passion:

**9 AM** The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms

**10:30 AM** Living in Faith Education hour

**12:30 PM** Confirmation class

Maundy Thursday, April 2:

**12 PM** The Liturgy of the Last Supper

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

Good Friday, April 3:

**7:30 PM** The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, April 4, The Vigil of Easter:

**7:30 PM** The Vigil of Easter with the Rite of Confirmation through Affirmation of Baptism

Sunday, April 5, The Resurrection of Our Lord:

**7:30 AM** Easter Breakfast

**8 AM** Easter Egg Hunt

**9 AM** The Holy Communion  
(No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)



# Easter Egg Hunt



The Evangelism Ministry Team will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for all Messiah kids ages 2-10 on **Sunday, April 5 at 8 AM** (following the Easter breakfast). The children will be

separated into groups by age (2-4, 5-7, and 8-10). Bring your own basket! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Evangelism Ministry Team (Deb Lutz, Mary Garrett, Sharon Garner or Charlotte Varone).



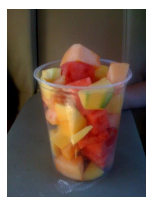
# Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 5

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 the whole month of March after worship. See Harry and Karen Hatt for tickets or more information.

## Menu



Scrambled Eggs

Little Smokies

French Toast Sticks

Fruit Cup

Coffee

Tea

Juice



The sign-up sheet will be located on the Information Center in the narthex.

# 2015 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President & Property chair*

Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Secretary &*

*Christian Education chair*

Pam Knouff, *Treasurer*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Financial Secretary &*

*Publicity chair*

Brenda Beegle, *Volunteer Resources chair*

Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism chair*

Lori Oliver

Donald Smith, *Stewardship chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer & Finance chair*

Rita Savant, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

# For Your Information

## March 1 FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect food and personal care products for our neighbors in need. Unless there is a special request from a specific agency, the schedule is as follows:

### Caring Cupboard



**PLEASE DO NOT MIX SOAP AND FOOD IN THE SAME BAG.**

## 2014 Year End Statements



Your 2014 year end statement is available to pick up. They are located on the narthex table by the choir room.

## World Day of Prayer Friday, March 6 at 7 PM



Annville United Methodist Church (1 N. College Ave)

Sponsored by the United Church Women of Lebanon Co.



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!**

## OPEN FLOWER DATES

June 21  
September 13  
December 6



Please contact Janet Gassert at 272-3757 if you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these Sundays. Thank you.

# February Congregation Council Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

- Devotions were presented by President Nick Adams.
- Pastor reported that Ash Wednesday is February 18. The topic of the midweek Lenten study will be the Stations of the Cross. Participants will receive copies of illustrated devotional materials each week.
- The Fellowship Committee reported the Easter breakfast menu will be the same as last year. They will be selling tickets starting March 1 at \$2 each.
- Several trips sponsored by the Fellowship Committee are planned for this year. The first is to the Mennonite Information Center on April 18 to see the Biblical Tabernacle followed by a trip to Eckley's Miners Village for their Patch Town Days on June 20. A blood drive for the Central Penn Blood Bank will be held here on May 19 from 3-7 PM (same day as the Primary Election).
- The Council approved moving funds from the bus trip fund and the children's library fund to the General Fund to help with expenses. The money in these funds have been there for years and we no longer use them.
- There was discussion on the new child care law and its effects. Committee chairs are to report back to Council those members who might need to get background checks to work with children.
- A Council retreat has been scheduled for March 14 and will consist of a Bible study and an inside church cleaning day.
- There was discussion on the state of our Confirmation Ministry. Pastor presented a report and recommendations for our consideration.
- There is a need for someone to chair the Social Ministry Committee. They are very active and someone is needed to report to council on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Adams, Congregation Council president

# General Fund Summary for January, 2015

	January	Year/date
Income	\$12,148.32	\$12,148.32
Expenses	\$14,450.52	\$14,450.52
Income-expenses	<b>-\$2,302.20</b>	<b>-\$2,302.20</b>

Income	January	Year/date	Expenses	January	Year/date
Regular giving	\$11,769.00	\$11,769.00	Staff	\$9,450.52	\$9,450.52
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$60.00	\$60.00	Administrative	\$199.80	\$199.80
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00	Maintenance	\$3,025.20	\$3,025.20
Checking interest	\$0.32	\$0.32	Additional	\$375.00	\$375.00
Donations (use of church)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Benevolence	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$319.00</u>	<u>\$319.00</u>	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,148.32</b>	<b>\$12,148.32</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$14,450.52</b>	<b>\$14,450.52</b>

\*initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc.

Income less expenses-**-\$2,302.20**      **-\$2,302.20**

## Benevolence Offering

January 2015	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$775.00		\$775.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$50.00		\$50.00
Independent Church in India	\$50.00		\$50.00
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$50.00		\$50.00
NALC Disaster Response	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$50.00		\$50.00
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
Ethiopian Church Relief Fund	\$50.00		\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,300.00</b>



## Souper Bowl of Caring Update

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

donated **\$340 in cash** and **105 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.

# Friends of Spang Crest

The Friends of Spang Crest Manor was established in the late 1950's as a way to communicate between Spang Crest Manor and the local Lutheran congregations. Over the years, the Friends have provided volunteers and resources to Spang Crest Manor. In 2014, this organization raised and donated over \$17,000 towards enhancing the lives of our residents. Please help the residents of Spang Crest Manor know that they are still val-

ued members of the church and community. Please donate towards the 2015 Friends of Spang Crest Manor Membership campaign.

Membership levels are:

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

For more information about being a "friend" to our resi-

dents, please see **Nancie Whelan** (our Key Person). The membership drive will run until the end of March.

Thank you for your continued support in this endeavor.



## January Ministry Plan Summary

*Budgeted need per week: \$3,476.75*

<u>Date</u>	<u>General Fund received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1/4	\$4,021.00	69 + / 14 LiF
1/11	\$3,228.00	70 + / 29 LiF
1/18	\$2,190.00	59 + / 18 LiF
1/25	\$2,772.00	65 + / 21 LiF

**Received to date:** \$12,148.32  
**Needed to date:** \$15,065.92

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



## Weekly Worship Schedule

### SUNDAYS

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

### WEDNESDAYS:

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



### Messiah Lutheran Church

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

#### E-mail

Pastor Kendall: [messiahpastor@epix.net](mailto:messiahpastor@epix.net)  
 Robin Harris/office: [messiahluthleb@epix.net](mailto:messiahluthleb@epix.net)

#### Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>