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## Pastor's Page

Lent is upon us. For some, "Lent" has become a by-line in a sitcom: "I'm giving 'xyz' up for Lent." Lent, the Christian liturgical season, is so much richer than this.

To think of Lent only as a time to "give something up" is to miss the point and to miss out. First of all, even to "give something up"—which is simply one form of "fasting"—is not an objective in itself, but a means to an end. In Judeo-Christian practice, "to fast" is to "make room for something important" by clearing away something less important.

If you choose to "give up" chocolate, or movies, or anything else, then replace what you are setting aside with a spiritual replacement. Fill the newly-available time with prayer, study, contemplation of your place in the Lord's Plan. Let that craving for what you have omitted be a memory prompt so that you gladly turn your thoughts to God, to self-examination, to confession and consideration of how your life can better reflect Christ.

Lent is not "for God;" Lent is for us. For believers; for disciples; for sinners reaching out to God asking for "a closer walk with Thee."

The truth is, we don't "give up" things for Lent; we gain blessings through experiencing Lent.

Self-examination leads to the blessings of confession and absolution, blessings only made possible by Christ crucified. Self-examination brings to our awareness our profound need for divine mercy, and the way God has met this need in the Cross and Resurrection.

Our deliberate and sober keeping of Lent prepares us for a joyful, but clear-eyed and informed, celebration of the Resurrection and its cost, its benefits, and surely the divine Love revealed throughout the Passion of our Lord.

All these remind us that sin and death are real and beyond our escaping; but also that God's merciful Answer to the realities of sin and death are true, and powerful, and eternal, and by God's grace,

ours. Thanks be to God for inspiring this priceless holy time for His people.

During the Lenten season, we are taking the opportunity to offer a three-week series on the subject of planning a Christian funeral or memorial liturgy.

These sessions will be held during the Living in Faith hour in the fellowship hall on March 5, 12 and 19.

Sessions will cover selecting Scripture texts and hymns, considerations related to the liturgy, differences between in-church and funeral-home gatherings, graveside-only and committal practices, matters related to special family or relationship circumstances, and the responsibilities of presiding clergy. Sample "planning sheets" will be provided for planning exercises, and participants may use this opportunity to enact or update actual plans for their future services (which can be kept on file). We are offering this series now, when Sunday attendance tends to be high. No sign-up is needed. Blessed Lent. +

# Thank You Notes



Thank you!

Thank you notes were received from the NALC, Lutheran Bible Translators and Independent Church in India. They are available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.



I want to thank you for the beautiful altar flowers and all the prayers for me. Thanks so much!

Margie Shirey

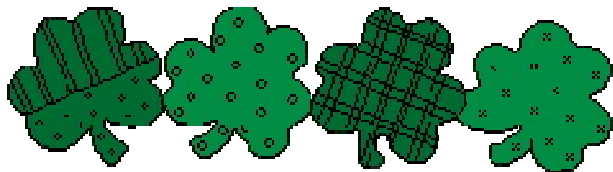


# Welcome Time?



Have you noticed how EMPTY the Welcome Time sponsor sheet is? There are many dates still open! **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.

Thank you.



# Spring Forward!



Don't forget to **set all your clocks forward one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 11 so you will be on time for church on **March 12!**

# March Birthdays

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

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



# 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:



- April 30
- June 18
- August 6
- August 13
- December 10

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

# March 2017 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 1 12 noon Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 5 Eugene Martin
- 12 Charlotte Varone
- 19 Daniel LaRue
- 26 Karen Fox



## Lector

- 1 12 noon Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 5 Pastor James DeLong
- 12 Charlotte Varone
- 19 Daniel LaRue
- 26 Karen Fox



## Greeters

- 1 12 noon **NEEDED**
- 7:30 PM Daniel LaRue
- 5 Marion Bowman
- 12 Harry & Karen Hatt
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Rita Savant



## Head Ushers

Nicholas and Barbara Adams



**Finance Steward**  
Gayle Hoffman

## Altar Guild

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



## Crucifer By Carol Artz

- 1 12 noon Carol Artz
- 7:30 PM Andrew Hartman
- 5 Andrew Hartman
- 12 Daniel LaRue
- 19 Kathaleen Lilley
- 26 Eugene Martin



## Acolyte

- 1 12 noon Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 5 Mary Whelan
- 12 Michael Bowman
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Harry Hatt



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

**March 5** — Laurite Vranesic



## Lenten Study Series

To help commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Pastor Kendall is leading a Lenten study series on **Luther's Small Catechism** every Wednesday evening during the season of Lent. The schedule is as follows:

**March 8**—The Ten Commandments

**March 15**—The Creed

**March 22**—The Lord's Prayer

**March 29**—The Sacraments of Holy Baptism & Holy Communion

**April 5**—The Life of a Christian

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.

A paper copy of Luther's Small Catechism will be available for each participant. Donations to cover the printing and copying costs will be accepted and appreciated. These copies are for you to use to make notes and keep. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Board so Robin will know how many copies to make.



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. 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!



## Spud-Tacular Potato Bar Luncheon



Come join the Fellowship Committee for a Spud-Tacular meal on **Sunday, March 12** after the Living in Faith Education Hour. Baked potatoes, both white and sweet, will be provided as well as all kinds of different toppings. A sign up sheet is located on the Information Board in the narthex.

If you are so inclined, please bring along a donation to our **Freezer Food Bank** (you may enjoy the potato bar without bringing a donation). Please make sure re-heating instructions are firmly affixed to the lid. Please also include the list of ingredients so those who use the Food Bank may choose the best meal for them.

Thank you!



# Holy Week Schedule

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

Maundy Thursday, April 13:  
**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 14:  
**7:30 PM** The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, April 15:  
**7:30 PM** The Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 16, The Resurrection of Our Lord:  
**7:30 AM** Easter Breakfast  
**9 AM** The Holy Communion  
 (No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)

# Lent



# World Day of Prayer

**Church Women United  
 World Day of Prayer**

**Sunday, March 5  
 at 2 PM**

Moravian Church of Lebanon  
 1115 Birch Road  
 Lebanon



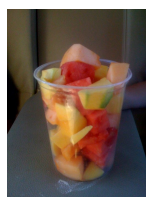
(Please note date and time change from the February newsletter.)

# Easter Breakfast

**Sunday, April 16  
 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 beginning March 26 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.

# 2017 Congregation Council

Harry Hatt, *President & Property chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Vice President, Personnel & Strategic Planning chair*

Karen Fox, *Secretary & Worship and Music chair*

Rita Savant, *Assistant Financial Secretary & Social Ministry chair*

Charlotte Varone, *Publicity chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Assistant Treasurer & Christian Education chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Ernestine Batdorf, *Financial Secretary*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*

Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism/Stewardship & Volunteer Resources chair*

# For Your Information

## March 5 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.**

Do you know the difference between this

יהודה  
T  
and this?

יהודה

If you would like to learn more about the Hebrew language, you are invited to attend an adult class on Sunday mornings to be taught by Pastor DeLong coming soon (after Easter)



## February Congregation Council Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

- ◆ A lawn care proposal for 2017 from Turf Corp. LLC of Newmanstown was received and approved. The proposal includes mowing, trimming and cleaning debris off walkways and curbing, and Spring and Fall broadleaf weed control.
- ◆ The Fellowship Committee reported that a trip to Gettysburg is being planned. A signup sheet with 2 possible dates has been posted in the Information Center. A “Spud-Tacular” luncheon is planned for Sunday, March 12 after Living in Faith. Lenten Bread and Soup Suppers will run from Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets will be on the Information Center.
- ◆ Pr. Kendall is continuing the dialogue with Pr. Hales regarding the Re-Development Journey.
- ◆ Corrie Shuey, Brenda Beegle, Patty Shuba, and Dawn Hummel removed for inactivity.
- ◆ The council continued a several months long evangelism study discussion begun at the December council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Fox  
Congregation Council secretary

# General Fund Summary for January, 2017

	January	Year/date
Income	\$12,777.46	\$12,777.46
Expenses	\$14,285.89	\$14,285.89
Income-expenses	<b>-\$1,508.43</b>	<b>-\$1,508.43</b>

Income	January	Year/date
Regular giving	\$12,463.25	\$12,463.25
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00
Checking interest	\$0.21	\$0.21
Donations (use of church)	\$100.00	\$100.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$214.00</u>	<u>\$214.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$12,777.46</b>	<b>\$12,777.46</b>

Expenses	January	Year/date
Staff	\$10,063.83	\$10,063.83
Administrative	\$258.74	\$258.74
Maintenance	\$2,089.64	\$2,089.64
Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional	\$500.00	\$500.00
Benevolence	\$1,273.68	\$1,273.68
Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$14,285.89</b>	<b>\$14,285.89</b>
Income less expenses	<b>-\$1,508.43</b>	<b>-\$1,508.43</b>

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

## Benevolence Offering

January 2017	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$750.00		\$750.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$825.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$825.00</b>

## Gettysburg Trip Being Planned

Are you interested in going to Gettysburg to tour some of the battlefield with our own history buff Pastor Kendall as the guide? If so then please check out the sign-up sheets posted on the Information Board in the narthex. There are two possible dates—**Saturday, March 25** or **Saturday, April 22**. Please indicate which

date you would prefer (or if both work then sign up for both dates). The date that receives the most names will be the day chosen.



## Souper Bowl of Caring Update

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

donated **\$643 in cash** and **167 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 2016 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
- Televisions for lounges
- Bus trips
- Patio Furniture
- Specialty wheelchairs
- Resident Halloween event
- 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 2017.

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: \$3,483.79*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1/1	\$2,452.00	51 + / 7 LiF
1/8	\$2,913.00	50 + / 5 LiF
1/15	\$1,972.00	41 + / 15 Kline presentation
1/22	\$2,410.25	50 + / 23 Joint LiF
1/29	\$3,160.00	51 + / 23 Kline presentation



**Received to date:** \$12,777.46  
**Needed to date:** \$15,096.42

**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 Lenten Study Series



### 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>



Pastor note: Pr. Paul Gausmann, a longtime friend, co-pastors St. Paul Lutheran Church, a congregation jointly affiliated with “Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ” and the NALC. Paul and Sally are very faithful Biblical/Confessional pastors who have long been active in the movement to uphold historic Lutheranism and Biblical Christianity in the face of postmodern revisionism and distortion of the Truth of the Gospel as handed down by the Apostles. Recently he published this article in his church newsletter, and generously gave me permission to reprint it in the “Messenger.”

This article sets an excellent tone for us as we honor the Lenten, Passiontide and Easter seasons of the Church in the midst of an indifferent and unbelieving society. +

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

*My son, keep your father's commandment,  
And forsake not your mother's teaching.  
Bind them on your heart always;  
Tie them around your neck.  
When you walk, they will lead you;  
When you lie down, they will watch over you;  
And when you awake, they will talk with you.*  
Proverbs 6:20-22

Sometimes Lutherans are too suspicious of the purpose of God's laws. Believing in the atoning death of Jesus Christ they think that Christ has so abolished the need for the law as to make it irrelevant. This kind of wrong thinking so snaked its way into our former denomination that many within it became moral relativists who in effect believed that there was no right or wrong only what one feels is important. No wonder the world is such a mixed up mess! In reality while it is true that none of us can earn our way to heaven, the atoning death of Christ so frees us of God's wrath that we wish to follow his commands out of pure love and a desire to serve Him. Good works flow naturally from our thanks for God's saving grace. Each of us has been made to glorify God, not to rebel against Him. To say otherwise is pure heresy and an invitation to hell.

I mention all this because the world is increasingly bearing the scars of its rebellion. This is seen in all sorts of ways, from children governing their households more than adults; from all kinds of immorality being condoned while any questioning or opposition to that is criticized. Many souls are being lost as people surrender true faith, becoming their own moral agents playing false gods in an increasingly godless and addictive environment.

How refreshing to hear the author of our verses from Proverbs in contrast to the confusion of our day. Here the author shows how in fact God's laws are really a letter of love to us, obedience to which will not buy us entry into heaven, but which are a gift to be treasured and lived out like air breathed in and exhaled. Let us teach our children and grandchildren to love the law with all their heart, especially in light of the grace and mercy given to us by Christ, the perfect law giver Who was obedient even unto death and rose again for our salvation.

Pastor Paul Gausmann  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, York

*Reprinted from the February 2017 St. Paul Parish Messenger and with permission from Pr. Gausmann*

## Emergency Contact Information

Recent experiences have shown us that there is a need for a file of emergency contact information for members of Messiah “just in case.” This file will be secured and used only if an emergency situation arises and we need to contact someone on your behalf. You may list as many people as you would like.

Please provide us with the names, relationship and phone contact information for those you would like us to contact in case of an emergency here at the church. You may leave this information on Robin’s desk or fold it and place it in the offering plate. The Finance Stewards will make sure Robin receives this information.

Thank you for your willingness to make sure we know who to call!

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Emergency Contacts:**

Name

Relationship to You

Phone Number(s)

| Name | Relationship to You | Phone Number(s) |
|------|---------------------|-----------------|
|      |                     |                 |
|      |                     |                 |
|      |                     |                 |
|      |                     |                 |
|      |                     |                 |

### **OPTIONAL:**

If you wish please list any emergency medications you carry with you (ex. nitroglycerin, epipen, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_