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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Pastor's Page

I'm looking forward to a not-exciting summer. Too much excitement can just plain be too exciting. Last year's excitement included the boundary issues with neighbors to the east, the roof project, the nave HVAC project, and at home, digging shale.

I look forward to a quieter summer.

One nice thing about such quiet times is that when we are not pressed by too many outside demands, we can take time for beneficial things of our choosing. These vary, depending on our age, condition, interests, and opportunities—but isn't it nice to be able to make some choices about how to invest our time, rather than have things imposed upon us?

One thing that does come regularly, but is never imposed, is the weekly rhythm of worship (STOP! DO NOT stop reading!). This is not going to be one of those Remember-your-church-this-summer articles (that's next month—maybe).

This is about sharing something I wish someone had taught me decades

ago, instead of something I had to learn along the way (and am glad I did, but still—wish it had been sooner).

We do not go to church because we have to. In fact, we don't "go to church" at all. We travel to get together with others like us, others OF the Church of Christ—the People of Resurrection Hope and Joy. Blessed people; joyful people; thankful people. Friends. Brothers and sisters. Family in the Household of our Father.

We gather together to BE together, not with people we have to be with, but with people we GET to be with. People who believe in the same things, trust in the same God, are learning the same Way—the Way of Life, of discipleship, of peace and assurance, of purpose and growing understanding.

We come away from the impositions of the outside world and their demands. We CHOOSE to take some time to be in a special place, with special people, to hear, celebrate, and receive things we can get nowhere else.

The gatherings we travel to

are established by God as gifts for us. It is a gift to hear what God has done for us. It's a gift to grow in understanding of the Scriptures and in confidence in our ability to read and understand them, and ask questions about them without being made to feel "dumb."

It's a gift to encounter people who smile when they see you, ask about you, encourage you, or gladly welcome your smile and greeting to them. It's a gift to see the joy others have in being with God's family in God's house. It's a gift to see a Table set for our Lord's Meal and know: *There's a place there just for me.* It's a gift to go from the Table and the gathering knowing that God has forgiven you and given you a fresh start for a new week.

We don't "go to church." We travel to *bask* in the Church. We don't "go" to be saved. We go BECAUSE we are saved—and we never get tired of hearing that Good News. Reserve time for this weekly treat, and don't let outside demands steal it from you. I can't think of anything as beneficial as time basking with God. +

May 2015 Schedules

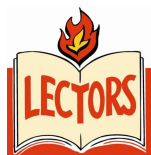
Assisting Minister By Sharon Garner

- 3 Michael Bowman
- 10 Nancie Whelan
- 17 Karen Fox
- 24 Sandra Smith
- 31 Nicholas Adams



Lector By Sharon Garner

- 3 Robert Bowman
- 10 Nancie Whelan
- 17 Karen Fox
- 24 Sandra Smith
- 31 Nicholas Adams



Greeters

- 3 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 10 Gayle Hoffman
- 17 **NEEDED**
- 24 **NEEDED**
- 31 **NEEDED**



Head Usher Corey Hartman



Finance Steward Deborah Lutz



Altar Guild

- Kay Zellers, chair
- Mary Ellen Dietrich
- Mary Ann Hartman



Crucifer By Carol Artz

- 3 Rita Savant
- 10 Sandra Smith
- 17 Sandra Smith
- 24 Kay Zellers
- 31 Kay Zellers



Acolyte By Sharon Garner

- 3 Michelle Blouch
- 10 Mikayla Bowman
- 17 Mary Whelan
- 24 Abbey Hartman
- Joshua Risser
- 31 Mary Whelan



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

May 3 — Laurite Vranesic and Deb Lutz



General Fund Summary for March

	March	Year/date
Income	\$17,475.06	\$42,011.63
Expenses	\$16,541.31	\$46,600.87
Income-expenses	\$933.75	-\$4,589.24

Income	March	Year/date	Expenses	March	Year/date
Regular giving	\$17,309.80	\$41,169.80	Staff	\$9,392.51	\$28,642.54
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$100.00	\$210.00	Administrative	\$575.55	\$1,290.62
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00	Maintenance	\$4,568.25	\$10,987.71
Checking interest	\$0.26	\$0.83	Committee	-\$20.00	-\$20.00
Donations	\$25.00	\$225.00	Additional	\$625.00	\$1,500.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$40.00</u>	<u>\$406.00</u>	Benevolence	\$1,300.00	\$3,900.00
Total Income	\$17,475.06	\$42,011.63	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
			Total expenses	\$16,541.31	\$46,600.87
			Income less expenses	\$933.75	-\$4,589.24

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

Benevolence Giving			
March 2015	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$775.00		\$775.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$50.00		\$50.00
Independent Church in India	\$50.00		\$50.00
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$50.00		\$50.00
NALC Disaster Response	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$50.00		\$50.00
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$50.00		\$50.00
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
Ethiopian Church Relief Fund	\$50.00		\$50.00
Total	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00

Upcoming Events



BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, May 14
7 PM

We will be continuing our study of the Gospel of John.



BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, May 19
From 3—7 PM

Benefits the Central PA Blood Bank



EVENT NIGHT

Thursday, May 21
At 6:30 PM

Come on out for a fun night of games and fellowship!

April Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

- Nine members of Council were present.
- For devotions we discussed how our Lenten journey from this past season effected our lives.
- The Fellowship Committee reported that the Independent Church in India annual picnic will be held on Sunday, July 12. The Lowell Smith Family and Pastor Britto will be our guests.
- We will host a blood drive to benefit the Central PA Blood Bank on Tuesday, May 19 (same day as the primary election) from 3-7 PM.
- We approved a 1-year contract to Siemens Industry for preventative maintenance on the HVAC systems in the original part of the building.
- Only one bid was received for the lighting and heater replacement project. Council deferred consideration until further bids are received.
- All committees are to have a report ready for the next meeting (May 11) on their needs regarding the new child protection law. We need to have a policy in place by July 1.

Respectfully submitted,
 Nick Adams
 2015 Congregation Council president

Graduate Information Needed



If you or a loved one are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, trade school, etc. we would love to let your church family know all about it! For your convenience there is a

small form available on the oak table in the narthex that asks for all your pertinent information. Please fill it out and leave it with Robin in the church office so she may include your graduation information in next month's *Messiah Messenger*. And congratulations!

Ministry Plan Report for March

(Budgeted need per week: \$3,476.75)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contributions</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
3/1	\$5,115.25	57 + / 0 LiF
3/8	\$3,633.80	59 + / 25 LiF
3/15	\$4,200.00	70 + / 21 LiF
3/22	\$1,239.00	50 + / 23 LiF
3/29	\$3,487.40	85 + / 20 LiF
Lenten Midweek Study		
3/4		16
3/11		19
3/18		14
3/25		14

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

Received to date: \$42,011.63
Needed to date: \$45,197.75



Road Trip!



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 27** for a fun day at **Eckley Miners' Village** for their **Patch Town Days!** Come explore the rich PA coal town history. There will be live music, craft vendors, coal mining displays, demonstrations of antiquated skills and lots of food! Please bring money for souvenirs and for goodies to eat. For more information about Patch Town Days go to their website at <http://eckleyminersvillage.com>. See you then!

Thank Notes

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



Thank you so much to all who helped to set up and decorate the tables, prepare the food and clean up for the Easter breakfast. All help was greatly appreciated!

Karen Hatt
Fellowship Chair

Membership Changes

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

Doris Plummer
1927-2015

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



Pentecost Geraniums

The Altar Guild is accepting donations for geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost (**May 24**). Please put your donation in a plain envelope marked "geraniums" and place it in the offering plate or drop it in the church office. Thank you!



For Your Information

May 3

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect food and personal care products for our neighbors in need.



**May:
Caring
Cupboard**

Please do **NOT** mix food and soap in the same bag.



We still need sponsors for the **July 5, September 6, October 4, and November 1 Welcome Times!** Please

prayerfully consider giving of your time and culinary talents for these Sundays or there will be **NO WELCOME TIME** for those months.

OPEN FLOWER DATES

There are several Sundays this year that do not have a flower sponsor:

- June 21
- August 23
- September 13
- December 6
- February 14, 2016



If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these dates please contact Janet Gassert at 272-3757.



May Birthdays

- 2 Avery Fox
- 3 Abbey Hartman
Jill Hartman
- 5 Rita Savant
George Uhl
- 8 Matthew Lutz
- 9 Eileen Ledger
Corrie Shuey
- 10 Mia Lutz
- 16 Joseph Hartman
Mary Whelan
- 17 Tara Behney
- 28 Annabel Karnes
- 30 Evelyn Shaak
Sean Lineaweaver
- 31 Janet Grun



May Anniversaries

- 5 Lee & Debra Stickler
- 7 David & Suzette Buffamoyer
- 22 Steven & Rachel Anspach
Richard & Beth Miller
Scott & Lori Oliver
- 27 Joseph & Janice Hartman
Rick & Pam Knouff
Ray & Vivian Mayopoulos
Michael & Corrie Shuey
- 28 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 31 Eric & Heather DiBioso



2015 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President, Property & Social Ministry chair*

Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Secretary & Christian Education chair*

Pam Knouff, *Treasurer*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Financial Secretary & Publicity chair*

Brenda Beegle, *Volunteer Resources chair*

Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism chair*
Lori Oliver

Donald Smith, *Stewardship chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer & Finance chair*

Rita Savant, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

SUNDAYS:

9 AM The Holy Communion

10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour

WEDNESDAYS:

(as noted in the calendar and bulletin)

10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion

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.

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