

**INSIDE THIS
 ISSUE:**

Membership changes	2
Congregation Meeting	3
Spaghetti Miracle	3
Congregation Council Hi-lights	4
Our Saints	5
Ministry Plan Report	6
Intentional Prayer	6
November Schedules	8
December Schedules	9
Atlantic M.R. Convocation	10

**SPECIAL
 POINTS OF
 INTEREST**

- NO Thanksgiving Eve Worship (Page 2)
- Open Flower Dates (Page 2)
- Christmas Cookies (Page 3)
- Tree of Giving (Page 4)
- Congregation Council members (Page 5)
- Altar Guild Mtg. (Page 6)
- Food Drive (Page 7)
- Christmas Eve Worship (Page 7)
- Carols Requested! (Page 7)
- Birthdays & Anniversaries (Page 11)

From the Messiah Office

I'm sure you are wondering why I (Robin) am writing what is usually known as the Pastor's Page. It's because I forgot to ask Pr. Abera to write something for the newsletter before he left for Ethiopia. Oops!

However, this may be fortuitous as it allows me to relay the most recent updates from Pr. Abera himself re: his fall and broken leg.

As you may know, Pr. Abera fell and broke his leg below the knee in two places on October 12. He was sightseeing in a rain forest, stepped off a swinging bridge which swung more than he anticipated. This resulted in an awkward fall—and, well, you know the rest.

As of this writing he is resting at the home of one of his sisters in Ethiopia. He has a brace on his leg that goes over the knee and keeps it in an extended position.

His doctor in Ethiopia will not release him to fly home until the brace can be removed and Pastor can bend his knee. That, unfortunately, will extend Pr. Abera's absence by at least another month.

Yes, he is in some pain

and craves your prayers. Please pray for our pastor that he may have relief from the pain and the ability to come home soon.

So, what next? Arrangements have been made to have pastoral and lay coverage for all worship services in November. We will NOT be traveling to Vinemont on Thanksgiving Eve for a liturgy.

Contingency plans are being made for December just in case Pastor Abera is unable to come back to work. We WILL still have a 4 PM Christmas Eve liturgy and a wonderful liturgy of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Day (a Sunday this year).

So, let us be thankful!

Pastor's broken leg is not life-threatening. We have a strong Congregation Council who continue to lead us. We have a faithful Call Committee who are just beginning the hard work set before them to find our new pastor. Thank you, God, for these leaders in our congregation and for the work you set before them that they will do to the best of their ability.

Speaking of which, what's the next step in

the search for our new pastor?

The Call Committee has all the raw data from our discussions at the September 24 Congregation Workshop. They are wading through all of it and compiling a Congregation Profile that will clearly state what we are looking for in a pastor.

This Congregation Profile will then be put on the NALC website for all NALC pastors who are open for a call to view and consider if they want to submit their Pastor Profile to us for consideration.

The Call Committee will be given Pastor Profiles, and they will discern who they would like to interview. This is the part that will be hardest for them (discerning who God is sending to us) and for us (not knowing a thing about who they're talking to). Patience will be the name of the game for awhile.

But, thanks be to God for this process! For it will send to us our new shepherd. And for that we can all be grateful and can express our gratitude through constant prayer and support for those who continue to lead us through this transition.

—Robin

Membership Changes

The Rev. Jim DeLong has transferred his membership back to Messiah as the congregation he was serving has closed.

Carol Anspach has a new email address! It is canspach71@gmail.com.

+ + +

We remember with joy and love she who joined the Church Triumphant in September:



Margaret "Margie" Shirey
1936-2022

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

Thanksgiving Eve



Due to Pastor Abera's injury and inability to lead worship yet we will NOT be traveling to Vinemont as originally planned for Thanksgiving Eve worship.



Change Your Clocks!



Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 6** at 2 AM. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. See you in church.

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

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



Open Flower Dates

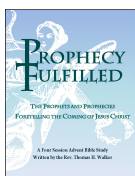
There are **THREE (3) open flower dates for 2023!** Please contact Robin in the office or Deb Lutz at 717-273-1155 if you are interested in sponsoring the flowers or giving a donation in lieu of flowers for any of these dates:



January 10 January 29 April 16

THANK YOU!

Upcoming Events



Advent Living in Faith study!

Prophecy Fulfilled

Led by Karen Fox

Running November 20—
December 18

The church office will be
CLOSED



on November 24 & 25

AND

December 26 & 27.



WELCOME TIME in January



will be held on
January 8.

Sign up to sponsor a Welcome Time today!

Sheets are posted on the Information Board.

Annual Congregation Meeting



Reminder: The **annual congregation meeting** will be held in person on **Saturday, November 19 at 2 PM.** There will be a Spaghetti Miracle before the meeting at 12 PM.

At this meeting we will be

electing new Congregation Council members for 2023, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2023, 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 at Messiah) in the current calendar year.



Spaghetti Miracle

If health conditions allow, on **Saturday, November 19** the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a Spaghetti Miracle at 12 PM (before the annual Congregation Meeting).

Attendees will be asked to bring a box of pasta and a jar

of sauce with them to the meal as the price of admission. A meal of spaghetti, salad, and dessert will be held. A sign up sheet will be posted in November on which you may sign up to bring a salad or dessert.

So come on out and enjoy

some good food and fellowship with your church



family before we get to business. Please contact Karen Hatt if you have any questions.

Christmas Cookies Needed!



If health conditions allow, the Fellowship Committee will be seeking bakers from the congregation to make Christmas cookies for our fellow members. These cookies will be distributed during the Advent season.

We are asking for volunteers to **bake one kind of cookie.** The recipients will then receive a nice variety of cookies instead of 2-3 versions of the same kind of cookie. A sign up sheet will be posted so you may indicate what type of cookie you will be baking.

Please bring your cookies (already bagged— 3-4 large cookies per bag or 5-6 smaller cookies per bag) to the church by **Saturday, November**

19 at 10 AM. They will be packed in containers at that time.

If you would like to help bake and/or pack the cookie containers please sign up on the sheet that will be posted on the Information Board in October. Watch your bulletin for information on when we will be delivering the cookie containers.

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



Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

- Financial reports were reviewed and accepted pending audit.
- Dave Machamer will be Messiah's delegate for the annual Convocation of the Atlantic Mission Region on October 21 & 22 in Annapolis, MD.
- Committee reports were given.
- Thanksgiving Eve liturgy will be held on November 23 at 7 PM at Vinemont LC. We will be car-pooling.

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

- Recommendations made by Finance Committee were approved.
- Financial reports were approved pending audit.
- A Capella Sundays have been suspended and replaced with music by a pianist.
- The visitor brochure has been updated.
- Cookies for shut-ins will be delivered.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zivic
Congregation Council secretary



Tree of Giving



Tree of Giving

Look for the Tree of Giving in the narthex all of November. As in years past we are collecting gifts for the Agape House.

Cynthia Smith of the Agape House has requested the following items for the children currently living there:

Boy (age 3 mos.)

- Pajamas 6-12 mos.
- Any baby toy

Boy (age 2)

- Christmas coloring book or sticker book with crayons
- Christmas book

Girl (age 3)

- Christmas coloring book with crayons
- Christmas book

Girl (age 6)

- Christmas coloring book with crayons
- Christmas book

Girl (age 9)

- Christmas coloring book with crayons
- 100 piece puzzle

Girl (age 10)

- Christmas coloring book with crayons
- Small craft to make bracelets

Girl (age 10)

- Christmas coloring book with crayons
- 100 piece puzzle

Bus pass/passes for the **mothers** through COLT

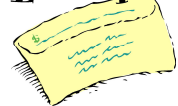
Harry & Karen Hatt have applied for a grant from Thrivent to help with the cost of buying gift cards to Jubilee for the 6 mothers.

Please take an ornament from the tree, purchase your gift(s) and return them to the church unwrapped.

The 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.

2023 Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes



We are hoping the 2023 offering envelopes will arrive in time for our annual congregation meeting on November 19. Please take yours home with you at your earliest convenience. If you live close to a shut-in or someone who has not returned to in-house worship, please consider helping us out by delivering their envelopes too. Please note that the envelopes will be arranged in **ALPHABETICAL** order. Thank you.

2022 Contributions

REMINDER:

ALL year-end contributions **must be received by the last Sunday of the month (December 25)** to count for 2022. All contributions received after that date will be recorded for 2023.



The **deadline** for the January 2023 issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Wednesday, December 14**. Please make sure you have all your information turned in to the office (and on the work room calendar) by this date. We will be going back to **MONTHLY** newsletters instead of having double issues. Keep watch for the most current information! Thank you!



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

E-mail

Pastor Abera: pastor.hellemo@gmail.com
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>

2022 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President, Christian Ed. co-chair*

Gayle Hoffman, *Vice President, Stewardship and Volunteer Resources chair*

Karen Zivic, *Secretary*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary*

Brenda Beegle, *Christian Ed co-chair*

Michael Ernst

Deborah Lutz, *Publicity chair*

David Machamer, *Evangelism, Personnel, and Property chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship Chair*

Kathleen Lilley, *Treasurer and Finance Chair*

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

Nancie Whelan, *Assistant Treasurer*



Our Saints

On Sunday, November 6 we remember our members who joined the Church Triumphant since the last All Saints' Sunday:



The Rev. Barry Kendall
Kathleen "Kitty" Runkel
Mary Ellen Dietrich
Leontine Vavrous
Joseph Hartman
Margaret "Margie" Shirey

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



Ministry Plan Report for August & September

(Ministry Plan need per week: \$3,364.92)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
8/7	\$3,486.00	15 LiF / 49 +
*8/14	\$1,624.00	15 LiF / 30 +
8/21	\$3,489.65	15 LiF / 39 +
8/28	\$2,207.00	16 LiF / 42 +
9/4	\$2,852.00	16 LiF / 36 +
*9/11	\$3,216.00	16 LiF / 32 +
9/18	\$2,320.00	12 LiF / 31 +
9/25	\$1,582.00	13 LiF / 29 +

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



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us



Intentional Prayer

Now that we have had the congregational workshop, the Call Committee will be filling out the Congregational Profile. This will be posted on the NALC website for those looking for a call to view. Once posted, the committee will be able to consider candidates.

Let us pray

- 1) That God will guide the Call Committee in completing this document to accurately represent the congregation.
- 2) That the committee members will continue to seek God's will in all their tasks.
- 3) For the physical well-being of the members of the committee so they can fulfill their responsibilities.
- 4) For the pastors who are seeking a call to discern God's will for them as they interact with perspective churches.

Thank you for continued daily prayer as we progress through this process.

Altar Guild Meeting



You are invited to attend the annual Altar Guild meeting on **Saturday, November 5 at 9 AM** in the conference room. All members of the Altar Guild should attend, and any mem-

bers of the congregation who would like to join or know more about the Altar Guild are welcome. We have some openings to fill, so any help will be most welcome. If you have any questions please contact Deb Lutz at 717-273-1155. Thank you!

Wintry Weather...

In the event of wintry weather or power outages on Sunday mornings, you will be notified by email or phone call if the service is cancelled. 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.

Staff Christmas Gifts



Christmas is coming, and our custom has been to request donations towards Pastor'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).

Cash is preferred. Please do NOT give a check on Christmas Eve. We cannot divide it in time to include it in the envelopes. Thank you!

Nick Adams
 Congregation Council President

Carols Requested!

Christmas is coming!



Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) we will celebrate with a liturgy of lessons and carols with Holy Communion at a special time, **10 AM**.

We would like your input as to the carols we will sing that morning. Please submit a written request to Karen Fox **by Sunday, December 11** OR put your request into the Christmas basket on the organ.

We will incorporate as many of your requests as possible for Christmas Day. Thank you for your input!

Special Worship Times!

December 25	10 AM
January 1	10 AM

No Living in Faith on either Sunday.

Christmas Eve Worship

The Nativity of Our Lord
 Saturday, December 24

4 PM ONLY

A liturgy of Holy Communion, carols and candle lighting



Food Drive

The **Rescue Mission** is sponsoring a **food drive through December 9**. Please bring in any of the following to Messiah or deliver directly to the Rescue Mission (1223 Bittner Blvd, Lebanon; use the "donations" door):

- Pasta/stuffing/rice
- Canned fruits
- Canned vegetables
- Juice
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Soup
- Canned meat or tuna
- Dried beans
- Coffee & tea
- Sugar & creamer
- Condiments
- Oatmeal packets
- Cereal

All of the food collected will fill their pantry for the year and will provide emergency support for other local agencies. Thank you!



November 2022 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 6 Deborah Lutz
- 13 Kathaleen Lilley
- 20 Nancie Whelan
- 27 Sandra Smith



Altar Guild

- Rita Savant, chair
- Suzette Buffamoyer
- Gayle Hoffman



Lector

- 6 Mary Garrett
- 13 Karen Fox
- 20 Nancie Whelan
- 27 Sandra Smith



Crucifer

- 6 Kathaleen Lilley
- 13 Sandra Smith
- 20 Gayle Hoffman
- 27 Andrew Surmacz



Greeters

- 6 **NEEDED**
- 13 **NEEDED**
- 20 Harry & Karen Hatt
- 27 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 6 Deborah Lutz
- 13 Karen Hatt
- 20 Nancie Whelan
- 27 Karen Zivic



Finance Steward
Brenda Beegle

Head Usher
Eugene Martin



WELCOME TIME Sponsors



(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month after worship.)



November 6—
Harry & Karen Hatt

December 2022 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 4 Ernestine Batdorf
- 11 Karen Fox
- 18 Charlotte Varone
- 24 (4 PM) Nancie Whelan
- 25 Sandra Smith



Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Carol Anspach
- Raymond Anspach



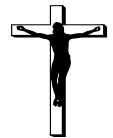
Lector

- 4 Carey Kendall
- 11 Karen Fox
- 18 Charlotte Varone
- 24 (4 PM) Nancie Whelan
- 25 Sandra Smith



Crucifer

- 4 Eugene Martin
- 11 Sandra Smith
- 18 Kathaleen Lilley
- 24 (4 PM) Mary Whelan
- 25 Gayle Hoffman



Greeters

- 4 **NEEDED**
- 11 **NEEDED**
- 18 Charlotte Varone
- 24 (4 PM) Harry & Karen Hatt
- 25 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 4 Karen Hatt
- 11 Karen Hatt
- 18 Deborah Lutz
- 24 (4 PM) Ernestine Batdorf
Karen Zivic
- 25 Karen Hatt



Finance Steward
Michael Ernst

WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month after worship.)



December 4—
The Surmacz Family

Head Ushers

Raymond and Carol Anspach



Convocation Recap

Seventy-four disciples of the Atlantic Mission Region gathered over two days at Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edgewater, MD on October 21 & 22, 2022 for the annual regional Convocation. The theme for this year was “Trust the LORD in Anxious Times.” Sixty-six gathered in person and eight attended virtually.

Presentations were made by the **Rev. Dan Schaefer** and **Rebecca Johnson** on *A Christian Response to Anxiety and Fear*. **Officer Dan Schaefer** led the assembly in understanding emergency preparedness on a congregational level (briefly covering natural disasters, medical emergencies, active shooter, etc.) A copy his book *The Church Emergency Handbook: All Hazards Emergency Management for Houses of Worship* was gifted to each congregation by the AMR. Assistant to the Bishop of the Eastern Area the **Rev. Dr. Bill White** spoke to the assembly about the new restructuring of the NALC and what it means for us as a Region.

The 2023 Ministry Spending Plan was approved. The assembly approved the \$58,950 Ministry Plan as presented.

Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries was the spotlight Ministry Partner this year. The Rev. Leslie Haines (Major) spoke to the assembly about LMVFM and the work they do with veterans both past and present and how vital their work is. Service dog Patrick Dooley was also present and was enjoyed by all who visited him.

Financial gifts were given to the Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries (\$1,210), Disaster Response (\$1,040), Annapolis ELC (\$100), and the NALS (\$50). The NALC also received \$500 from the AMR as an honorarium for the work done at this Convocation by our assistant to the Bishop for the Eastern Area the Rev. Dr. Bill White.

We heard a presentation from the Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team re: **Having a Discipleship Conversation**. A follow up conversation on GoToMeeting is being planned for November 5.

Stuff the Truck for NALC Disaster Response! The truck was filled with health kits, school kits, flood buckets, blankets, Bibles, rakes, shovels, and gift cards. THANK YOU! All donations were taken to the warehouses in Middle River, MD and Elmer, NJ.

Worship: We opened the Convocation with a contemporary Eucharist led by the Worship Team from Trinity ELC, Joppa, MD with AMR dean the Rev. Steve Shipman preaching. Northeast Mission District dean the Rev. Gregory Davidson led us in Compline on Friday evening. We opened Saturday with a traditional Eucharist with the Rev. Mark Metze presiding and the Rev. Dr. Bill White preaching.

Mission District Meetings: The assembly broke into Mission Districts on Friday night and enjoyed fellowship with each other.

Fellowship! There were plenty of opportunities for fellowship at this year’s Convocation. There was scheduled free time for networking and to visit the Ministry Partner and vendor displays. We also enjoyed an ice cream social on Friday evening. Yum!

Informal Bible Study: Assistant to the Bishop the Rev. Dr. Bill White led an informal Bible study for anyone interested in attending on Friday morning before the Convocation began.

Women’s Conference: The Women of Atlantic Mission Region held their fourth Women’s Conference on Friday morning in which they worked together to assemble 123 school kits for NALC Disaster Response. They also had sharing time, a Bible study, worship, and a visit from NALC Disaster Response coordinator Mary Bates.

The 2023 AMR Convocation will be held on October 20-21 at St. Paul Lutheran Church (250 Trinity Rd.), York, PA. A **Women’s Conference** is also being planned for October 20 prior to the Convocation. Mark your calendars!

November Birthdays

- 2 Lee Stickler
- 4 Richard Wert
- 7 Hailey Hartman
- 8 Georgeanna Hanover
- 9 Lorraine Long
- 12 Erick McGuire
- 15 Karley Roof
- 17 Dennis Brossman
- 20 Karen Hatt
- 25 Debra Stickler
- 26 Sandra Smith
- 30 Steven Anspach



December Birthdays

- 1 Jacob Anspach
- Nolan Anspach
- 5 Holly McGuire
- Walter Shirey
- 7 Eileen Lutz
- 8 Andrew Hartman
- 9 Barbara Adams
- Susan Galbraith
- 10 Clyde Peters
- 18 Alyson Hartman
- Pr. Abera Hellemo
- 22 Debra Miller
- 24 Donald Munford
- 25 Mikayla Bowman
- 26 Beckett Lutz
- 31 Gary Dohner



November Anniversaries

- 18 Larry & Evelyn Shaak
- 20 Raymond & Carol Anspach
- Harry & Karen Hatt
- 25 Dennis & Wendy Brossman



December Anniversaries

- 6 Barry & Brenda Beegle



Hope Peace



Love Joy

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS

November 6

December 4

All donations will be given to the Rescue Mission.



Please sign up today to be a **Greeter** or to **sponsor Welcome Time!** The sheets for 2023 are posted and ready for you to sign up to serve next year.

Greeter duty description cards are available. They are in an envelope on the Information Board.

Volunteers are needed to set up then take down the **luminaries on Christmas Eve** for the 4 PM liturgy. If you are interested in helping please contact Deb Lutz at 717-273-1155.



Thank you!