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Pastor's Page

As you probably know by now, we are providing space for worship and learning activities to a new mission church. The pastor of this small group is Soberiano Portes (better known as "Angel").

I first met Angel about ten years ago through Messiah member Mike McGinty. Mike got us involved in helping Angel collect, crate and ship clothing and related items which were transported to Haiti. Each year, Angel traveled to Haiti and supervised transportation and distribution of these material to very poor people in that impoverished nation. He still does.

Recently, Angel and his wife Carmen approached us to ask about the possibility of using space at Messiah for a new Hispanic outreach mission they believed God was calling them to start. They know many unchurched people in the Puerto Rican community, including refugees who lost everything in the hurricane, and other people who do not know Jesus.

Since we have known Angel for so long and have

helped with his Haiti relief work, Council met with them, and we agreed on a six-month trial period to see whether their vision for a congregation would bear fruit, and how we might work together and help one another.

Although they do not yet have the means to pay rent for using the facilities, some of their people have come to their gatherings bringing paper supplies from their homes to help defray the cost of their being here. Recently, Angel and five of his young people were with us for the busy workday in preparation for the Atlantic Mission District Convocation. They were an industrious group and a big help.

At present, they meet Sundays at 1 pm, and usually three evenings each week for worship or Bible study. This past Sunday, I had not yet left when they were starting. I noticed two things: first, that their numbers were already growing; second, that among them were some people who were clearly suffering, yet willing to struggle to be part of their congregation despite their impairments.

This brought to my mind a teaching of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke:

When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

I believe this is exactly what we are doing, and in so doing, not only pleasing our Lord by sharing the House (which is truly not ours but His), but also bringing the teachings of Jesus to life in our midst.

We don't know where this endeavor will go, but we believe that God is working among us. I've also learned that our denomination has a grant program for congregations supporting mission work. I've been encouraged to apply for such a grant, and this is in process. We also have the approval and encouragement of our Dean, Pr. McGettigan, and of attendees who learned of this endeavor

at our Mission District Convocation.

I will be discussing arrangements for this ministry with an NALC pastor in TX whose congregation is doing this very thing. We also have an expression of interest from a nearby congregation whose pastor believes they can help Angel and Carmen in their work. Carmen, by the way, works for Lebanon County Children and Youth and is the family's breadwinner, while Angel gives all his time to volunteer hospital chaplaincy, local and Haitian ministries, and their church.

I often walk through this big, usually quiet and empty building, and think about how much is going to waste while there are needs around us. The challenge is often to find ways in which we can connect with those needs in beneficial ways. Perhaps the Lord is saying to us that if we cannot fill His house with Gospel activity in one way, He'll help us fill it in another way.

One thing is certain: the future of churches in North America will not look like the past. This sometimes causes us sadness, but if you read your Bible, you know that God is always up to something, as the Lord Himself says in Isaiah 43:19: "*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?*"

One thing is always the same, though: the Great Commission for all Christians: Go and make disciples of all nations. The Greek word for "nations" is *ethnos*, which does not mean a political or geographical entity, but "peoples." As in "tribes," "races," "groups." The Gospel is for all the people of the world.

I can neither speak nor understand Spanish, nor can most of us, but it seems that God is providing a way for even "Anglo" Messiah to share in bringing Jesus to people through Angel and Carmen and their mission. I will pray about all this, and I ask you to do the same, lifting up before God this little mission church, our own little congregation of disciples, and the opportunity God has given.

In your contemplation, also consider how

"mysterious" (hidden from our view) the works of God often are—and yet, when we submit in obedience and follow Him, God always leads us to new blessings as we serve.

One final note: quite a few years ago, Angel Portes was in conversation with a young Hispanic man who did not know Christ. Through Angel's prayerful witness, this man, Roberto, came to faith in Jesus.

Roberto later became a pastor and started a little mission church on east Lehman St. Roberto was the young pastor, only 36, who was shot and killed in his own back yard in Lebanon. Were it not for Angel, he might never have come to know his Savior, no matter how long he lived. Who can say how many others will come to a life-transforming faith in Christ through what Angel and Carmen, and we, make possible.

Carmen told me that Roberto had a wife and two children, around 13 and 11 years old. If you would like to contribute to help the family, see me. In any case, please keep that family in your prayers—and pray for a community in which pastors can be shot down in cold blood.

There can be no doubt that every soul in Lebanon County needs to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the only hope any community has of changing violence into peace.

One additional thing: Remember the annual Congregation Meeting on Saturday, 17 November (details are elsewhere in this newsletter). Also remember the current adult Living in Faith series which is examining the essential components of Christian congregation life, and very soon, will look at several alternative models for congregational life and spiritual leadership after the present serving pastor departs.

You were all invited to this conversation in a previous newsletter. I hope you will decide to be part of the conversation and discernment. Peace. +

Upcoming Events

IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY
Thursday, November 8

Thursday, December 13
7 PM



GAME NIGHT
Friday, November 16

Friday, December 21
6:30 PM

Come on out for a fun evening of games and fellowship.



The church office will be
CLOSED
on November 22
and 23.

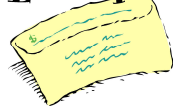
AND

December 25
and 26.



2019 Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes



The 2019 offering envelopes are scheduled to arrive in time for our annual congregation meeting on November 17. Please take yours home with you at your earliest convenience. If you live close to a shut-in, please consider helping us out by delivering their envelopes too. Please note that the envelopes will be arranged in **ALPHABETICAL** order. Thank you.

New Address

SR Blouch, Michelle N.
3288 Cpl. Johnson Road
Unit 2817
Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234



(This address is good until 12/15/18.)

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 22
7:30 PM



A chorale liturgy of Holy Communion for Thanksgiving

Come and give thanks to God for all His blessings.

Messiah Lutheran Church

1800 Oak Street
Lebanon, PA 17042-5852
Office Phone 717-272-2922

E-mail

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

Web Site: <http://www.messiahluthleb.org>
NALC Web Site: <http://www.thenalc.org>
AMR Web Site: <http://www.atlantic-nalc.org>

FYI—IMPORTANT



The membership roll will be reviewed in the first quarter of 2019. If someone has **not been present for a liturgy** in the last five (5) years and has not had a **communion of record** or **contribution of record** in those 5 years then they will be removed from the membership roll.

Active (voting) membership is defined by our Constitution as making **four Communion of record** (completing the Communion record card when you receive Holy Communion) and **one contribution of record** to Messiah (use your envelopes when making your offering) in the current calendar year.



Our Saints

On Sunday, November 4 we remember our members who joined the Church Triumphant since the last All Saints' Sunday:



Joan Prestegord
Joan Smith
Fred Harnisch
Dolores Rittle

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

Change Your Clocks!



Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 4** at 2 AM. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. See you in church.

Tree of Giving



Look for our **TREE OF GIVING** in the narthex all this month. This year we are collecting gifts for the **Agape House**.

Once again we are collecting bath items such as kid toothpaste, toothbrushes, kid body wash and shampoo, animal wash cloths or animal puffy scrubs and bath toys small enough to fit in a stocking. Bath items for the mothers include puffy scrubs, body wash, body lotion, shampoo, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss and deodorant.

Please take an ornament from the tree, pur-

chase your gift/gifts and return to the church unwrapped.

The Social Ministry Committee has applied for a grant from Thrivent to help defray the costs of larger items for the Agape House such as sheets, towels, cleaning supplies, and blankets.

The Tree will be in the narthex **through Saturday, December 1.**



The Social Ministry Committee looks forward to the congregation's generous response to the annual **TREE OF GIVING** and offers an advance "thank you!" to those who participate this year to help their neighbors.

Ministry Plan Report for August & September

(Ministry Plan need per week: \$3,420.10)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
8/5	\$3,092.00	40 + / 9 LiF
8/12	\$2,729.00	44 + / 12 LiF
8/19	\$1,913.00	44 + / 25 ICII presentation
8/26	\$2,102.00	42 + / 19 Covenant
9/2	\$3,166.00	47 + / 29 Health Care
9/9	\$2,920.50	46 + / 13 Covenant Day
9/16	\$3,653.00	41 + / 17 LiF
9/23	\$1,539.00	37 + / 15 Covenant
9/30	\$1,577.75	37 + / 15 LiF

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



Annual Altar Guild Meeting



You are invited to attend the annual Altar Guild meeting on **Saturday, November 10 at 9 AM** in the Conference Room. All members of the

Altar Guild should attend, and any members of the congregation who would like to join or know more about the Altar Guild are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Janet Gassert at 717-272-3757.

November Birthdays

- 2 Lee Stickler
- 4 Richard Wert
- 7 Hailey Hartman
- 8 Georgeanna Hanover
- 9 Lorraine Long
- 11 Janet Pazsik
- 12 Erick McGuire
- 15 Karley Roof
- 17 Dennis Brossman
Pr. J. Philip Kline
- 20 Karen Hatt
- 24 Kathleen Runkel
- 25 Debra Stickler
- 26 Sandra Smith
- 27 Leontine Vavrous
- 30 Steven Anspach



December Birthdays

- 1 Jacob Anspach
Nolan Anspach
- 5 Holly McGuire
Walter Shirey
Carol Van Raay
- 7 Eileen Lutz
- 8 Andrew Hartman
- 9 Barbara Adams
Susan Galbraith
- 12 Nancy Potteiger
- 18 Alyson Hartman
- 22 Debra Miller
- 24 Donald Munford
- 25 Mikayla Bowman
- 26 Beckett Lutz
- 31 Mary Ellen Dietrich
Gary Dohner



November Anniversaries

- 9 Joseph & Mary Hartman
- 16 Robert & Carol Frantz
- 18 Larry & Evelyn Shaak
- 20 Raymond & Carol Anspach
Harry & Karen Hatt
- 25 Dennis & Wendy Brossman



2018 Contributions



ALL year-end contributions **must be received by the last Sunday of the month (December 30)** to count for 2018. All contributions received after that date will be recorded for 2019.

2018 Congregation Council

Harry Hatt, *President and Property Chair*
Gayle Hoffman, *Vice-President and Personnel Chair*

Karen Fox, *Secretary and Worship & Music Chair*

Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer and Christian Education Chair*

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

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

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

Christmas Cookies Needed!



The Fellowship Committee is seeking bakers from the congregation to make Christmas cookies for our fellow members. These cookies will be distributed to our shut-ins during the Advent season.

We are asking for volunteers to bake a variety of cookies at home. Please bring your cookies to the church by 9 AM on November 17 so they may be packed in containers. We ask that your cookies be already bagged. If your cookies are large then please place 3-4 per bag; if they are smaller then put six (6) to a bag. We would like 5-6 dozen of each variety of cookie, so any help

would be welcome!

If you would like to help bake and/or pack the containers please sign up on the sheet that is posted on the Information Board. We will be packing the cookie containers on Saturday, November 17 in the morning at 9:30 AM before the Casserole Covered Dish luncheon at noon.

Thanks in advance for your help! If you have any questions please contact Karen Hatt.



Congregation Meeting Luncheon



On **Saturday, November 17** the Fellowship Committee is hosting a **Casserole Covered Dish luncheon at 12 noon** before the annual Congregation Meeting. Please bring a casserole AND a side dish or dessert. A sign

up sheet is posted on the Information Board.

So come on out and enjoy some good food and fellowship with your church family before we turn to business. Please contact Karen Hatt if you have any questions.

See you there!



Annual Congregation Meeting

Reminder: The **annual congregation meeting** will be held on **Saturday, November 17 at 2 PM**. The

day will begin with a Casserole covered dish lunch which will be held at 12 noon (see above).



At this meeting we will be electing new Congregation Council members for 2019, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2019, and discussing other church business.

Active (voting) membership is defined by our Constitution as making **four Communion**

of record (completing the Communion record card when you receive Holy Communion) and **one contribution of record** to Messiah (use your envelopes when making your offering) in the current calendar year.



Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from Lutheran World Relief, the Rescue Mission, and the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Messiah family,

I just wanted to thank every one of you for the unconditional love and support you have shown me the past 22 years. More specifically, thank you all so much for the going away surprise, and all of your cards filled with lovely words of encouragement.

I'm officially settled in down south in Rockingham, North Carolina—ready (or as ready as I can possibly be) to start my teaching career. I know I will always have God's love and watchful eye, and the love and support from my Messiah family.

See y'all soon!

Love,
Alyssa Knouff



Dear friends,

Thank you for the altar flowers we received in September. We are truly grateful. May God bless you!

Peace and love,
Rod and Eileen Ledger



Thank you for the many get well cards, letters from Karen Fox, telephone calls and beautiful altar flowers delivered by Deb Lutz that I received while recuperating from my second knee replacement operation. We were also thankful for the meal that Laurite made and

Chic Vranesic delivered to us—what a delicious treat.

I appreciate all the support that has been given to me. Thank you for all your prayers, thoughtfulness and words of encouragement. I am doing better this time than with my first knee replacement, and hope to be with you all in church very soon. I appreciate your love, kindness, support, and generosity. Thank you! God has blessed me with so much, and He continues to shower my life with blessings from my Messiah family and friends.

Love and Blessings,
Janet Gassert



To the Disciples at Messiah,

On behalf of the Atlantic Mission Region Council I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation for the outstanding hospitality you all extended to the Atlantic Mission Region when you hosted our annual Convocation in October.

The meals and snacks were outstanding. The camaraderie in the kitchen was wonderful to see. Thank you to the many hands who cooked and served the meals—they were delicious! The entire building was also so very welcoming and accommodating. A huge thank you to all who spent hours planning, painting, cleaning and moving things from Point A to Point B.

Thank you to Karen Fox and Erin Trovinger who put in extra time for the liturgies. And a special thank you to Pastor Kendall for being our host and assisting in the Eucharist on Saturday.

Thank you for hosting such a wonderful event!

Robin Harris
Administrative Assistant to the Atlantic
Mission Region Dean and Council

November 2018 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 4 Sandra Smith
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Michael Bowman
- 21 (7:30 PM) Nancie Whelan
- 25 Kathaleen Lilley



Lector

- 4 Nancie Whelan
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Michael Bowman
- 21 (7:30 PM) Nancie Whelan
- 25 Kathaleen Lilley



Greeters

- 4 Marion Bowman
- 11 **NEEDED**
- 18 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 21 (7:30 PM) **NEEDED**
- 25 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward

Karen Fox



Head Usher
Eugene Martin



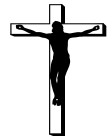
Altar Guild

- Rita Savant, chair
- Suzette Buffamoyer
- Carol Frantz
- Gayle Hoffman



Crucifer

- 4 Kathaleen Lilley
- 11 Gayle Hoffman
- 18 Robert Bowman
- 21 (7:30 PM) Daniel LaRue
- 25 Eugene Martin



Acolyte

- 4 Deborah Lutz
- 11 Harry Hatt
- 18 Michael Bowman
- 21 (7:30 PM) Nancie Whelan
- 25 Ernestine Batdorf



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

November 4

Laurite Vranesic and Deb Lutz



December 2018 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 2 Deborah Lutz
- 9 Daniel LaRue
- 16 Karen Fox
- 23 Charlotte Varone
- 24 (4 PM) Ernestine Batdorf
- (7:30 PM) Nancie Whelan
- 30 Eugene Martin



Lector

- 2 Robert Bowman
- 9 Daniel LaRue
- 16 Karen Fox
- 23 Charlotte Varone
- 24 (4 PM) Ernestine Batdorf
- (7:30 PM) Nancie Whelan
- 30 Eugene Martin



Greeters

- 2 **NEEDED**
- 9 **NEEDED**
- 16 **NEEDED**
- 23 **NEEDED**
- 24 (4 PM) **NEEDED**
- (7:30 PM) The Bowman Family
- 30 Nicholas and Barbara Adams



Finance Steward

Dorothy Martin



Head Ushers

Raymond and Carol Anspach



Altar Guild

- Janet Gassert, chair
- Carol Anspach
- Raymond Anspach
- Tom Gassert



Crucifer

- 2 Ernestine Batdorf
- 9 Sandra Smith
- 16 Andrew Hartman
- 23 Kathaleen Lilley
- 24 (4 PM) Nicholas Adams
- (7:30 PM) Robert Bowman
- 30 Michael Bowman



Acolyte

- 2 Deborah Lutz
- 9 Harry Hatt
- 16 Michael Bowman
- 23 Mikayla Bowman
- 24 (4 PM) Ernestine Batdorf
- (7:30 PM) Nancie Whelan
- Mary Whelan
- 30 Deborah Lutz



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

December 2

The Bowman Family



Staff Christmas Gifts



Christmas is coming, and our custom has been to request donations towards Pastor Kendall's Christmas gift. As we did last year, we are also asking that you donate towards gifts for our other staff members (Robin, Karen, Erin and Alyssa). As you know, there has been a deficit in congregation giving for the past several years, and we are not able to budget an appropriate amount for our employees. Please help us to give each of our employees a generous Christmas gift. Please give your contribution to any Council member or officer (see list on page 5).

Harry Hatt
 Congregation Council President

Christmas Worship

The Nativity of Our Lord

Monday, December 24

4 PM and 7:30 PM

A liturgy of Holy Communion, carols and candle lighting



For Your Information

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS



November 4
 Caring
 Cupboard

December 2
 Rescue
 Mission

If you purchased a pictorial directory make sure you pick up a **picture expansion pack** at the congregation meeting on November 17. Your **2019 offering envelopes** will also be available for you to pick up.



CLOTHING DRIVE

On **Tuesday, November 6** we will sponsor a clothing drive for all sizes and all types of weather. The cold weather clothes will stay in our area and the warm weather clothes will be shipped to Haiti. Please clean out your closets and bring in your gently used clothes! Someone will be very grateful.



Please sign up today to be a **Greeter!** The sheets for 2019 list are posted and ready for you to sign up to serve next year.



The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2019 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex.



Volunteers are needed to set up the **luminaries on Christmas Eve** before the 4 PM service and to remove them after the 7:30 PM service. If you can help please contact any member of the Congregation Council (see page 5).



*Unto Us
 a Child is Born*



Congregation Council Highlights

A special meeting of the Congregation Council was called on Tuesday, September 18, 2018

Guests: Seberiano (Angel) and Judith (Carmen) Portes

The dialog for tonight's meeting centered upon Angel and Carmen inquiring about space to start a mission congregation with members of their Hispanic community. Their gatherings would not conflict with ours except on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. They agreed to use the Fellowship Hall on those occasions or worship with us. Their times would include: Sunday, 1 PM and Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7 PM. Gatherings would include singing, prayer, worship and preaching.

Discussion also included expenses, creating business cards (done) instruction on use of the kitchen and security issues. We will contact the Director for Domestic Missions, NALC, Pastor Brad Hales for guidance on proceeding. We can apply for a grant from the NALC for mission help. They will apply for insurance once the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has issued their legal status.

It was decided by unanimous vote to begin a trial period beginning Sunday, September 22, 2018. The meeting closed with tour of the entire facility, including the sound system in the nave, lighting, the classrooms in the Fellowship Hall and the kitchen.

Respectfully submitted by
Karen Fox
Congregation Council secretary

The Messiah Congregation Council met on October 9, 2018

- The narthex doors are almost complete. One more lock set needs to be obtained and installed.
- We were reminded that placing items in the boiler room (and the kitchen closet) is a violation of the city fire code. We will be cited if the city fire commission does a surprise inspection.
- The mission church, Christian Missionary Church Assembly, begun by Seberiano (Angel) and Judith (Carmen) Portes, is meeting at Messiah four times a week and is doing well.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Fox,
Congregation Council secretary

In Case of Wintry Weather...



In the event of wintry weather or power outages on Sunday mornings, please listen to WLBR radio for information on worship schedules. If there is a power failure on a Sunday morning, worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The emergency generator provides enough light in that area.

Also, in the event of adverse weather/road conditions, the office will open as soon as conditions allow us to travel safely. On a Wednesday morning, if the Cornwall-Lebanon or Lebanon City school districts have a 2 hour delay or are closed, the Wednesday morning worship service is cancelled.

