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## Pastor's Page

I like to read the verses of hymns as part of my personal devotional practice. I take a little time with this, and do it in a setting that is quiet—interruptions break my train of concentration and don't allow thoughts to take shape and connect to one another.

Sometimes I read a hymn out loud, and learn from giving expression to the text with voice rather than music. I might spend time reflecting upon just one verse, even one line.

Often, I marvel that words written centuries ago are still so timely: relevant to a current situation, or to spiritual questions confronting me.

This shouldn't really be surprising. A good hymn is always based on Biblical truth, and the Bible is always timely. A good hymn is also the writer's attempt to put into words some aspect of his or her faith experience, struggles, joys, insights and crosses borne. When we read the words of a hymn, we are being shown the thoughts, and the heart, of the writer.

Sometimes that writer speaks for all of us in the Body of Christ, and the hymn is phrased as a collective expression, using "We" and "us," or as an address to the whole Church (for instance, "Rise Up, O Saints of God"). Sometimes, the hymn depicts a conversation, or words addressed to Christ from one of His servants: "You have come down to the lakeshore ..."

Sometimes a hymn is very personal, asking for divine Aid to become a better Child of God: "Take My Heart, and Let It Be/Consecrated, Lord, to Thee." Or, in the midst of fear or sorrow, asking for God's steadfast Companionship in the dark nights of life: "Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide."

Sometimes, the words of a hymn move us to look at our situation in life or our outlook on life, and help us find—or remember—a better place than where we are.

For example, as we wearily listen to more rhetoric from President wannabe's, or watch yet another Harrisburg budget feud,

hear of another murder, or sigh while trying to decipher yet another change in our health insurance, we contend with the temptation to sink into hopelessness.

A line from the hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory" recently spoke to me: *Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore; Let the gift of Your salvation be our glory evermore. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving You Whom we adore, serving You Whom we adore.*

No matter how self-serving, broken or corrupt we might perceive earthly institutions to be, these things will pass away, and our inner peace does not (and never will) depend on them.

This hymn text reminded me of our true hope. Our peace, contentment, purpose, and strength are found as we devote ourselves to the One Whom we adore.

Our hymns celebrate God's Truths. Invest some of your time with them, and let them encourage you too. +

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**NALC Web Site:** <http://thenalc.org>

# Weekly Worship Schedule

**SUNDAYS:**

9 AM The Holy Communion  
 10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour  
 (4th Sunday of the month—joint class)

**WEDNESDAYS:**

(as noted in the calendar and bulletin)  
 10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion

## September Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, September 8, 2015.

- Two members were excused. Devotions were led by Don Smith. Deb Lutz will have devotions in October.
- David Machamer was appointed to serve the last remaining 16 months of Brenda Beegle’s term. He will coordinate the work done on the outside property.
- The Property Committee reported that the air conditioning in the east wing stopped working three times in the last three weeks. It is a 40-year old unit. Council will have to decide if it is more cost effective to repair or replace it.
- Pastor presented a first draft of the proposed Confirmation program for Council to review.

Submitted by Nick Adams  
 Congregation Council President



## Chicken Pot Pie Luncheon



On **Saturday, November 21** the Fellowship Committee is hosting a **chicken pot pie luncheon at noon** before the annual Congregation Meeting. A sign up sheet will be posted later this month on which you may sign up to bring a side dish, dessert or drink.

If you are interested in learning how to make authentic pot pie dough or if you would like to lend a hand in making the pot pie please come to the kitchen at 10 AM that morning. Karen Hatt will be on hand to guide the learners. The chicken and broth will already be made so the only thing that needs to be done is put together the dough, roll it

out, and cook it! Come and join us! Remember, “many hands make light work.” Please contact Karen Hatt if you are planning to come and learn or help.

See you there!



# 2015 CROP Hunger Walk



The annual Greater Lebanon CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, October 18**. David Machamer, walk organizer for Messiah, reports that the walk will begin and end at the **Jonestown United Methodist Church** (109 W. Market Street). Registration is at 1 PM, and the walk will begin at 1:30 PM. There will be a choice of a 3 mile or 1.5 mile walk through Jonestown. Pledge envelopes for those

who wish to support Messiah's walkers in this humanitarian effort are now available. Please see Dave for your packet.

The money raised through this event helps people around the world to establish family gardens or improve their gardening methods to provide food for their families. Equipment, training, food for a local church-run pantry, or raising chicks to become egg laying chickens are other ways that help can be provided. Dave encourages all Messiah walkers to take part to help these

needy people, and ask that those who won't be walking to support our walkers by making pledges.

And there is another way you can help! Messiah has been asked to add several dozen cookies to those that will be served to the walkers after the walk is completed. Please let Dave know if you can do some baking for this event.

**WALK, PLEDGE OR BAKE!** Thanks in advance for your participation!



# Annual Congregation Meeting



**Reminder:** The annual congregation meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 21 at 2 PM**. The day will begin with a chicken pot pie luncheon which will be held at 12 noon (see page 2).

At this meeting we will be electing new Congregation

Council members for 2016, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2016, 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.



# Open Flower Dates

All the flower dates for the remainder of this year are filled. Thank you!

However, there are six Sundays in **2016** that do not have a flower sponsor.

February 14  
June 19

August 7  
August 14  
September 11  
October 30



Please contact Janet Gassert at 272-3757 if you are interested in sponsoring flowers for any of these Sundays. Thank you.

# October 2015 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

By Sharon Garner

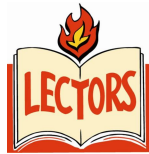
- 4 Charlotte Varone
- 11 Michael Bowman
- 18 Nancie Whelan
- 25 Nicholas Adams



## Lector

By Sharon Garner

- 4 Pastor James DeLong
- 11 Michael Bowman
- 18 Nancie Whelan
- 25 Nicholas Adams



## Greeters

- 4 Marion Bowman
- 11 Karen Fox
- 18 Pam Knouff
- 25 Nancie & Mary Whelan and Anna



## Finance Steward:

Nicholas Adams



## Head Usher:

Rick Knouff



## Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Sue Palevo
- Corrie Shuey



## Crucifer

By Carol Artz

- 4 Kathaleen Lilley
- 11 Eugene Martin
- 18 Eugene Martin
- 25 Rita Savant



## Acolyte

By Sharon Garner

- 4 Mary Whelan
- 11 Abbey Hartman
- 18 Keeley Hartman
- 25 Michelle Blouch



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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



October 4— Social Ministry Committee



# General Fund Summary for August

			<b>August</b>		<b>Year/date</b>
	Income		\$13,998.21		\$112,614.73
	Expenses		\$15,290.37		\$119,264.92
	Income-expenses		<b>-\$1,292.16</b>		<b>-\$6,650.19</b>
<b>Income</b>		<b>August</b>		<b>Year/date</b>	
Regular giving		\$13,819.00		\$110,142.65	
Jesus Tree envelopes		\$175.00		\$1,100.00	
Bowl of Blessings		\$0.00		\$181.00	
Checking interest		\$0.21		\$2.08	
Donations (use of church)		\$0.00		\$590.00	
Other Gen. Fund*		<u>\$4.00</u>		<u>\$599.00</u>	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$13,998.21</b>		<b>\$112,614.73</b>	
*initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc .					
				<b>Expenses</b>	
				<b>August</b>	<b>Year/date</b>
	Staff			\$10,811.04	\$77,233.05
	Administrative			\$173.48	\$3,013.53
	Maintenance			\$2,366.85	\$24,059.34
	Committee			\$39.00	\$9.00
	Additional			\$500.00	\$3,750.00
	Benevolence			\$1,300.00	\$10,400.00
	Loan Repayment			<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$800.00</u>
	<b>Total expenses</b>			<b>\$15,290.37</b>	<b>\$119,264.92</b>
	Income less expenses			<b>-\$1,292.16</b>	<b>-\$6,650.19</b>



## Benevolence Giving

August 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
Water Missions International	\$50.00		\$50.00
Total	\$1,300.00	\$0.00	\$1,300.00



# Upcoming Events

## LWR INGATHERING SUNDAY

Sunday, October 4

Urgent need: New or "like new" blankets



Lutheran World Relief

## BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, October 8

7 PM

Conference Room

We are continuing our study of the Gospel of John.



## EVENT NIGHT

Thursday, October 15

6:30 PM

Come on out for some games and fellowship!

# Ministry Plan Report

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

Date	Offering Received	Attendance
8/2	\$3,139.00	55 + / 21 LiF
8/9	\$2,432.00	53 + / 17 LiF
8/16	\$2,762.00	60 + / 30 LiF
8/23	\$3,425.00	65 + / 25 LiF
8/30	\$2,254.00	60 + / 26 LiF

**Received to date:** \$112,614.73

**Needed to date:** \$120,527.33

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

# Address Changes

Please remember to notify the church office if you have **moved**, are planning to move, have a **new email address**, or have a **new phone number**. It is really important for the church office to stay current with addresses and phone numbers. Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date.



# For Your Information

October 4

## FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of each month we collect food and personal care products for our neighbors in need. Unless there is a special request from a specific agency, the schedule is as follows:



October  
Rescue Mission

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

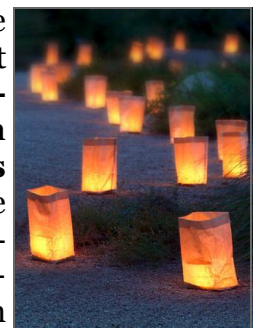


**October is Pastor Appreciation Month.** Take a minute to tell Pastor Kendall "thank you" for his service to Our Lord and this congregation.

**Michaela Blouch** has a new address at college (good until May, 2016):

1040 N. Park Road  
D Wing, Room 247  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

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 someone from the Evangelism Committee: Deb Lutz, Sharon Garner, Mary Garrett or Charlotte Varone. Thank you!

# Pastabilities Dinner

The 10th annual Caring Cup-board **By Donation All-You-Can-Eat Pastabilities Dinner** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 10 from 4-7 PM** at **Palm Lutheran Church** (11 W. Cherry Street, Palmyra) in their multipurpose room.

**Menu:**

- All-you-can-eat pasta
- Meatballs
- Salad bar
- Rolls/garlic knots
- Dessert
- Drink

- Take out is available!

Donation of desserts is needed. Please drop off your dessert at Palm on Friday, October 9 from 4-7 PM or on Saturday, October 10 from noon-4 PM. Help is needed to run this event, especially help with cleaning up. Please consider giving your time to help in this way.

Please bring a canned good to donate. This donation will get you entered into a basket raffle.

Please join us for great food, fun, and fellowship while supporting a very important community needs organization! For further information or to make a donation please call 838-9493.



## Luther Presentation



You are cordially invited to attend a **one-man dramatic presentation of Martin Luther** by Dr. Kevin Pry (drama professor at LVC and Pastor Kendall's friend) at **Zoar Lutheran Church** (560 Freeport Road, Lebanon) on **Sunday, October 18 at 2 PM**. Dr. Pry will "become" Luther for a presentation of his life and the history of the Reformation followed by a question and answer session. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All are welcome! Price of admission is one food item per person that will be donated to the JOY Pantry in Jonestown. We hope to see you there!

## Bible Reading Covenant

The Living in Faith classes will continue meeting jointly **every fourth Sunday of each month** to discuss the Bible reading selection for that month. The list of monthly readings were handed out at Covenant Day in September. If you need a copy contact Robin in the office and she will make sure you get one.

The dates that the classes will be meeting jointly to discuss the readings are:



- October 25
- November 22
- \*December 20 (3rd Sunday)

**2016**

- January 24
- February 28
- \*March 20 (3rd Sunday)
- April 24
- May 22
- June 26
- July 24
- August 28



Please have the selections read in preparation for the discussion. Bring your Bible, notes and any questions you may have.

## October Birthdays

- 2 Nancy Smith
- 3 Richard Miller
- 4 Thomas Gassert
- 6 Mikey Adams
- 7 Linda Field
- 12 Michael Anspach  
Donna Felder
- 14 Keeley Hartman
- 15 Susan Palevo
- 16 Irma Long
- 18 Pam Knouff
- 22 Donald Smith
- 27 Richard Gehret
- 28 Steven Galbraith
- 29 Carol Artz
- 30 Rick Knouff
- 31 Dan Carpenter



## October Anniversaries

- 1 Michael & Kelly Bowman
- 8 Pastor James & Ruth DeLong
- 10 Shawn and Kelly Roof
- 12 Kevin & Sandra Smith
- 23 Daniel & Susan Galbraith
- 26 Andrew & Jill Hartman
- 30 Dan & Barb Carpenter



## Thank You Notes



*Thank you notes were received from the Lebanon Rescue Mission, Water Missions International, and the Atlantic Mission District of the NALC. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.*

I want to thank you for the beautiful altar flowers and prayers. I really appreciate it.  
Margie Shirey

## 2015 Congregational Council

- Nicholas Adams, *President, Social Ministry & Property chair*
- Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*
- Nancie Whelan, *Secretary & Christian Education chair*
- Pam Knouff, *Treasurer*
- Ernestine Batdorf, *Financial Secretary & Publicity chair*
- Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism chair*
- David Machamer
- Lori Oliver
- Donald Smith, *Stewardship chair*
- Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:
- Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*
- Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild president*
- Karen Hatt, *Fellowship chair*
- Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*
- Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer & Finance chair*
- Rita Savant, *Assistant Financial Secretary*



## Altar Guild Meeting



You are invited to attend the annual Altar Guild meeting on **Saturday, November 7 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 272-3757.