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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Pastor's Page

Where are the children?

Most of us grew up hearing the phrase “Sunday School and Church” as though it was one word. No longer.

The “Sunday School Movement” developed first to offer basic education (“the three “R’s”) to children in the pre-child labor law era whose only free day was Sunday (children as young as six often worked from sunup to sundown, with no opportunity to learn to read or write).

People of good conscience recognized that the only hope for these children to grow up and realize a better life for themselves and their children was if they could receive basic education.

Hence, “Sunday School”—school held on Sunday, often in the only public space receptive to free use, local churches. This movement developed in Ireland, spread to England, and shortly after to the United States.

As universal public education programs developed in the 19th Century, “Sunday Schools” continued, but with the Sunday focus on moral development and Christian learning.

By this time, both children’s and adult “Sunday School Classes” were forming, and even developed a “religious format” of their own separate from Sunday worship led by pastors in church naves.

The Sunday School era served its purpose, but as work conditions changed—shift work, weekend work, travel for work, relocating from one community to another for work—the regular rhythm of learning on Sundays ceased.

In the present day, many other elective activities also draw people away from the model of Christian learning we once assumed was the only one (it isn’t).

After several generations of this, church people sadly say: “We don’t have many children anymore.”

If this is so, part of the reason rests with the choices people make, but churches also bear responsibility. If people do not offer opportunities for children to learn The Faith, how can we expect children to love the Church and want to be part of God’s Family?

We must do something about this, and action must be taken very soon.

This summer I will offer Sunday-morning time for children during the Living in Faith hour after worship. If children are to learn to “Live in Faith,” we must help them.

Here is the initial plan:

Sunday, 4 June after Welcome Time: Introduction for Parents, Children and Interested Helpers to Stories for God’s Children.

The approach will be simple: on the Sundays listed below, I will welcome children, parents, and those interested in helping to listen to, talk about, and act out Bible stories from a children’s story Bible.

Here are the dates:

- 2 July
- 9 July
- 16 July
- 30 July (*23 July is Bible Covenant Sunday*)
- 6 August
- 13 August
- 20 August

My hope is that as summer progresses, parents and other teen/adult helpers will offer your help so that the story program can continue after this summer.

I also ask everyone to pray God will bless and foster this new ministry for our children’s sake. —Pastor +

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
Sean Lineaweaver
- 31 Janet Grun



May Anniversaries

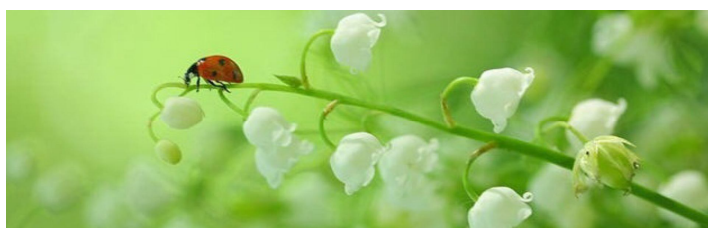
- 5 Lee & Debra Stickler
- 7 David & Suzette Buffamoyer
- 22 Steven & Rachel Anspach
Richard & Beth Miller
- 27 Joseph & Janice Hartman
Rick & Pam Knouff
Ray & Vivian Mayopoulos
- 28 Nicholas & Barbara Adams



Primary Election



Tuesday, May 16 is Primary Day in Pennsylvania. Messiah is the polling place for Lebanon 2nd Ward West. Don't forget to get out there and VOTE!

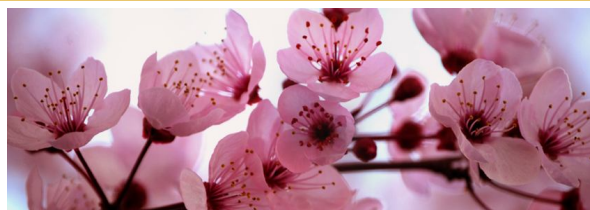


2017 Congregation Council

Harry Hatt, *President & Property chair*
 Gayle Hoffman, *Vice President, Personnel & Strategic Planning chair*
 Karen Fox, *Secretary & Worship and Music chair*
 Rita Savant, *Assistant Financial Secretary & Social Ministry chair*
 Charlotte Varone, *Publicity chair*
 Nancie Whelan, *Assistant Treasurer & Christian Education chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Ernestine Batdorf, *Financial Secretary*
 Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*
 Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*
 Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism/Stewardship & Volunteer Resources chair*



Thank You Notes



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

Thanks to everyone who made soup, donated money, and helped with the set up and clean up for the Lenten soup suppers. All help was greatly appreciated! I also want to thank everyone who helped to set up, cook and clean up for the Easter breakfast.

Karen Hatt
 Fellowship Committee chair

May 2017 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 7 Charlotte Varone
- 14 Daniel LaRue
- 21 Eugene Martin
- 28 Nancie Whelan



Altar Guild

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



Lector

- 7 Robert Bowman
- 14 Daniel LaRue
- 21 Eugene Martin
- 28 Nancie Whelan



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 7 Robert Bowman
- 14 Michael Bowman
- 21 Gayle Hoffman
- 28 Andrew Hartman



Greeters

- 7 Mary Ann Hartman
- 14 Kay Zellers
- 21 Mary Ann Hartman
- 28 Kay Zellers



Acolyte

- 7 Michael Bowman
- 14 Keeley Hartman
- 21 Harry Hatt
- 28 Deborah Lutz



Head Usher
Gayle Hoffman



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

May 7 – Kathy Lilley and
Nancie Whelan



Finance Steward
Harry Hatt



General Fund Summary for March

	March	Year/date
Income	\$13,310.12	\$36,986.71
Expenses	\$13,895.45	\$42,387.06
Income-expenses	-\$585.33	-\$5,400.35

Income	March	Year/date	Expenses	March	Year/date
Regular giving	\$13,120.24	\$36,227.49	Staff	\$9,744.29	\$29,494.41
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$50.00	\$150.00	Administrative	\$210.10	\$1,025.35
Bowl of Blessings	\$0.00	\$0.00	Maintenance	\$2,128.42	\$6,432.30
Checking interest	\$0.13	\$0.47	Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations (use of church)	\$0.00	\$200.00	Additional	\$375.00	\$1,250.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$139.75</u>	<u>\$408.75</u>	Benevolence	\$1,337.64	\$3,885.00
Total Income	\$13,310.12	\$36,986.71	Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$300.00</u>
			Total expenses	\$13,895.45	\$42,387.06
			Income less expenses	-\$585.33	-\$5,400.35

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

Benevolence Offering

March 2017	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$750.00		\$750.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$75.00		\$75.00
Mission Partners	\$55.25		\$55.25
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$55.25		\$55.25
Independent Church in India	\$55.25		\$55.25
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$55.25		\$55.25
NALC Disaster Response	\$55.25		\$55.25
Lutheran World Relief	\$55.25		\$55.25
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$55.25		\$55.25
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$55.25		\$55.25
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$70.64		\$70.64
Total	\$1,337.64	\$0.00	\$1,337.64



Upcoming Events

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 4
From 11:45 AM—12:30 PM



On the steps of the municipal building
 400 S. 8th Street
 Lebanon

BIBLE STUDY
Thursday, May 11
7 PM

We will continue our study of St. Paul's letter to the Romans.



There will be
NO GAME NIGHT
 this month.



Ministry Plan Report for March

(Budgeted need per week: \$3,575.60)

	Date	Amount Received	Attendance
Ash Wed. noon	3/1	(offering rolled into 3/5)	27 +
Ash Wed 7:30 PM	3/1	(offering rolled into 3/5)	30 +
	3/5	\$4,677.00	55 + / 23 LiF
	3/12	\$2,594.00	45 + / 23 LiF
	3/19	\$2,256.00	40 + / 20 LiF
	3/26	\$3,900.75	51 + / 24 joint LiF
Soup supper & Lenten Study Series	3/8		21 / \$14.00
	3/15		cancelled due to snow
	3/22		20 / \$20.00
	3/29		17 / \$9.00



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

Received to date: \$36,986.71
Needed to date: \$45,289.25

Property Work Days



The second property work days has been scheduled for **Saturday, May 13.**

We will meet in the kitchen at 8 AM for coffee and donuts, get work assignments and work until noon. We will break for lunch, then continue working until mid-afternoon. If you are not able to work the en-

tire time and can only spare a few hours you are still welcome to join us! We will be working both inside and outside (weather permitting). Any questions? See Harry Hatt.



It's a Girl!



Congratulations to first time grandparents Rick and Lori Wert (and to great-grandmothers Margie Beard and Sandra Wert) on the birth of

Miranda Jane Maldonado.

Miranda was born to Juan and Heather (Wert) Maldonado on April 13, 2017. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19-1/2" long. May God richly bless this new family!

Address Changes

There are a couple of address changes for your information. Please make these changes in your member directory.

Pastor J. Philip Kline has a new email address. It is jpcline1040@comcast.net.

Seth Hartman has a new address. Please send any correspondence to:

E-1 Seth A. Hartman
527 I Avenue, Unit 831
Sheppard AFB, TX 76311

Please remember to notify the church office if you have moved, are planning to move, have a new phone number or a new email address. It is important for the church office to have accurate records so we can contact you.

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!



For Your Information

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

May 7

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




Caring Cupboard

PLEASE DO NOT MIX FOOD AND SOAP IN THE SAME BAG. Thank you.

PA Dutch Church Service Sunday, May 21 2:30 PM



Zoar Lutheran Church
560 Freeport Road
Lebanon

DO YOU LIKE WELCOME TIME? Then please consider sponsoring a month. If you look at the sign up sheet **several slots are open** for the rest of the year. If there are no sponsors then there will be **NO WELCOME TIME**. 

Open Flower Dates:

We still have four Sundays this year with no flower sponsor:



July 2
August 6
August 13
December 10

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



April Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, April 11, 2017.

- The Evangelism Committee will have activities between the Easter breakfast and worship. An update of the member directory for all members and pictorial directory updates for those with picture binders are being coordinated with Robin. A “thinking of you” package was sent to Seth Hartman, who is out of basic training. A meeting will be held after Easter to discuss future plans.
- One indoor/outdoor workday was held on April 8th. A second one is scheduled for May 13th. Work is continuing on lighting at various places both inside and outside the building.
- The *Merchandise* erroneously printed that Messiah was hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on April 1st.
- Council discussed options for future Strategic Planning conversations with the congregation.
- Council discussed conversations with congregation members regarding our worship life.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Fox,
 Congregation Council Secretary



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.

Geraniums for Pentecost



The Altar Guild is accepting donations for geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost (**June 4**). 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!

Weekly Worship Schedule

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

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 Robin Harris/office: messiahluthleb@epix.net

Web Site

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