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**SPECIAL
 POINTS OF
 INTEREST**

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Pastor's Page

As you know, Pastor Billy Graham entered the Church Triumphant a few days ago. Among many illnesses he suffered in his final years, he lived for several decades with Parkinson's Disease and had bouts of encephalitis and pneumonia.

Up until his death, he continued to post messages on social media. His final message (2/20) is most appropriate for this season of self-examination and amendment of life:

If you went for a walk in the woods, but then decided to wander off the path, and found yourself surrounded by a thicket of thorns and poison ivy, who would you blame? Would you blame the person who built the path? No, of course not. Instead you'd blame yourself if you were honest, because you alone were responsible for wandering from the path.

In a far deeper way, this is what happens when we decide to leave God out of our lives. For a time, it may seem like wandering away from Him doesn't make any difference; it may even seem easier and freer. But eventually it catches up with us—just as

wandering off that path and into the thicket caught up with you.

We all “wander from the path” which God has carved out in the midst of this world's wilderness. We all stray into thorns and thickets, sit in seemingly lush places which turn out to be poisonous.

But we dare not take comfort from the knowledge that “all have sinned.” Having plenty of company in brokenness and idolatry doesn't mean we are in good company or in a good place. It means that many are in the place of death and destruction.

Billy Graham's ministry was, at heart, dedicated to the truth that we are all trapped in sin, and but for Jesus we always would be.

In answer to this truth, Graham, and many, have preached a greater Truth: Through Jesus Christ, God has destroyed the power of sin and death over humankind. Now, we have Hope.

God sent His Son onto the path through the wilderness to seek and to save the lost. Jesus showed Himself to be “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Through the Incarnation, Jesus even left the perfect path—Heaven—in order to reach those in misery among the thorns and poison. He Himself did not settle in those places, but reached out and took the hands and hearts of the entangled and the lost.

Kindly and lovingly, forthrightly and urgently, with whatever words or tone the situation required, Jesus called sinners from death to life and instructed us: “Follow Me!”

Our brother Billy preached this Lord, this Hope, this Way because he himself had found that the Lord welcomes those who have strayed, and offers us lifelong Help to walk on the Path with Him.

This, the Way of Life, is our comfort when we discern our straying and our sin. For us there is a Way back—repentance—and a fresh Path before us: obedience. But every path must be *walked*. Where does your path take you?

May our final message one day be: “Thanks be to Jesus! For He called, and I walked the true Path with Him.”

Blessed Lent to you. +

Thank You Notes



A thank you note was received from the Lutheran Bible Translators. The colorful postcard is available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.

Thank you!



I want to thank you for the beautiful altar flowers and all the prayers. I appreciate them very much!

Margie Shirey



Thank you for your gift. We love serving together with you, that others might also have God's Word in their own language.

Lutheran Bible Translators

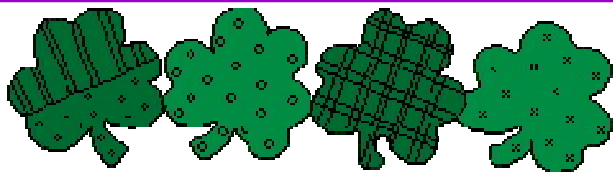
Membership Change

Please **amend your directory** to reflect she who joined the Church Triumphant last month:

Joan Smith
1931-2018



If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with Him.



Spring Forward!



Don't forget to **set all your clocks forward one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 10 so you will be on time for church on **March 11!**

be on time for church on **March 11!**

March Birthdays

- 8 John Schimminger
- 10 Richard Markey
Trevia Matthew
- 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
- 29 Rod & Eileen Ledger



Open Flower Dates



Altar Flowers

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 29
- June 10
- July 1
- July 29
- August 5
- August 12
- December 30

Please contact Janet Gassert at 717-272-3757 if you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these Sundays. Thank you.

March 2018 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 4 Daniel LaRue
- 11 Ernestine Batdorf
- 18 Kathaleen Lilley
- 25 Sandra Smith
- 29 12 PM Charlotte Varone
- 7:30 PM Deborah Lutz



Altar Guild

- 4 Kay Zellers & Barbara Adams
- 11 Rita Savant, Gayle Hoffman, Carol Frantz
- 18 Carol Artz & Barbara Adams
- 25 Lori Wert & Janet Gassert
- 29 12 PM Janet Gassert & Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Lori Wert, Karen Hatt, Gayle Hoffman
- 30 Carol Artz
- 31 Tom & Janet Gassert

Lector

- 4 Mary Garrett
- 11 Ernestine Batdorf
- 18 Kathaleen Lilley
- 25 Sandra Smith
- 29 12 PM Charlotte Varone
- 7:30 PM Deborah Lutz



Crucifer

- 4 Robert Bowman
- 11 Nicholas Adams
- 18 Gayle Hoffman
- 25 Rita Savant
- 29 12 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Daniel LaRue
- 30 Kathaleen Lilley



Greeters

- 4 **NEEDED**
- 11 **NEEDED**
- 18 **NEEDED**
- 25 **NEEDED**
- 29 12 PM Charlotte Varone
- 7:30 PM **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 4 Michael Bowman
- 11 Ernestine Batdorf
- 18 Deborah Lutz
- 25 Nancie Whelan
- 29 12 PM Harry Hatt
- 7:30 PM Deborah Lutz



Head Ushers

Nicholas and Barbara Adams



Finance Steward

Harry Hatt



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

March 4 — Pr. John Kline



Lenten Study Series

Pastor Kendall will be leading a series entitled **How Did the Early Christians Learn the Faith?** every Wednesday evening during the season of Lent. We will be using the *Didache*, the source the early Christians used to teach the Faith to the Gentiles.

The dates are as follows:

- February 21**
- February 28**
- March 7**
- March 14**
- March 21**

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 the *Didache* 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.

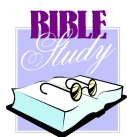
We need **volunteers** to either make soup or to give a donation to Karen Hatt so soup may be purchased. We would like to have **two varieties of soup per Wednesday**, so we would prefer two volunteers per week. The committee will

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!



Upcoming Events



IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY
On the **Book of Romans**

Thursday, March 8
7 PM
Bring your Bible!

Game Night!

Friday, March 16

6:30 PM

Come out for some fun and fellowship!



The Children’s Choir will provide the anthem on

March 25
9 AM
Sunday of the Passion



Hosanna to the Son of David!

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 25 The Sunday of the Passion:
9 AM The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms
10:30 AM Bible Covenant Study (studying Obadiah & Jonah)

Maundy Thursday, March 29:
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 30:
7:30 PM The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Saturday, March 31:
7—8:30 PM Prayer Vigil on the Eve of Easter

Sunday, April 1, The Resurrection of Our Lord:
7:30 AM Easter Breakfast
9 AM The Holy Communion
 (No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)

Women's Prayer Breakfast

**Church Women United
 National Day of Prayer Breakfast**



**Thursday, May 3
 at 7 AM**
 YMCA
 201 N. 7th Street
 Lebanon

The annual World Day of Prayer has been cancelled. Instead, the YMCA is offering a National Day of Prayer breakfast on May 3. The breakfast will be held at 7 AM with a program entitled **Seasons of Prayer** to follow at 7:30 AM. Cost is \$5 and can be purchased at the YMCA membership desk or through Gerda Balthaser (717-273-8710). Tickets are on sale until April 14.

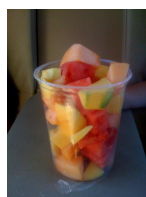
On this day, people of all faiths in the U.S. are called upon to pray for the nation and its leaders. It is a loving time of faith and fellowship.

Easter Breakfast

**Sunday, April 1
 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 during 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.



2018 Congregation Council

Harry Hatt, *President and Property Chair*
 Gayle Hoffman, *Vice-President and Personnel Chair*

Karen Fox, *Secretary and Worship & Music Chair*
 Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer and Christian Education Chair*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary, Publicity and Volunteer Resources Chair*

Rita Savant, *Assistant Finance Secretary and Social Ministry Chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*
 Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

For Your Information



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

MARCH 4

Caring Cupboard



Communion Gift Sponsorship Available

Communion gift sponsorship for the months of **January** and **February** is now available. Cost is \$30 per month, and you may sponsor them in honor or in memory of whomever you would like. If you are interested in sponsoring the Communion gifts for either of these months please contact Robin in the office.



Convocation Hospitality Team forming

Messiah is hosting the 2018 Atlantic Mission District Convocation in October. The Hospitality Team (food committee), along with members of other local NALC congregations, will be meeting to start planning on **Saturday, March 3 at 9 AM**. Please join us to help plan this exciting event and fellowship opportunity!



February Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 13, 2018.

- The Fellowship Committee will sponsor the Bread and Soup meals on Wednesday evenings during Lent.
- The Easter breakfast will be held at 7:30 AM on Sunday, April 1, 2018 with a menu of French toast sticks, scrambled eggs, Little Smokies, orange juice and coffee. Tickets will be available after church during the month of March.
- The Fellowship Committee will meet with members of local NALC congregations to plan the meals and snacks for the Atlantic Mission District Convocation being held at Messiah on October 19 & 20, 2018.
- Cookies for the shut-ins was a success and will be repeated this year the morning of the annual congregation meeting in November.
- Spring trips are planned, and a Veggie Tale meal to be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018 is scheduled.
- The Property Committee reported that the Knox Box is partially installed. We are waiting for the Lebanon City Fire Commissioner to complete the installation.
- A leak in the men's room was repaired.
- Property work days continue inside on the second Saturday of the month doing housecleaning and painting. Work will move outdoors once the weather is warmer.
- Social Ministry reported that a thank you note was received from Cynthia Smith from the Agape House for the Christmas party.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Fox
Congregation Council secretary

Trip to the Choo Choo Barn Planned

The Fellowship Committee is planning a trip to the Choo Choo Barn—Traintown, USA in Strasburg on **Saturday, April 21!** The Choo Choo Barn offers a 1,700 square foot model train layout featuring over 150 handmade animated features and 22 operating trains.

Admission prices are \$8.50 for adults (age 12 and up); \$5 (ages 3-11); and children under 3 get in for free.

Following our time at the barn we will have a meal at the **Primanti Brothers Restaurant** in Lancaster. Please make plans to join us in this yummy portion of our time together.

We will be carpooling and **leaving the church parking lot at 10 AM.** A sign up sheet will be posted on Easter Sunday. See you then!



A Veggie Tale Covered Dish

Time to eat more veggies!

The Fellowship Committee is planning a Veggie Tale covered dish on **Sunday, April 29** following the Living in Faith Education Hour.

What is this? A meal where everything is made out of vegetables, of course!

The committee is asking that everything be made of vegetables—like vegetable lasagna, zucchini casserole, pumpkin bread, spinach

quiche, etc. Be creative! Paper products will be provided.

A sign up sheet will be posted after Easter. Make plans now to enjoy a delicious, healthy, creative and fun afternoon with your church family!



Souper Bowl of Caring Update

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

donated **\$150 in cash** and **153 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 2017 the Friends of Spang Crest donated over \$27,000 to Spang Crest for programs, services and purchases including:

- Benevolent care
- Resident Christmas gifts

- Digital Picture Frames
- 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 2018.

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 or to make a contribution, 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: \$3,420.10

Date	Amount Received	Attendance
January 7	\$3,379.00	47 + / 19 hymn study
January 14	\$2,894.10	47 + / 18 LiF
January 21	\$2,225.00	47 + / 23 LiF
January 28	\$2,985.00	38 + / 28 Covenant study



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—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

Messiah Lutheran Church

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E-mail

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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 District Web Site

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