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Pastor's Page

And so, through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never. Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within Thy House forever.

—Verse 6, “The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” by Henry Baker

Looking out the window at another wet, dreary late-winter day, I remembered that the name “Lent” came from the Old English word *lencten*, which meant “spring.” After a thirty-inch snowstorm, inundating rains, power outages, and the short, dark days, many are looking forward to spring, to the “lengthening of days.”

These longer days, more than any groundhog, assure us that winter is winding down and spring is coming.

This thought, in turn, brought the lovely hymn verse above to mind. I had never thought of this as a Lenten hymn, but it could be—not in the usual penitential sense of sorrow for sins, but for another reason altogether.

We are in “the length of

days” that is the Lenten season, and we are called to self-examination, penitence, and heightened resolve to follow our Lord in faith and commitment.

Yet even in the midst of somber reflection on our sins, God’s goodness never fails us. Our very spirit of regret for our weakness and our rebelliousness is inspired by the Spirit of God. God gives us such awareness not to burden or frighten us, but to lift us from lives of darkness, storms, fear and doubt to a far better life; the life that is turned toward God in trust and in longing for a closer walk with Him.

Where would we end up if God did not care enough about us to call us home to Him? We would remain in those dark places. Indeed, we’d become so grown into them that we would mistake the darkness for light.

We know this is true, for we see it in the lives of many who are turned from God and even hostile to others who are not so turned away. The fruits they yield are re-

sentment, rationalization, denial, frustration, and unsettlement that can boil over into despair: an unending “winter of the soul.”

We are profoundly blessed because God has called us from spiritual winter into the eternal spring of His Light. He is reminding us that He has done something about our lost-ness. God has established a Place outside the darkness, a place of abundant life and abiding hope. He calls us to look upon the Cross and the Crucified One. He reminds us that as spring approaches, so do we approach the celebration of God’s gracious favor for us, shown both upon the atoning Cross and by the empty Tomb which speaks volumes about the love and power of God in Christ Jesus.

He tells us again, through the steady witness of the Church, that we have every reason to “sing His praise within His House forever”—because He has made a place for US there. Spring does not stop with Easter; for us, “spiritual spring” is just beginning.

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.



A big “thank you” to Joan Smith for coming to the aid of the Altar Guild and donating an iron for wax removal. It is much appreciated!

Janet Gassert
Altar Guild President



Welcome Time?



Have you noticed how EMPTY the Welcome Time sponsor sheet is? There are no sponsors signed up for the rest of 2016 until December! **If there are no sponsors for Welcome Time then Welcome Time won't happen.** Please consider sharing your culinary talents and time for this wonderful fellowship opportunity. Thank you.

Open Flower Dates

There are multiple open dates for flower sponsorship this year. Please consider sponsoring flowers (or giving a donation in lieu of flowers) for any of the following dates:

May 1
August 7
August 14
December 11



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

March Birthdays

- 1 Ashley Artz
- 8 John Schimminger
- 10 Richard Markey
Treva Matthew
Joan Smith
- 12 Carol Anspach
Cash Anspach
Jaxson Roof
Fred Van Winkle
- 13 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

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



Free Choir Concert

You are invited to attend the Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir and Brass Ensemble concert on **Saturday, March 12 at 7 PM** at Zoar Lutheran Church (560 Freeport Road, Lebanon). Robin's daughter Anna (a senior) is a soprano in this choir. This is a free concert, but there will be a free will offering. Come enjoy a night full of beautiful sacred music from a nationally renowned university choir!



March 2016 Schedules

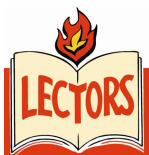
Assisting Minister

- 6 Charlotte Varone
- 13 Karen Fox
- 20 Ernestine Batdorf
- 24 12 noon Ernestine Batdorf
7:30 PM Mary Garrett
- 27 Nancie Whelan



Lector

- 6 Pr. James DeLong
- 13 Karen Fox
- 20 Ernestine Batdorf
- 24 12 noon Ernestine Batdorf
7:30 PM Mary Garrett
- 27 Nancie Whelan



Greeters

- 6 Joseph Hartman
- 13 Kathaleen Lilley
- 20 Charlotte Varone
- 24 12 noon **NEEDED**
7:30 PM Deborah Lutz
- 26 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 27 **NEEDED**



Head Usher
Nicholas Adams



Finance Steward
Deborah Lutz

WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

March 6 — Harry & Karen Hatt



Altar Guild

- Janet Gassert, chair
- 6 Marjorie Beard & Lori Wert
- 13 Kay Zellers & Mary Ann Hartman
- 20 Rita Savant, Gayle Hoffman & Carol Frantz
- 24 (noon) Mary Ellen Dietrich & Janet Gassert
(7:30 PM) Marjorie Beard & Lori Wert (Karen Hatt helps with stripping of the Altar)
- 25 Tom & Janet Gassert
- 26 (7:30 PM) Pastor Kendall, Mary Ellen Dietrich, Tom & Janet Gassert, Kay Zellers, Marjorie Beard & Rita Savant
- 27 Janet Gassert



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 6 Eugene Martin
- 13 Eugene Martin
- 20 Rita Savant
- 24 12 noon Rita Savant
7:30 PM Kathaleen Lilley
- 25 7:30 PM Kathaleen Lilley
- 27 Nicholas Adams



Acolyte

- 6 Michelle Blouch
- 13 Keeley Hartman
- 20 Mary Whelan
- 24 7:30 PM Michelle Blouch
- 26 7:30 PM Mary Whelan
Mikayla Bowman
- 27 Abbey Hartman
Keeley Hartman



Lenten Bible Study



Pastor Kendall is leading a Lenten study series asking “**What does it mean to...**” every Wednesday evening during the season of Lent. The schedule is as follows:

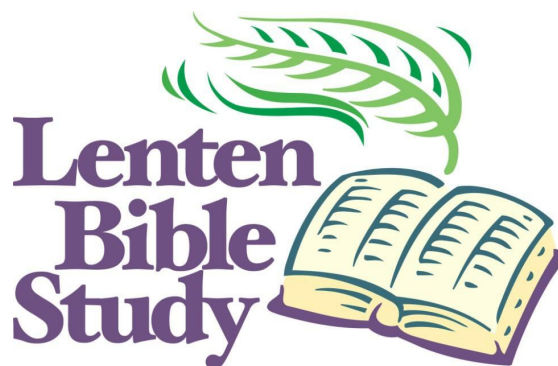
- March 2—worship God
- March 9—love God
- March 16—give (share) God

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 ex-

perience 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. 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.

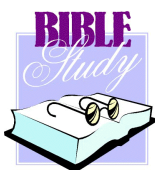
Please consider joining us for nourishment and fellowship prior to our Lenten study series. It's food for the body and soul!



Upcoming Events

Bible Study

Thursday, March 10
at 7 PM



We will continue our study on the epistles of St. John.



Event Night

Thursday, March 17
at 6:30 PM

Come on out for a fun night of games and fellowship!

The Confirmation of

Mikayla Kaitlin Bowman



Vigil of Easter
Saturday, March 26
7:30 PM

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 20, The Sunday of the Passion:

9 AM The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms

10:30 AM Joint Living in Faith class (James)

Maundy Thursday, March 24:

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, March 25:

7:30 PM The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, March 26, The Vigil of Easter:

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

Sunday, March 27, The Resurrection of Our Lord:

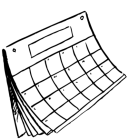
7:30 AM Easter Breakfast

8 AM Easter activities for the children

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

Easter Activities for Kids

The Evangelism Committee will be sponsoring indoor Easter activities for the children of Messiah up to age 8 after the breakfast on Easter morning (March 27). A simple egg hunt for the very young children and a table activity for the older children are being planned. See you there!



Historical Dates

This year is Messiah's 150th year! To help commemorate this milestone Robin will be taking interesting facts from Messiah's history and including them on our monthly calendars. Thank you to Marion Bowman who researched all the interesting historical happenings!

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 27

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.

2016 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President & Property co-chair*
Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Secretary & Christian Ed chair*
Harry Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*

Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism & Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Property co-chair*

Lori Oliver, *Publicity chair*

Rita Savant, *Social Ministry chair & Financial Secretary*

Donald Smith, *Stewardship chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:
Ernestine Batdorf, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild*

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*

Pam Knouff, *Assistant Treasurer*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*

For Your Information

March 6 FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect food and personal care products for our neighbors in need. This month our collections will go to:

Caring Cupboard



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



Don't forget to **set all your clocks forward one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 12 so you will be on time for church on **March 13!**

World Day of Prayer Friday, March 4 at 7 PM

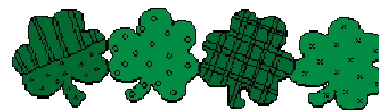
Annville UCC
200 S. Oak St (Rt. 934)



August Communion Gifts



August has become available for Communion gift sponsorship. Cost is \$30 for the month, and the donation will be included in your yearly giving summary. You may sponsor the gifts in honor or in memory of whomever you wish. If you are interested, please contact Robin in the office.



February Congregation Council Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

- Nine members were present; one member was excused.
- Devotions were led by Lori Oliver.
- The new Personnel Policy was adopted.
- Permission was given to Carlton Square Homeowners Association to use the sanctuary for their annual meeting.
- There was discussion regarding releasing the Ministry Plan for the next year as early as possible in order to give everyone time to review it before the annual congregation meeting in November.
- The Fellowship Committee presented the outings and dinners that are planned for the year. Details to follow as they come up.
- There was discussion to use Thrivent Dollars to have a picnic for the children in the Agape Shelter. It will likely be held here sometime in May or June.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Adams
Congregation Council president

General Fund Summary for January, 2016

	January	Year/date
Income	\$13,033.14	\$13,033.14
Expenses	\$14,500.94	\$14,500.94
Income-expenses	-\$1,467.80	-\$1,467.80

Income	January	Year/date
Regular giving	\$12,776.93	\$12,776.93
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$35.00	\$35.00
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00
Checking interest	\$0.21	\$0.21
Donations (use of church)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$221.00</u>	<u>\$221.00</u>
Total Income	\$13,033.14	\$13,033.14

Expenses	January	Year/date
Staff	\$10,002.71	\$10,002.71
Administrative	\$260.22	\$260.22
Maintenance	\$2,304.68	\$2,304.68
Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional	\$500.00	\$500.00
Benevolence	\$1,333.33	\$1,333.33
Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total expenses	\$14,500.94	\$14,500.94
Income less expenses	-\$1,467.80	-\$1,467.80

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

Benevolence Offering

January 2016	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$775.00		\$775.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
Ethiopian Church Relief Fund	\$54.16		\$54.16
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$54.16		\$54.16
Independent Church in India	\$54.16		\$54.16
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$54.17		\$54.17
NALC Disaster Response	\$54.17		\$54.17
Lutheran World Relief	\$54.17		\$54.17
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$54.17		\$54.17
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$54.17		\$54.17
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
Total	\$1,333.33	\$0.00	\$1,333.33



Souper Bowl of Caring Update

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

donated **\$600 in cash** and **110 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 is an auxiliary organization dedicated to supporting activities and projects benefitting the residents of Spang Crest, Luthercare's Senior Living Community in Lebanon. In 2015 the Friends of Spang Crest donated over \$25,000 to Spang Crest for programs, services and purchases including:

- Benevolent care
- Resident Christmas gifts

- Picnic tents
- Patio furniture
- Bus trips
- Hearing assisted devices for Chapel
- Resident Halloween party
- Outdoor band concerts
- Family Entertainment nights
- Fish Tank maintenance

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 2016.

Membership levels are:

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

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

January Ministry Plan Summary

Budgeted need per week: \$3,575.60

Date	Amount Received	Attendance
1/3	\$3,202.00	63 + / 14 LiF
1/10	\$2,564.00	53 + / 21 LiF
1/17	\$3,176.93	67 + / 23 LiF
1/24	\$0.00	church canceled
1/31	\$4,621.00	66 + / 22 LiF



Received to date: \$13,033.14
Needed to date: \$15,494.25

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
 3rd 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 Lenten Study Series



Messiah Lutheran Church

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Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>