

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Thank You Notes	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Monthly Schedules	3
Lenten Meals & Bible Study	4
Central Mission District Convo	4
Holy Week Schedule	5
Easter Breakfast	5
February Council Meeting Highlights	6
January Ministry Plan Report	7

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST**

- Possible Trip? (Page 2)
- Upcoming Events (Page 4)
- Altar Flower announcement (Page 4)
- Intentional Prayer (Page 5)
- Congregation Council (Page 5)
- Souper Bowl of Caring Update (Page 6)
- Friends of Spang Crest (Page 7)

Pastor's Page

An end and the beginning of a new life...

The season of Lent holds together the paradox of human experience in the contrasting of a journey in the wilderness and a walk by the living water. The perennial question to this is: what is breaking down in our individual life, in our communal life, in our society, and in our world today?

Ash Wednesday draws us out to the wilderness or desert. In short, Lent is a beginning and an end of a journey, a journey which begins in the wilderness and ends in the land of the promised hope. As you can see for yourselves that what seemed burned and dried up begins to have a new hope and new life full of beauty and glory.

Life teaches us that we experience both thirst and longing. We experience healing power through sweat and tears.

In this Lenten Journey

how can we talk about the ministry of the church or, if I use secular terminology, the business of the church? We can both “walk and chew gum” at the same time.

In recent days I have been thinking and evaluating what we have been doing in the last twelve months together. Just like any corporate business it is very important to examine our strategies and methods; successes and failures in the work of the kingdom of God.

In the corporate business world, there are certain parameters in place to measure a profit or success in general. If we invest our money on something, we expect an interest after a given period of time under normal and stable business atmosphere.

We also know quite well that businesses sometimes become very stagnant and sluggish. Many external factors affect corporate busi-

ness and the business of the church as well.

However, church growth is the natural result of the church's health. Church health then occurs only when our message is grounded in scripture and our mission is balanced.

The growth of any seed takes place after it dies. Likewise, our individual spiritual growth as well as our communal numerical church growth happens after we are dead to ourselves. Before any growth happens, it must go through the process of dying.



Let this Lenten journey help us to journey towards our promised hope through the wilderness, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Your humble servant in Christ,

The Rev. Abera B. Hellemo

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!



Dear Messiah Congregation,

Thank you so much for your generous and thoughtful Christmas gift. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel in being able to be one of your organists. God has blessed each of us with many beautiful opportunities in life. I am thankful that He blessed me with the gift of music. Every Sunday that I have the opportunity and support to play for Messiah, I am thankful. I truly love to play music and share it with others. To have a group of people who enjoy that music with me is a gift from God. To be able to be blessed by serving God while playing that music is a wonderful way to share all praise and glory to Him.

Thank you to Andy and my mom for supporting me and caring for Emily and Daniel so that I may continue to play and praise God through music.

Thank you, Messiah Congregation, for your generous gift as well as your continued love and support. My family and I are continually grateful for your encouragement, kindness, and graciousness. I am honored to continue to contribute towards our worship through music.

In Christian Love,
Erin Trovinger



To my dear Messiah Family,
Thank you for your prayers and concerns for me during my recent illness. I am hoping to return to church as soon as my doctors give me a good report. Please continue to pray for me.

In Christian love,
Teenie Batdorf



To all the bakers:
Thank you for thinking about me at Christmas. I enjoyed the cookies and the Christmas card booklet.

Nancy Cramp



March Birthdays

- 2 Drew Surmacz
- 8 John Schimminger
- 12 Carol Anspach
Cash Anspach
Jaxson Roof
- 13 Ivy Lutz
Janet Miller
- 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



Interested?

The Fellowship Committee is contemplating a trip to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Stoystown, PA later this year and would like to gauge the interest of the congregation before deciding to organize a trip (or not).



It will be a long day (~3 hour drive each way). Everyone would bring a packed lunch, and we would go out for supper. There is no entrance fee. Please see Karen Hatt or Deb Lutz if interested.

Spring Forward!



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!**

March 2023 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 5 Deborah Lutz
- 12 Karen Fox
- 19 Sandra Smith
- 26 Nancie Whelan



Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, co-chair
- Ernestine Batdorf, co-chair
- Brenda Beegle
- Karen Hatt



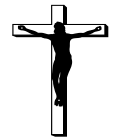
Lector

- 5 Carey Kendall
- 12 Karen Fox
- 19 Sandra Smith
- 26 Nancie Whelan



Crucifer

- 5 Kathaleen Lilley
- 12 Mary Whelan
- 19 Gayle Hoffman
- 26 Andrew Surmacz



Greeters

- 5 Harry & Karen Hatt
- 12 Rita Savant
- 19 Rita Savant
- 26 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 5 Deborah Lutz
- 12 Karen Hatt
- 19 Harry Hatt
- 26 Nancie Whelan



Head Usher
Eugene Martin



Finance Steward
Nicholas Adams

WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month after worship.)



March 5 — Carol Anspach, Karen Bickel, and Tammy Risser

March 26 (special)

Deborah Lutz



Lenten Study Series

Messiah's Lenten discipline will be observed on Sunday mornings as well as **THURSDAY** evenings from 7-8 PM with a study on **the NALC's Lenten devotional *Loved and Freed***.

March 2
 March 9
 March 16
 March 23
 March 30

We will begin our Thursday evenings with the "**Bread and Soup Supper**" meal at 6 PM (see below) followed by study and discussion

from 7-8 PM. If the soup schedule does not suit then you are welcome to attend only the study portion of the evening.



In accord with our mission "**to L E N T 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 Thursday 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 Thursday**, 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!



A Note from Altar Guild

For those who donate flowers for the altar, Crazy for Daisies is no longer arranging altar flowers. As of now, Royer's is the only local florist arranging altar flowers. If you have any questions or suggestions for local flower vendors please contact Deb Lutz.



Central M.D. Convocation

You are invited to the annual Central Mission District Convocation for fellowship, worship, business, and learning about Life to Life Discipleship!



Saturday, April 29
 from 8:30 AM—1 PM (lunch is included)

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
 529 St. Michaels Road
 Hamburg, PA

Registration materials will be available soon!
 For more information see Robin.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 2, The Sunday of the Passion:

9 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
10:30 AM The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms

Maundy Thursday, April 6:

7:00 PM The Liturgy of the Last Supper with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 7:

7:00 PM The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Sunday, April 9, The Resurrection of Our Lord:

8:30 AM Easter Breakfast
10:30 AM The Holy Communion
 (No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)



Intentional Prayer

Prayer petitions for the month of March as we travel through the Call Process:



- ◆ That the congregation and Call Committee will continue to have patience with this process.
- ◆ That the committee and congregation will continue to seek God's will in this process.
- ◆ That the committee will work together in Christian love as they vote and recommend a future pastor for our congregation.
- ◆ That each member of the congregation will seek Your will when the day comes for us to meet and vote on our perspective pastor.
- ◆ That, regardless of the outcome of this process, our congregation will continue to live in agape love for one another.
- ◆ That all pastors seeking a call will discern God's will for them.

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 9
 8:30 AM

Cost is **\$4 per person** (to help defray the cost and get a more accurate head count). Children under age 4 are free . Tickets will be on sale beginning March 19 **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



Easter Breakfast set up will be held on Saturday, April 8 at 9 AM. Any help will be appreciated.

2023 Congregation Council

Brenda Beegle, *President and Christian Ed. co-chair*

Nick Adams, *Vice President, Christian Ed co-chair, and Personnel chair*

Karen Zivic, *Secretary*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary*

Michael Ernst

Deborah Lutz, *Publicity and Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Evangelism and Property chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance chair*

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

Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer*

For Your Information



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

MARCH 5

Donations will be going to the Rescue Mission



SERVING OPPORTUNITIES:

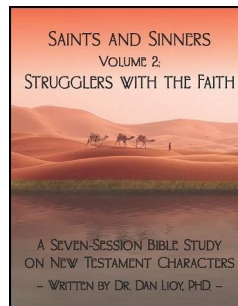
If you are interested in being more involved in the worship life here at Messiah there are many opportunities for you to consider. Training is available!

- ◇ Assisting Minister
- ◇ Acolyte
- ◇ Greeter
- ◇ Head Usher (September is currently available)

Please contact Robin if you are interested in any of these.

Coming in March!

We will begin *Saints and Sinners* (Vol.2): *Strugglers with the Faith* during the Living in Faith Education Hour every Sunday at 9 AM.



Carrey Kendall will continue to lead our discussion.

To receive your participant book please see Nick Adams.

February Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

- Financial reports were read & approved pending audit.
- Committee reports were given.
- Holy Week schedule is as follows:
Maundy Thursday is at 7 PM; Vinemont is invited
Good Friday is a 7 PM at Vinemont; we will carpool there (*subject to change*).

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zivic
Congregation Council secretary



Souper Bowl of Caring Update

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Souper Bowl of Caring another great success. We donated **\$716** and **201 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



Now is the time to join or renew your membership with the Friends of Spang Crest!

This wonderful auxiliary organization is dedicated to supporting the activities and projects benefitting the residents of Spang Crest, the Lebanon senior living community in Luthercare's network of services.

During the past two years, the Friends of Spang Crest gener-

ously donated more than \$22,000 to support programs, services, and purchases, including

- Benevolent care through donations to the Caring Fund
- Resident Christmas gifts
- Outdoor band concerts & an outdoor canopy
- Activity program equipment and much more

This year we hope to do even more!

Your membership dues, combined with generous donations

from congregations, individuals, annual fundraising events and proceeds from the Spang Crest Gift Shop, supports the work of the Friends of Spang Crest

Membership levels are:

Member:	\$2.00
Contributor:	\$5.00
Sustainer:	\$10.00
Patron:	\$25.00

You may make a contribution to Messiah's Key Person, **Nancie Whelan**. Please add "Friends of Spang Crest" to your check's memo line. .

January Ministry Plan Summary

Budgeted need per week: \$2,820.44

Date	Amount Received	Attendance
1/1	\$3,292.00	no LiF / 36 +
1/8	\$3,572.88	10 LiF / 30 +
1/15	\$2,532.00	13 LiF / 36 +
1/22	\$1,437.49	15 LiF / 28 +
1/29	\$1,065.37	14 LiF / 34+

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



Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

6 PM Soup and Bread Supper
7 PM Lenten Study Series

Messiah Lutheran Church

1800 Oak Street
Lebanon, PA 17042-5852
Office Phone 717-272-2922
Pastor's Cell: 717-344-9051

E-mail

Pastor Abera: pastor.hellemo@gmail.com
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>