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Pastor's Page

Let's take stock. This year we had a very hot summer. The nation has two Presidential candidates with whom many on both sides are dissatisfied. Dealing with medical conditions, prescriptions, co-payments and other costs of living has, for many, been frustrating.

At Messiah, attendance has been low, giving has fallen far behind the needs of the Ministry Plan, and some of the most active servants in Messiah are weary.

In the news, there have been shootings, riots, natural disasters, and other dire events. Don't even get me started on Fun with Computers and other technological devices. All in all there are many reasons to feel down and grumpy.

Who is delighted more than anyone when we give in to such feelings?

Think about and you'll see the answer. It's Satan. The devil loves to get people feeling drained, discouraged, angry. The devil also loves when people turn aside from effort and say "life isn't worth it anymore."

Those who are not close to God turn aside to shallow pursuits which distract them and numb them to the discomfort of life in an uncomfortable world.

This is not a healthy answer, for such pursuits never satisfy for long; soon the search is on for a bigger dose of that "feel-good answer," or for another pursuit which will be more helpful. It's sad to watch people's empty desperation.

What's the answer? After all, everyone feels tired or discouraged sometimes.

The answer is simple: answer despair with thanksgiving!

If all people look at is what they don't have, or can't do, of course the feelings will be negative. But shame on us, God's people, if we fall for this.

If we believe that God is good, can it really be that we forget to look for goodness in our lives?

If we truly believe that God loves us, does it even make sense to stop looking for that love in life? Of course not!

Let's take stock: what is good, what is wonderful in your life? In your walk with God? In your fellowship with brothers and sisters in faith?

Are you homeless? Hungry? Friendless? Look at all God has given you in these areas. God has even given you the means to bless others. What are some of the differences you've made in the lives of people with whom you cross paths?

What insights has God been supplying to you, to equip you for life in this difficult world? What spiritual blessings do you enjoy, which you would surely miss if they were in your life no more?

It may have been a while since you've thought to count how much you have to be thankful for. Take the time now to "count your many blessings, name them one by one." Then gave thanks to God, specifically and gladly, for each one. Why focus on negatives all the time? Be good to yourself with the remembrance of how good God is to you. Be thankful—and make the devil the grumpy one.

Messiah Lutheran Church

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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 13, 2016.

- All current members were present.
- Charlotte Varone presented the devotions. Rita Savant will have them next month.
- Karen Fox was appointed to finish out the term of Don Smith which expires at the end of the year.
- The building locks have all been re-keyed.
- Strohm's Plumbing continues to install the heating part of the new HVAC system.
- The Rev. Amy Stickler's name has been engraved on the Sons and Daughters plaque outside under the portico.
- The Christmas party for the Agape Shelter has been scheduled for December 4. We will be applying for Thrivent Dollars to cover the expenses.
- The small organ in the Fellowship Hall classroom was donated to Iglesia Evangélica Misionera de Lebanon.

Submitted by Nick Adams
Congregation Council President



Congregation Meeting Luncheon



On **Saturday, November 19** the Fellowship Committee is hosting a **soup, salad and sandwich luncheon at 12 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 soup, salad, buns, dessert or drink. A variety of lunch meats, cheeses and paper products will be provided. So come on out and enjoy some good food and fellowship with your church family before we turn to business. See you there!



2016 CROP Hunger Walk



The annual Greater Lebanon CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled

for **Sunday, October 16**. David Machamer, walk organizer for Messiah, reports that the walk will begin and end at **South Hills Park** pavilion near the Lincoln Ave. entrance. **Registration is at 1 PM**, and the walk will begin at 1:30 PM. Walkers will walk through the park and then on to the Rails to Trails path to 8th Street (Daily News office)

then return to the park pavilion which is about a 3 mile walk. There will be hotdogs, cookies and water available after the walk.

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.

WALK, PLEDGE OR PRAY FOR OUR WALKERS! Thanks in advance for your participation!

If you have any questions or would like to participate please see David Machamer. **CROPWALK**



Annual Congregation Meeting



Reminder: The **annual congregation meeting** will be held on **Saturday, November 19 at 2 PM**. The day will begin with a soup, salad and sandwich luncheon which will be held at 12 noon (see page 2).

At this meeting we will be

electing new Congregation Council members for 2017, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2017, 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

There is ONE Sunday left in 2016 that needs a flower sponsor:

December 11

However, there are six Sundays in **2017** that do not have a flower sponsor.

February 19
May 7

June 18
August 6
August 13
December 10



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

October 2016 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 2 Kathaleen Lilley
- 9 Deborah Lutz
- 16 Michael Bowman
- 23 Daniel LaRue
- 30 Nancie Whelan



Lector

- 2 Pastor James DeLong
- 9 Deborah Lutz
- 16 Michael Bowman
- 23 Daniel LaRue
- 30 Nancie Whelan



Greeters

- 2 Marion Bowman
- 9 Mary Ann Hartman
- 16 Joan Smith
- 23 Nick & Barb Adams
- 30 Tim & Nancy Frye



Finance Steward:
Nicholas Adams

Head Usher:
Nancie Whelan



Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Rosanne Lutz



Crucifer By Carol Artz

- 2 Carol Artz
- 9 Ernestine Batdorf
- 16 Ernestine Batdorf
- 23 Robert Bowman
- 30 Robert Bowman



Acolyte

- 2 Mary Whelan
- 9 Deborah Lutz
- 16 Michael Bowman
- 23 Ernestine Batdorf
- 30 Nancie Whelan



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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



October 2— Social Ministry Committee



General Fund Summary for August

			August	Year/date	
	Income		\$12,740.13	\$101,419.82	
	Expenses		\$14,539.19	\$118,004.63	
	Income-expenses		-\$1,799.06	-\$16,584.81	
Income		August	Year/date	Expenses	August
Regular giving	\$11,388.00	\$98,635.40		Staff	\$10,348.83
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$1,000.00	\$1,560.00		Administrative	\$234.89
Bowl of Blessings	\$292.00	\$374.00		Maintenance	\$2,147.14
Checking interest	\$0.13	\$1.42		Committee	\$0.00
Donations (use of church)	\$0.00	\$390.00		Additional	\$375.00
Other Gen. Fund*	<u>\$60.00</u>	<u>\$459.00</u>		Benevolence	\$1,333.33
Total Income	\$12,740.13	\$101,419.82		Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>
*initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc .				Total expenses	\$14,539.19
				Income less expenses	-\$1,799.06
					-\$16,584.81



Benevolence Giving

August 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	\$54.16		\$54.16
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$54.16		\$54.16
Independent Church in India	\$54.16		\$54.16
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	\$54.17		\$54.17
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$54.17		\$54.17
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$50.00		\$50.00
Total	\$1,333.33	\$0.00	\$1,333.33

Upcoming Events

LWR INGATHERING SUNDAY

Sunday, October 2

Urgent need: New or “like new” blankets



Lutheran World Relief

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, October 13

7 PM

Conference Room

We are continuing our study of the Book of Romans.



EVENT NIGHT

Thursday, October 20

6:30 PM

Come on out for some games and fellowship!

AMD Convocation



On Friday, October 21—Saturday, October 22 Pastor Kendall, Nick and Barb Adams, Pastor Phil Kline, Kathy Lilley and Robin Harris will travel to Baltimore, MD to attend the 2016 Atlantic Mission District Convocation. The theme for this annual meeting of NALC congregations is *500 Years Later—What Do We Do with Luther Now?* The office will be closed that Friday. Please talk to any of these people if you would like to hear the latest news from Atlantic Mission District.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Erin Kendall and Andrew Trovinger upon their marriage on September 24. We wish God’s richest blessings on them as they begin their new life together.

Andrew & Erin Trovinger

206 Rex Street
PO Box 138
Rexmont, PA 17085



For Your Information

October 2

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.



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, Mary Garrett or Charlotte Varone. Thank you!

Thank You Notes



To my dear Church Family, Sunday, August 28th was such a wonderful day for our church's 150th anniversary and for me. What a surprise! When I was recognized and presented with a framed certificate I couldn't believe it.

Thank you for being my true friends for so many happy years.

In Christian love,
Marion Bowman

Thank you to all the members of the Anniversary Choir who willingly came together to practice early on Sunday mornings to prepare for the special anniversary worship service. Thank

you to our flutist, Alyssa Knouff and violinist, Erin (Kendall) Trovinger for preparing and participating in the trio prelude on Anniversary Sunday. I appreciate your efforts and I know the congregation appreciated your efforts as well. As always, *Soli Deo Gloria* (to God be the Glory)!

Karen Fox
Cantor Emerita

Thank you to the volunteer choir, Karen, Alyssa and Erin for all the beautiful music on Anniversary Sunday. They always come through when we need them because they love their church and are happy to share their talents with everyone.—Marion Bowman



Address Changes

New Address:

Lori Oliver

6 McHugh Street
South Glen Falls, NY 12803



New Email Address:

Debbie Miller has a new email address. It is dmiller1222@gmail.com.

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.

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 23
- *November 23 (3rd Sunday)
- *December 18 (3rd Sunday)

2017

- January 22
- February 26
- March 26
- April 23
- May 28
- June 25
- July 23
- August 27



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

150th Anniversary Fun at Messiah Church

Here's a fun trivia game from the Anniversary Celebration we had in August.

How many do you know? How close will your guesses be?

1. In 1898, what were the total contributions made to Seventh Street Lutheran? _____
2. Who was the first woman elected to Congregation Council & in what year? _____
3. In what year did Seventh Street Lutheran debut on the radio? _____
4. What big step was taken in 1926 to improve pastoral confidentiality? _____
5. What enlightening event took place in the church in 1904? _____
6. What did Rev. Coll publically exhibit before the congregation in 1893? _____
7. In what year was the *Lutheran Book of Worship* first used for a liturgy? _____
8. What couldn't Council afford to spend \$40 for in 1870? _____
9. What did Council vote to ignore in 1921? _____
10. In what year was the west-side forsythia planted? _____
11. What burned on the organ in 1925? _____
12. On what matter did a special committee report "progress" in 1893? _____
13. In what year did the congregation vote to change name to "Messiah Lutheran Church?" _____
14. What was purchased in 1921 for use in the pulpit and choir loft? _____
15. What did the first seal of the church cost in 1887? _____
16. What did the Music Committee ask the congregation to remember in 1974? _____
17. In what year did the congregation vote to sell land on the west side of 7th Street to the Lebanon School District? _____
18. Where was the 100th Anniversary picnic held in 1966? _____
19. In 1889, what did the congregation vote to forbid being taken upstairs? _____
20. In 1871, what was Brother Honatius told to remove and "make the best he can?" _____

(more on the next page!)

21. In what year did the Council buy the *Common Service Book* (published in 1917)? _____
22. In what year did Council vote to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop? _____
23. What did the Council offer a reward for in 1983? _____
24. What did the Council think was a good idea in 1927? _____
25. What was Mr. Kramer granted permission to do in the church basement in 1910?

26. What did the Council raise \$83.50, and borrow another \$125, to purchase in 1874?

27. When did the name “7th St. Lutheran Church” first appear in the official minutes? _____
28. What was the church’s budget in 1960? _____ In 2016 dollars this would be _____
29. In 1884, what was a Committee appointed to “fix a place for” in the SE end of the church?

30. What order did the air raid warden issue to congregation leaders in 1942?

Answers will be published in the November newsletter!

Road Trip to a Wolf Sanctuary



Come, one and all, on a fun, educational road trip to Lititz to visit the **Wolf Sanctuary on Saturday, October 29**. We will meet at the church at **10:45**

AM to arrange for carpooling. We will be stopping to eat on the way home, so eat a light snack before coming to the church.

The trails are made of natural grass, stones and dirt (sometimes mud) on mostly flat terrain, but it is uneven. And there is a hill at the last portion of the tour. Please wear good

walking shoes. The wolves are outside, so we will be, too! The tour lasts about 45 minutes to 1 hour. NO pets will be allowed on the property (that includes leaving them in the car). You may take pictures, but your lens may be no bigger than 5” (no telephoto lenses, please).

Cost of admission is \$12 per person. For children ages 11 and under cost is \$10; and for seniors age 63+ cost is \$11. The tour is not recommended for children under the age of 5. For more information please visit their website at <https://wolfsanctuarypa.org/> If you have any questions please see Karen Hatt.

October Birthdays

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



October Anniversaries

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



2016 Congregational Council

Nicholas Adams, *President & Property co-chair*
 Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*
 Nancie Whelan, *Secretary, assistant Treasurer & Christian Education chair*

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*
 Harry Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*
 Deborah Lutz, *Evangelism & Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Property co-chair*
 Rita Savant, *Social Ministry chair & Financial Secretary*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:
 Ernestine Batdorf, *Assistant Financial Secretary*
 Janet Gassert, *Altar Guild*
 Karen Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*
 Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*
 Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*

Altar Guild Meeting



You are invited to attend the annual Altar Guild meeting on **Saturday, November 12 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.

Ministry Plan Report for August

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
8/7	\$4,084.00	52 + / 17 Conversation
8/14	\$2,546.00	61 + /18 Kline presentation
8/21	\$3,284.00	44 + / 21 LiF
8/28	\$2,826.00	80 + (150th anniversary)

Received to date: \$101,419.82
Needed to date: \$123,954.00

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