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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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## Pastor's Page

As I write this, I don't know when the Governor will ease restrictions and allow public worship again. I do know that it will happen sometime. I do know that I look forward to our first Sunday together. Entirely aside from keeping Passiontide and Easter Day at a distance, the inability to gather in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is disappointing.

Although we know that Christ is present wherever His sheep are to be found, even just one sheep alone (remember His parable about the shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep for the sake of just one who is not with the rest), we need the encouragement and companionship, not only of the Shepherd, but also of our fellow sheep.

While speaking of sheep, I'll share the good news that to my knowledge, no one in the congregation has contracted the Coronavirus. May this continue to be so.

Regarding worship, it is my intention to re-open for Sunday worship as soon as it is legally possible. We have taken certain

steps already which will be continued indefinitely.

These include:

- Use of Communion cups only (no shared cup).
- Use of wafers for Holy Communion rather than a store-bought loaf of bread (this not only reduces handling during the liturgy, but spares Altar Guild members a trip to the grocery store).
- Holy Communion distribution at "safe distancing;" white cardstock markers have been taped to the Communion rail at 6.5-7 foot intervals. When you come up to the rail, stand at one of these white marks.
- Propping doors open so door handles need not be touched (except for the Ladies' and Men's rooms).
- Greeters no longer shake hands or embrace people entering the narthex.
- Safe distancing between persons of separate households is maintained regarding nave seating.
- God's Peace is exchanged during worship at safe distances;

no touching.

- People are welcome to wear masks as desired, even after the "mask requirements" have been lifted.
- People who are ill are urged to stay home until they are well.

These practices are easily followed, and I believe they will provide everyone a safe environment for in-person worship when we re-open. I encourage everyone to make the most prudent decision for his or her own circumstances and overall health condition.

However, I also urge all members to regard the renewed opportunity for corporate worship as a significant time in your lives. If we are honest, some of us have become more casual than is appropriate about "remember(ing) the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." On Sunday mornings, if we are not ill, working or traveling, our place is in God's House, offering thanks and praise for the priceless gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation; remembering and celebrating all that God has done for us; hearing

*(continued)*

His Word and sharing the Body and Blood of Christ; and supporting one another through our own presence in the gathering of the faithful.

In every congregation, some members have taken these things lightly—too lightly—and now that we have been compelled to do without them for some time, we will soon have the opportunity to re-set our lives and our priorities regarding these things. It is not I, but our Lord, Who asks you to

make the most of this new opportunity and “start fresh” as a committed, faithful, regular worshiper in God’s House.

I am certain that all who do so will be blessed in ways both familiar and new. I pray that it will be so for you, as I continue to pray for your continued safety and sound health. Peace and Resurrection joy to you from your pastor. +

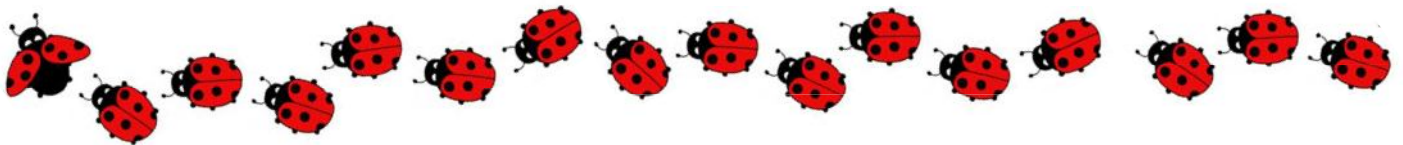
## March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

- Reports of the pastor, treasurer and financial secretary were read and accepted.
- Bread and soup suppers are going well; sign up sheets are posted.
- Easter breakfast tickets will be sold after church services.
- Lawn care contract was signed for the 2020 season.
- NALC Central Mission District meeting will be held in Birdsboro, PA on May 2.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gayle Hoffman  
Congregation Council Secretary

The Messiah Congregation Council did not meet in April due to mandated closures due to COVID-19.



### It's a Girl!



Congratulations to David, Christy, Colbie and Barrett Kendall and grandparents Pastor and Carey Kendall on the birth of

**Ivy Faith Kendall.**

Ivy was born on April 15, 2020. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 11oz. and was 20-3/4” long. May God richly bless this growing family!



### Landscape Care Servants

As in previous years, we again invite you to serve God and neighbor by signing up to care for a portion of Messiah’s grounds. The area chart and sign-up form are posted on the Information Center in the narthex. Tools and mulch will be available. Your offerings of time and energy are greatly appreciated.



*(We realize that you cannot physically sign up right now; you may call the office if you can remember what the “landscape servant map” looks like, or wait until we can meet again.)*

# May 2020 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 3 Deborah Lutz
- 10 Daniel LaRue
- 17 Kathaleen Lilley
- 24 Ernestine Batdorf
- 31 Karen Fox



## Altar Guild

- Karen Hatt, chair
- Barbara Adams
- Harry Hatt
- Karen Zivic



## Lector

- 3 Robert Bowman
- 10 Daniel LaRue
- 17 Kathaleen Lilley
- 24 Ernestine Batdorf
- 31 Karen Fox



## Crucifer

- 3 Ernestine Batdorf
- 10 Michael Bowman
- 17 **NEEDED**
- 24 Daniel LaRue
- 31 Robert Bowman



## Greeters

- 3 **NEEDED**
- 10 **NEEDED**
- 17 **NEEDED**
- 24 **NEEDED**
- 31 **NEEDED**



## Acolyte

- 3 Deborah Lutz
- 10 Daniel LaRue
- 17 Harry Hatt
- 24 Ernestine Batdorf
- 31 Karen Hatt



**Head Usher**  
Gayle Hoffman

**Finance Steward**  
Karen Fox



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

May 3—Fellowship Committee



# June 2020 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 7 Sandra Smith
- 14 Michael Bowman
- 21 Eugene Martin
- 28 Charlotte Varone



## Lector

- 7 Carey Kendall
- 14 Michael Bowman
- 21 Eugene Martin
- 28 Charlotte Varone



## Greeters

- 7 **NEEDED**
- 14 **NEEDED**
- 21 **NEEDED**
- 28 **NEEDED**



**Head Ushers**  
Raymond & Carol Anspach

**Finance Steward**  
David Machamer



## Altar Guild

- Nancie Whelan, chair
- Karen Hatt
- Mary Whelan



## Crucifer

- 7 Gayle Hoffman
- 14 Sandra Smith
- 21 Kathaleen Lilley
- 28 Eugene Martin



## Acolyte

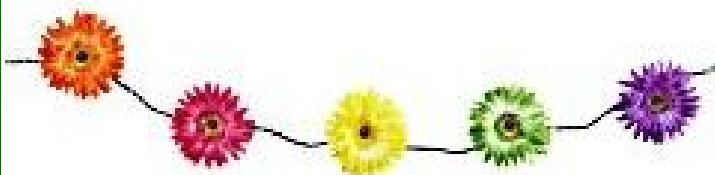
- 7 Karen Zivic
- 14 Michael Bowman
- 21 Ernestine Batdorf
- 28 Harry Hatt



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

**June 7** — Harry & Karen Hatt



# Pentecost Geraniums



The Altar Guild is accepting donations for geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost (**May 31**). Please place your donation in your envelope and clearly mark it for "geraniums" when you mail in your offering. Thank you!

# Weekly Worship Schedule

**SUNDAYS:**

9 AM The Holy Communion  
 10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour  
 4th Sunday—10:30 AM Bible Covenant study

**WEDNESDAYS:**

(noted in the calendar and bulletin)  
 10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion

# Ministry Plan Report for February & March

Budgeted need per week for 2020: **\$3,327.52**

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2/2	\$3,989.00	41 + / 12 LiF
2/9	\$3,833.00	50 + / 13 LiF
2/16	\$1,976.00	41 + / 15 LiF
2/23	\$1,969.00	45 + / 17 Covenant
Ash Wed 12 PM 2/26	(rolled into 3/1)	25 +
7:30 PM		26 +
3/1	\$4,601.00	41 + / 12 LiF
3/8	\$2,690.50	35 + / 12 LiF
*3/15	\$2,658.50	30 + / 10 LiF
3/22	\$1,140.00	11 + / 5 Covenant
3/29	\$848.00	15 + / 4 LiF



*Stewardship*

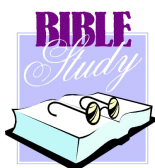
<u>Wed. Lent Bible Study:</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
3/4	18
3/11	16
3/18	8
3/25	3

**NOTE:** "+" denotes Worship  
 "LiF" denotes Living in Faith  
 \* - A Cappella Sunday

# Upcoming Events

**THURSDAY EVENING  
 IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY**

Will not meet until  
 September (at the  
 earliest).



**BIBLE READING  
 COVENANT**

**Sunday, May 24**  
 John 6:54-56

**Sunday, June 28**  
 Proverbs 19:17

10:30AM  
 in the Nave or in the  
 conference room

**HOT DOG  
 & ICE CREAM  
 SOCIAL**



**Saturday, June 27**  
 At 4 PM

Watch your bulletins  
 for more details of this fun  
 and delicious fellowship  
 event!

# Summer Newsletter



Newsletter Info  
**Wanted!**

The **deadline** for the summer issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Tuesday, June 16**. This issue will cover events, meetings and schedules for the months of **July and August**. Please make sure you have all your information turned in to the office (and on the work room calendar) by this date. Thank you!



*Pentecost  
Sunday  
May 31*

# A Thank You Note



*Thank you notes were received from the Atlantic Mission District of the NALC, the Rescue Mission, and Lutheran World Relief. They are available for you to read*

*on the bulletin board outside the office.*



Dear wonderful friends at Messiah Lutheran,  
A huge hug for all the wonderful treats you brought for Super Bowl Sunday. The men are always so touched. It is always a huge treat. And year after year to remember the men this way—thank you! 20 wonderful years!

Love in Christ,  
Jenny Topping  
Food & Volunteer Services Manager  
Lebanon Rescue Mission



# 2020 Congregation Council

**Karen Fox**, *President and Worship Planning*

**Harry Hatt**, *Vice-President, Personnel and Property Co-Chair*

**Gayle Hoffman**, *Secretary*

**Nancie Whelan**, *Treasurer*

**Nicholas Adams**

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

**David Machamer**, *Evangelism and Property Co-Chair*

**Karen Zivic**

**Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:**

**Karen Hatt**, *Fellowship Chair*

**Kathaleen Lilley**, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

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

# New LiF Study

When we are finally able to get together again there will be a NEW study during Living in Faith time, and all are invited to participate.



The goal of this study is to grow in our ability to make more faithful, Christ-centered choices both in serving God and in fostering our own wellbeing. This will not be a “how-to” program but an experience in conversation, reflection, prayer, and seeing ourselves more clearly.

Participants need not read anything in advance; the only materials needed will be a notebook, journal or tablet and a writing instrument. People will be welcome to share thoughts and ideas, or simply to listen and absorb. Some weekday prayer, reflection and, if desired, journaling will be helpful.

This study will be led by Karen Fox and will be held in the conference room.

# May Birthdays

- 2 Avery Fox
- 3 Abbey Hartman  
Jill Hartman
- 5 Rita Savant
- 8 Matthew Lutz
- 9 Eileen Ledger
- 10 Mia Lutz
- 16 Joseph Hartman  
Mary Whelan
- 28 Annabel Karnes
- 30 Evelyn Shaak
- 31 Janet Grun



# June Birthdays

- 1 David Machamer
- 2 Ray Mayopoulos
- 3 Kathaleen Lilley
- 5 Michelle Blouch  
Karen Munford
- 7 Vicki Schimminger
- 13 Janet Gassert
- 14 Mike Adams
- 16 Laura Ebright
- 18 Sue DeSendi
- 24 Wendy Brossman
- 26 Andrew Lutz
- 27 Eugene Martin
- 29 Charlotte Varone



# May Anniversaries

- 5 Lee & Debra Stickler
- 7 David & Suzette Buffamoyer
- 19 Dylan & Michaela Swoyer
- 22 Steven & Rachel Anspach  
Richard & Beth Miller
- 27 Joseph & Janice Hartman  
Rick & Pam Knouff
- Ray & Vivian Mayopoulos
- 28 Nicholas & Barbara Adams



# June Anniversaries

- 11 Peter & Holly McGuire  
Andrew & Elizabeth Surmacz
- 24 Daryl & Karen Artz  
Eugene & Beth Martin  
Richard & Lori Wert
- 27 Kenneth & Dorothy Martin
- 28 Bernard & Ernestine Batdorf



## Messiah Lutheran Church

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### E-mail

Pastor Kendall: messiahpastor@epix.net  
Robin Harris (office): messiahluthleb@epix.net

### Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>

### NALC Website

<http://www.thenalc.org>

### Atlantic Mission Region Website

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

*Summer vacation is a great break for everyone. But the needs of the church never take a vacation. Please remember your offerings, gifts and tithes to Messiah when you are on vacation. Thank you.*

## FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS

**May 3 (if open)**

**June 7 (if open)**

All donations will be given to the Rescue Mission.

