

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

March & April Congregation Council Highlights	2
May Schedules	3
June Schedules	4
Ministry Plan Report for February & March	5
Thank You Notes	6
Updated Addresses	6
Birthdays and Anniversaries	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- We're Praying for You! (Page 2)
- Landscape Care Servants (Page 2)
- Pentecost Geraniums (Page 5)
- Upcoming Events (Page 5)
- Congregation Council (Page 6)
- Our Graduate (Page 6)

Pastor's Page

I watched part of Prince Philip's funeral on Youtube. Some of the music was very beautiful, especially a Russian Orthodox *Kontakion* (Canticle) sung in four parts, unaccompanied. Part of this Canticle proclaims: *Even at the grave we make our song Alleluia!* Since Philip's heritage was Greek, I thought it was fitting to include elements of that tradition. The Body of Christ is truly global, and we are one with believers everywhere even if we worship in different form and tongues.

I'm happy to be able to tell you that next month, we will be able to see our dear friends Lowell and Kathy Smith, and Pastor Britto from Independent Church in India, again.

They will come on Sunday, 23 May with presentations during the morning liturgy and in the Living in Faith hour also. The Fellowship Committee is organizing an outdoor cookout/covered-side-dish meal immediately after Living in Faith concludes at 11.30 AM. A sign-up sheet for covered dishes will soon be posted in the narthex.

This is our first chance to see the Smiths and Pastor Britto in two years, and our first fellowship event

since Covid interrupted things. Pr. Britto's life is very interrupted at present; Covid cases in India are soaring, and he is not permitted to return to his family and home at this time (Lowell says that Britto spends a lot of time on the phone with family and his co-missionaries).

Please keep Britto and his family in your prayers for protection and a safe reunion, and pray for the people of India and other lands which do not have adequate health care facilities (Lowell says they are running out of oxygen in India now and two sick people are waiting in line for every hospital bed).

Whether we have been well or ill during this time of trial, the past 13-plus months have been wearying; Covid, a fraught election process, social upheaval and the loss of time with loved one and friends has sapped our vitality.

Faithful people have worked hard to keep the church's interior spaces clean and safe, and the grounds inviting and presentable. A small hard-working crew has toiled away to re-roof and renovate the storage shed. The administrative responsibilities of congregation life have continued unabated;

we can all be thankful for devotion of everyone here who serves Christ and our community.

Reflecting on all this, I believe that one of our missions right now—and this applies to everyone—is to be deliberate in our plans and activities, and especially to build time for physical and spiritual rest into our lives.

This year, we will take things as slowly as circumstances permit, and allow God's Design for our minds and bodies, and God's Gifts for our spirits, to refresh us and build us up. Take some walks; sit outside in the sunshine; read some good books; telephone some friends. Enjoy children at play. Watch less TV, listen to less news, and make good use of the resources at Messiah's web site: www.messiahluthleb.org and also our denomination's web site: www.thenalc.org where some excellent Bible studies and daily devotionals are provided.

Finally, remember to walk prayerfully with the God Who loves and keeps us—and, every day, look for things both familiar and new for which to be thankful. +

March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

- Reports of the pastor, treasurer, and financial secretary were read and accepted.
- The new dehumidifier has been installed and the shed roof project is progressing.
- Continued suspension of all non-worship activities was voted on and approved. Thank you to everyone for being diligent!
- The 2021 grass mowing proposal was voted on and accepted.
- Property maintenance sign-up is available and appreciated.

April Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

- Finance, Treasurer's reports for the month of March were read and reviewed; accepted pending audits.
- Property Committee updates: Parking lot lines are to be completed this Spring; the heating / cooling systems have had their annual preventative maintenance; the organ was tuned in March; the Landscape Servant chart is posted. Please note that tools can be found in the shed and mulch in the parking lot. Any and all help is greatly appreciated!
- The Council has agreed to allow removal of the dead dogwood tree along the portico.
- Pastor thanked all who assisted in the care and upkeep of the property prior to the Easter celebration.
- Council voted to continue the suspension of all non-worship activities in the church and to continue mask wearing and social distancing.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Hoffman
Interim Congregation Council Secretary



We're Praying For You!



The Atlantic Mission Region has a "congregation of the week" prayer list posted on their website. This list includes every congregation in our Region and is a simple way to keep us all connected. We received acknowledgments from Holy Cross ELC (Nazareth, PA) and Trinity ELC (Joppa, MD) that Messiah was specifically prayed for during their worship on April 11.

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.



May 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 2 Karen Fox
- 9 Sandra Smith
- 16 Deborah Lutz
- 23 Kathaleen Lilley
- 30 Ernestine Batdorf



Altar Guild

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



Lector

- 2 Mary Garrett
- 9 Sandra Smith
- 16 Deborah Lutz
- 23 Kathaleen Lilley
- 30 Ernestine Batdorf



Crucifer

- 2 Rita Savant
- 9 Eugene Martin
- 16 Sandra Smith
- 23 Daniel LaRue
- 30 Kathaleen Lilley



Greeters

- 2 Kathaleen Lilley
- 9 **NEEDED**
- 16 **NEEDED**
- 23 **NEEDED**
- 30 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 2 Harry Hatt
- 9 Karen Hatt
- 16 Deborah Lutz
- 23 Karen Zivic
- 30 Ernestine Batdorf



Head Usher
Gayle Hoffman

Finance Steward
David Machamer



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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



May 2—CANCELLED



June 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 6 Nancie Whelan
- 13 Eugene Martin
- 20 Daniel LaRue
- 27 Charlotte Varone



Altar Guild

- Nancie Whelan, chair
- Karen Hatt
- Mary Whelan



Lector

- 6 Carey Kendall
- 13 Eugene Martin
- 20 Daniel LaRue
- 27 Charlotte Varone



Crucifer

- 6 Gayle Hoffman
- 13 Sandra Smith
- 20 Eugene Martin
- 27 Daniel LaRue



Greeters

- 6 **NEEDED**
- 13 **NEEDED**
- 20 **NEEDED**
- 27 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 6 Nancie Whelan
- 13 Harry Hatt
- 20 Daniel LaRue
- 27 Karen Hatt



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

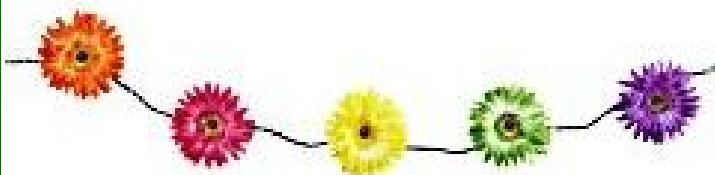
(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM.)

June 6 – CANCELLED



Head Ushers
Raymond & Carol Anspach

Finance Steward
Gayle Hoffman



Pentecost Geraniums



The Altar Guild is accepting donations for geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost (**May 23**). Please place your donation in a plain envelope and clearly mark it for "geraniums."

Thank you!

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

(noted in the calendar and bulletin)
10 AM Communion by appointment
10:30 AM Communion by appointment

Ministry Plan Report for February & March

Budgeted need per week for 2021: **\$3,396.13**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2/7	\$3,495.00	27 + / no LiF (snow)
2/14	\$2,564.00	34 + / 17 LiF
Ash Wed. 12 PM 2/17	(rolled into 2/21)	28+
7:30 PM		16+
2/21	\$4,089.00	35 + / 19 LiF
*2/28	\$1,431.00	35 + / 17 LiF
3/7	\$4,558.00	35 + / 15 LiF
*3/14	\$2,190.00	31 + / 14 LiF
3/21	\$2,303.00	35 + / 15 LiF
3/28	\$2,137.00	33 + / 13 LiF

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



Stewardship

Upcoming Events

Central Mission District Convocation

Saturday, May 8 at

St. John Lutheran Church
Birdsboro, PA
9 AM—12:30 PM

Lunch is included!

Come hear about what's going on in our Mission District and around our Region!

See Robin to register.

Please bring your mask to wear while walking around at either of these events.

You may remove your mask once you are seated and distanced.

COVID protocols and precautions will be taken with the serving of the food at both events.

PA Dutch Service Sunday, May 16 2:30 PM



Zoar Lutheran Church
560 Freeport Road
Lebanon

The entire liturgy will be conducted in PA Dutch.

Refreshments will follow.

Summer Newsletter



Newsletter Info
Wanted!

The **deadline** for the summer issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Tuesday, June 15**. 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!

Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC, the Rescue Mission, the Caring Cupboard, and Lutheran World Relief. They are available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.

Dear friends at Messiah Lutheran Church,
You are a blessing to my heart! And to the hearts of the men in our Discipleship Program! Their eyes just light up each year when they see the huge feast you provide for them every Super Bowl Sunday. This year I think was especially meaningful because the COVID virus has really left all of us rather isolated from one another. So a very big THANK YOU from ALL OF US to EACH ONE OF YOU!

Blessings,
Jenny Topping
Food & Volunteer Services Manager
Lebanon Rescue Mission



Thank you to all my church family for the beautiful cards and for Pastor's prayer at the time of my husband Joseph's death. They were very appreciated!

In Christian love,
Mary Ann Hartman



2021 Congregation Council

- Nicholas Adams**, *President*
- David Machamer**, *Vice-President, Evangelism, Personnel and Property Co-Chair*
- Gayle Hoffman**, *Interim Secretary, Volunteer Resources*
- Ernestine Batdorf**, *Finance Secretary*
- Michael Ernst**
- Harry Hatt**, *Property Co-chair*
- Deborah Lutz**, *Stewardship Chair*
- Karen Zivic**

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

- Karen Fox**, *Worship Planning*
- Karen Hatt**, *Fellowship Chair*
- Kathaleen Lilley**, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*
- Rita Savant**, *Assistant Finance Secretary and Social Ministry Chair*
- Nancie Whelan**, *Treasurer*

Our Graduate



Mary Whelan is graduating from Grove City College on May 15. She majored in English with a minor in writing. She will be working at the Hershey Golf Club while she looks for a job. Congratulations, Mary!

Updated Addresses

New Address!

Joe Hartman
79 Eastfield Drive
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-272-5208



New Email Addresses!

- Carol Anspach** carolanspach69@gmail.com
- Kay Zellers** kzellers1945@gmail.com

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 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 2

June 6

All donations will be given to the Rescue Mission.

