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Pastor's Page

As you know, the congregation has begun a "Strategic Planning Process" which will span this year and the next four.

Appropriately, the process is spearheaded by the Strategic Planning Committee. Also appropriately, the process is intended to engage, and involve, the entire congregation, for its outcome will affect every member of Messiah, and people beyond our membership who benefit from Messiah's ministries.

The phrase "strategic planning" may sound confusing, even intimidating. There's no need to think so, however, for all of us engage in strategic planning regularly; we'd be in trouble if we didn't!

When you and your spouse coordinate your schedules to identify a good time for a vacation or visit with the kids several states away, you're doing "strategic planning." When you take stock of the age of your refrigerator or washer or house roof, and consider when replacement will be required (and how you'll pay for it),

that's strategic planning. So is a household budget.

Planning educational requirements and career goals involve weighing a number of factors and looking ahead to see what kind of skills will be useful to a future employer.

All this is strategic planning at the level of our individual or family lives. When we invest the time, research, thought, and conversation required to build a sound family plan, our family is on a more stable footing, and able to meet the future more effectively.

This is the purpose of Messiah's strategic planning process, too. Our current effort is a natural "next step" on a path we have been treading for some time. Past planning has included managing financial accounts and establishing policies for prudent spending; adjusting staffing to the resources available; and reconfiguring the building for more affordable maintenance and operation in the future.

So far all this sounds just like a secular business, but there is an important dif-

ference. A business exists to provide a living for its owners and workers and investors.

A congregation, on the other hand, exists to carry out God's work: the work of the Great Commission, the work of loving the neighbor, the work of making disciples. Apart from these, we would have no purpose.

But we are given these purposes and this work, so our question is, "What is God's vision for our future together?" Discerning God's Will for us, together, and seeking to make His Will our own in both words and deeds, is our five-year mission.

Each of us is called and chosen partner of Jesus Christ in the work of redemption; each of us possesses God-given gifts to devote to this holy task. Your understanding, and your ideas, are important: we are all "strategic planners" in God's service. Let us seek His Plan for us as one Body in Christ. Look for information on the first gathering inside. Thank you for taking part.

May 2016 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 1 Karen Fox
- 8 Pam Knouff
- 15 Ernestine Batdorf
- 22 Charlotte Varone
- 29 Daniel LaRue



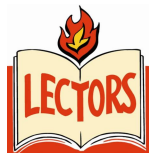
Altar Guild

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



Lector

- 1 Carey Kendall
- 8 Pam Knouff
- 15 Ernestine Batdorf
- 22 Charlotte Varone
- 29 Daniel LaRue



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 1 Ernestine Batdorf
- 8 Robert Bowman
- 15 Robert Bowman
- 22 Michael Bowman
- 29 Michael Bowman



Greeters

- 1 Marion Bowman
- 8 David Machamer
- 15 Deborah Lutz
- 22 Carey and Erin Kendall
- 29 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 1 Harry Hatt
- 8 Pam Knouff
- 15 Mary Whelan
- Mikayla Bowman
- 22 Abbey Hartman
- 29 Ernestine Batdorf



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

May 1 — David Machamer



Head Usher
Corey Hartman



Finance Steward
David Machamer



General Fund Summary for March

	March	Year/date
Income	\$14,379.50	\$40,632.17
Expenses	\$15,310.28	\$45,002.56
Income-expenses	-\$930.78	-\$4,370.39

Income	March	Year/date	Expenses	March	Year/date
Regular giving	\$14,290.12	\$40,167.39	Staff	\$10,058.33	\$30,391.37
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$50.00	\$185.00	Administrative	\$444.91	\$959.86
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00	Maintenance	\$2,873.70	\$7,976.33
Checking interest	\$0.38	\$0.78	Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations/Use of church	\$0.00	\$0.00	Additional	\$500.00	\$1,375.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$39.00</u>	<u>\$279.00</u>	Benevolence	\$1,333.34	\$4,000.00
Total Income	\$14,379.50	\$40,632.17	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
			Total expenses	\$15,310.28	\$45,002.56
			Income less expenses	-\$930.78	-\$4,370.39

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

Benevolence Giving			
March 2016	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$775.00		\$775.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
The Great Commission Society	\$54.17		\$54.17
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$54.17		\$54.17
Independent Church in India	\$54.17		\$54.17
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$54.17		\$54.17
NALC Disaster Response	\$54.17		\$54.17
Lutheran World Relief	\$54.17		\$54.17
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$54.16		\$54.16
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$54.16		\$54.16
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
Total	\$1,333.34	\$0.00	\$1,333.34

Upcoming Events



BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, May 12
7 PM

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

Saturday, May 14

8:30 AM

Trip to Lake Tobias Wildlife Park
(see page 5)

EVENT NIGHT



Thursday, May 19
At 6:30 PM

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

God's Vision: Seeing Clearly in 2020



The Strategic Planning Committee invites everyone to a series of congregation conversations, which are the next step in our five year plan for ministry—*God's Vision: Seeing Clearly in 2020*.

The first conversation will be held on **Sunday, May 15** in the fellowship hall during the Living in Faith Education Hour immediately following worship. We are basing our conversations on a recent article by NALC pastor Dr. David Wendel (author of our recent Lenten devotional book) titled "God's Intended Future for the NALC," to help guide us in the planning process seeking to

discern God's intended future for us as disciples of Jesus at Messiah. Dr. Wendel has articulated in a clear, understandable way the core beliefs and understanding upon which we will build for our future together.

Please mark your calendars for future discussions which will be held during the LiF time on:

June 5	June 26
July 17	August 7

We encourage every member to join in this process, for this is a journey we will take together. It will be important for all of us to invest in the process as we work together to seek God's Will and vision for Messiah.

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 infor-

mation. 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: \$3,575.60)

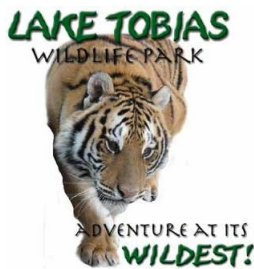
	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Offering Received:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
	3/6	\$3,234.00	56 + / 26 LiF
	3/13	\$3,081.12	52 + / 20 LiF
	3/20	\$3,081.00	70 + / 25 LiF
Maundy Thursday noon 7:30 PM	3/24	(all Holy Week service offerings were rolled into Easter Sunday)	18 +
Good Friday	3/25		43 +
Easter Vigil	3/26		41 +
	3/27	\$5,188.00	33 +
			104 + (no LiF)
Wed. night Bible Study	3/2	16	
Attendance	3/9	15	
	3/16	18	



Received to date: \$40,632.17
Needed to date: \$46,482.75

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

Lake Tobias Wildlife Park



Come on out for a fun day at **Lake Tobias Wildlife Park on Saturday, May 14!** We will meet at the church at **8:30 AM** and carpool to the park. Cost is \$7 per person (ages 2 and under are free).

Admission includes the zoo exhibits, reptiles and exotics facility and the petting zoo. If you want to go on the safari that is an additional \$6 per person. Picnic tables are available so please pack a lunch. Karen Hatt will have a cooler available for use. Wear your sunscreen and get ready for a FUN time!

April Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

- Nine members were present; one was excused.
- Rita Savant presented the devotions. Harry Hatt will have the devotions next month.
- Melanie Gettler was approved for membership.
- The Evangelism Committee proposed the possibility of having the Faith and Fellowship gatherings on Welcome Time in the summer months alternating between Evangelism and Stewardship.
- Approved the contract with Dynatech for maintenance of the emergency generator at a cost of \$312 per year.
- Only one bid has been received so far for replacement of the HVAC system in the office area and fellowship hall. One additional bid is expected.
- Council expressed a special thank you to Tom Gassert, Corey, Carla and Andy Hartman for replacing the lights above the altar. Thank you to the Hartman Family for renting the bucket lift for the job.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Adams, Congregation Council president

For Your Information

May 1

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.

OPEN FLOWER DATES

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

- August 7
- August 14
- December 11



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

NEW ADDRESS!

Mary Ellen Dietrich has a new address. It is:

Lebanon Valley Home
550 E. Main Street, D-39
Annville, PA 17003
867-7069



Thank You 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



You have probably noticed the increased lighting above the altar area. Thanks to Joe and Corey Hartman for renting a lift to get up to the lighting area. It made it so much easier than having to erect the scaffolding. Also, thanks to Corey, Carla, and Andy Hartman and Tom Gassert for setting aside a busy Saturday morning for getting the job done. Corey operated the lift and replaced all eight flood lights while Carla, Andy and Tom provided support. **THANK YOU!**



The Altar Guild seeks to serve the congregation and glorify God by preparing His house,

thus enhancing the worship of God's people. Thank you to everyone who helped with services during Holy Week. Thank you for all your faithful hours of serving in multiple worship services. We were blessed to have over 100 people worship with us on Easter Sunday.

What a glorious Holy Week! I am sure the services during Holy Week touched your heart and brought you closer to Our Lord.

Thank you for all your support.

Janet Gassert
Altar Guild President



Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangement given to us by Deb Lutz in honor of our 46th wedding anniversary.

The flowers on our altar are an important and beautiful symbol of what we offer to God in our worship. Such floral beauty praises the life and resurrection Jesus has so freely given us, honors loved ones, and gives thanks for the special people and events in our lives.

Thank you to all those who provide the flowers. They are a wonderful way of showing praise and thanksgiving to the glory of God!

Tom and Janet Gassert



Thank you for your prayers, prayer shawl and altar flowers.

Eileen Ledger

National Day of Prayer

You are invited to join our community in the National Day of Prayer which will be held on **Thursday, May 5** on the steps of the municipal building (400 S. 8th St, Lebanon) at **11:45 AM**. We will begin with song, then we will join together in prayer at 12 noon. Prayer time will end at 12:30 PM. *Together we will seek God's face and intercede for the land and its people.*

Pentecost Geraniums

The Altar Guild is accepting donations for geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost (**May 15**). 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!



May Birthdays

- 2 Avery Fox
- 3 Abbey Hartman
Jill Hartman
- 5 Rita Savant
- 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



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.

Messiah Lutheran Church

1800 Oak Street
Lebanon, PA 17042-5852
Office Phone 272-2922

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>

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



2016 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President & Property co-chair*
Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Secretary & Christian Ed chair*
Harry Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*

Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism & Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Property co-chair*
Lori Oliver, *Publicity chair*

Rita Savant, *Social Ministry chair & Financial Secretary*

Donald Smith, *Stewardship chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:
Ernestine Batdorf, *Assistant Financial Secretary*

Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild*

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*

Pam Knouff, *Assistant Treasurer*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*

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