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Pastor's Page

Five hundred years ago this month a German monk named Martin Luther proposed what today we would call “bullet points” for discussion and debate.

In proper scholarly language, these were termed “Theses” (plural for “thesis”). Luther had come up with ninety-five.

When I was growing up in a central PA Lutheran church, “Reformation Sunday” was treated like a little Fourth of July. WE marked the glorious revolution of Protestantism against the oppressive Roman Catholic empire.

At church camp we learned a song and belted it out as we traipsed to and from meals:
*O Marty Luther,
 O Marty Luther,
 We think the Reformation's GRA-AA-AND!*

We had no idea what the “Reformation” was, though we knew Marty Luther from pictures at church of a fat guy in a brown bathrobe with a weird haircut.

Since then I've learned a

few things: that Luther was not a revolutionary at all; that his success was as much due to timing and circumstances as to brilliance; that secular history really does not understand Martin Luther very well; and that “reformation” was neither started nor finished 500 years ago.

Luther was, first and foremost, a Christian. He first feared, then later loved, God. He first misunderstood, later drew close to, God. He first tried to appease, later lived to please, God. He did not let anything get in the way of this, but was both determined and stubborn.

Luther was not driven to overthrow his church, but to make it better: more faithful, more in line with the Bible, more geared to serve its people and its Lord. The church of his time had plenty of room for improvement.

Luther left Christianity better than he found it, but this was not his doing: it was the fruit of the Work of God. If Luther is to be regarded as influen-

tial, it's because God chose an effective instrument to effect the work God had in mind for the renewal of Christ's Church. If he's to be considered “heroic,” it's because God gave him only the choice of clinging to his faith, or denying it. Since Luther knew that denying Christ means embracing damnation, he had no real choice.

If we are to find present-day relevance for Brother Martin in our world and in our lives, this relevance must be found in the same sphere: in how our time in the Kingdom of God during our mortal years is to be spent, and how we uphold God's Truth in an idolatrous culture, amid religious chaos: in short, in a “world with devils filled.”

Ours is the same sphere, same priority. We must be, first and foremost, Christian, as individuals, families, congregation, and denomination, and let nothing get in the way of this. “Here I stand” said Luther at his decisive moment. God has chosen us to take the same stand in our time. +

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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

August Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

- Zeller Trust Funds were used to pay for Haiti shipping.
- A letter was received from the Social Ministry Coordinator of Water Missions International requesting a contribution towards clean water and the Rafiki Project in Alendu, Kenya.
- New lights will be installed in the chancel and the fellowship hall.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fox
Congregation Council Secretary

September Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

- Personnel and Finance Committees worked to formulate the Ministry Plan for 2018.
- Harry Hatt will apply for matching funds from Thrivent for our ministry with the Agape Shelter.
- Volunteer Resources will be in discussion with individuals who express an interest in serving on Congregation Council.
- Evangelism—Laurite Vranesic and Deb Lutz will continue the Pastor's outreach to the children of Messiah by teaching them "Sunday School songs." All are welcome to share favorite hymn or song selections. The class will begin in October.
 - ◊ Prayer was discussed. Pastor Kendall will lead several Living in Faith discussions on prayer.
 - ◊ "Thinking of You" packages will be sent to Messiah college students and to those serving in the armed forces.
- Property will be doing needed work both inside and outside the building. Work days will be announced.
- Fellowship announced a Spaghetti Miracle for the annual Congregation Meeting. Cost for the meal is one box of pasta and one jar of sauce per family. Bakers are needed to make cookies for our shut-ins. Requested is 6 cookies per bag to be delivered to the church the morning of Saturday, November 18. Helpers are needed.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Fox
Congregation Council Secretary

Annual Congregation Meeting



Reminder: The **annual congregation meeting** will be held on **Saturday, November 18 at 2 PM**. The day will begin with a Spaghetti Miracle luncheon which will be held at 12 noon (see below).

At this meeting we will be electing new Congregation

Council members for 2018, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2018, 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.



Congregation Meeting Luncheon



On **Saturday, November 18** the Fellowship Committee is hosting a **Spaghetti Miracle at 12 noon** before the annual Congregation Meeting. Bob Bowman will be cooking for us! A sign up sheet will be posted later

this month on which you may sign up to bring a salad, dessert or drink. Admission to the Spaghetti Miracle is one box of pasta and one jar of sauce per family. All of this will be donated to the Lebanon Rescue Mission and Agape House. So come on out and enjoy some good food and

fellowship with your church family before we turn to business. See you there!



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 during the Advent season.

We are asking for volunteers to bake a variety of cookies at home (have a child help!). We will NOT be baking at the church. Please bring your cookies to the church the morning of November 18 (time TBA) so they may be packed in containers. We ask that your cookies be already bagged 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 cookie containers please sign up on the sheet that will be posted on the Information Board in October. We will be packing the cookie containers on Saturday, November 18 in the morning (time TBA) before the Spaghetti Miracle at noon.

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



2017 CROP Hunger Walk



The annual Greater Lebanon CROP Hunger Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, October 15**. David Machamer, walk organizer for Messiah, reports that the walk will begin and end at **St. James Lutheran Church** (2nd & Chestnut in Lebanon). **Registration is at 1 PM**, and the walk will begin at 1:30 PM. Walkers will walk from the

church on a pre-determined loop through Lebanon City which has been measured as 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.

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

Trip to the Ephrata Cloister and 10,000 Villages

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a local road trip to the Ephrata Cloister, one of America's earliest religious communities. We will be leaving the church parking lot at 8:30 AM.

Admission to the **Cloister** includes an introductory video, an exhibit in the Visitor Center, and nine historic buildings that can be explored by self-guided and cell phone tours. A guided tour of the Sisters' dormitory and the Meetinghouse is also included. Cost of admission is \$10 (ages 12-64); \$9 (age 65+ and for AAA members); \$6

(ages 3-11) and under age 3 are free.



When we are finished at the Cloister we will travel to the **Ten Thousand Villages store** where one may view (and purchase) artistic products from around the world. This shop is a non-profit fair trade store, so by buying something you will help make a difference in someone's life! We will be stopping for a meal on the way home so please make plans for that. Join us!

Winter Clothing Drive



On **Tuesday, November 7** (General Election Day) we will be sponsoring a cold weather clothing

drive for **children and youth sizes only**. Please go through your children's (or grandchildren's) clothing and cull too-small coats, hats, scarves, gloves, boots and shoes and bring them to Messiah when you come to vote. You may bring them the Sunday before (11/5) if you vote elsewhere. Thank you in advance!

Rescue Mission Food Drive

The Lebanon County Rescue Mission is once again sponsoring a "Bring Your Own Bag" food drive to help fill their larders.

Please fill a grocery bag or box with non perishable foods and drop them off at any Fulton Bank or First Citizen's Bank in Lebanon.



This drive runs from October 1—December 9.

October 2017 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 1 Kathaleen Lilley
- 8 Daniel LaRue
- 15 Sandra Smith
- 22 Karen Fox
- 29 Deborah Lutz



Lector

- 1 Pastor James DeLong
- 8 Daniel LaRue
- 15 Sandra Smith
- 22 Karen Fox
- 29 Deborah Lutz



Greeters

- 1 Harry & Karen Hatt
- 8 **NEEDED**
- 15 **NEEDED**
- 22 **NEEDED**
- 29 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward:
Charlotte Varone



Head Usher:
Nancie Whelan



Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Eileen Lutz
- Rosanne Lutz



Crucifer By Carol Artz

- 1 Nicholas Adams
- 8 Carol Artz
- 15 Ernestine Batdorf
- 22 Robert Bowman
- 29 Michael Bowman



Acolyte

- 1 Michael Bowman
- 8 Nancie Whelan
- 15 Harry Hatt
- 22 Mikayla Bowman
- 29 Deborah Lutz



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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



October 1— Social Ministry Committee



Upcoming Events

LWR INGATHERING SUNDAY

Sunday, October 8

Urgent need: New or "like new" blankets



Lutheran World Relief

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday, October 12

7 PM

Conference Room

We are continuing our study of the Book of Romans.



EVENT NIGHT

Friday, October 20

6:30 PM

Come on out for some games and fellowship!

Invitation to a Reformation Celebration



You are cordially invited to attend a Reformation celebration on **Saturday, October 28** hosted by St. John, Fredericksburg and Zoar, Mt. Zion, two of our local sister congregations in the NALC.

The event will be held **at Zoar** (560 Freeport Road, Lebanon). The celebration will commence at **noon** with a bratwurst, pork & sauerkraut luncheon. Following lunch we will listen to a presentation by Martin Luther (as portrayed

by Dr. Kevin Pry) and sing some familiar Lutheran hymns. We will then have fellowship over traditional German desserts and enjoy activities for the whole family. We will be finished **by 4 PM**.

A sign up sheet is posted on the Information Board so their fellowship committee will have a head count for food preparation. We hope you will join us! If you have any questions please contact Robin in the office.



For Your Information

October 1

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.

Sign up today to be a **GREET-ER!** The list is practically empty for the rest of the year.



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! December 24 is a Sunday this year, so the morning liturgy will be the 4th Sunday in Advent at 9 AM.



Chocolate Oatmeal Bars

- 1 C. butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 C. brown sugar
- 3 C. rolled oats
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 C. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3/4 C. chunky peanut butter



Line an 8x8" dish with parchment paper. In a medium saucepan combine the first 3 ingredients. Heat over low heat until butter is melted and sugar is dissolved. Add the oats, cinnamon & salt. Cook, stirring constantly, for 4-5 minutes. Pour 1/2 of the oat mixture into the prepared pan. Spread mixture evenly, pressing down. Combine the chocolate chips and peanut butter in a small bowl & microwave on high for 40 seconds at a time, stirring in between until melted & fully combined. Pour most of the chocolate over the pressed oats, reserving 1/4 C. for drizzling. Top with remaining oats and drizzle with remaining chocolate. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or until set.

These were served by Barb Adams at the ICII picnic last month. Many requested the recipe.

New Member

Welcome to our newest member:

Andrew Surmacz
 44 Knoll Crest Drive
 Lebanon, PA 17042
ajs3232@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.



AMD Convocation



On Friday, October 13—Saturday, October 14 Pastor Jim & Ruth DeLong, Pastor Phil Kline, Harry Hatt, Nancie Whelan, Gayle Hoffman, Kathy Lilley and Robin Harris will travel to Camp Hill to attend the 2017 Atlantic Mission District Convocation. The theme for this annual meeting of regional NALC congregations is *Discipling in the Local Congregation—It's All About Spiritual Growth* featuring Pastor Bradley Hales, a member of the NALC Renewal Team. The office will be closed that Friday. Please talk to any of our Messiah attendees if you would like to hear the latest news from Atlantic Mission District.

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 22
- *November 19 (3rd Sunday)
- *December 17 (3rd Sunday)

2018

- January 28
- February 25
- March 25
- April 22
- May 27
- June 24
- July 22
- August 26



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

October Birthdays

- 3 Richard Miller
- 4 Thomas Gassert
- 6 Mikey Adams
- 7 Linda Field
- Andrew Trovinger
- 12 Michael Anspach
- 14 Keeley Hartman
- 16 Irma Long
- 18 Pam Knouff
- 27 Richard Gehret
- 29 Carol Artz
- 30 Rick Knouff



October Anniversaries

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



2017 Congregational 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*

Altar Guild Meeting



You are invited to attend the annual Altar Guild meeting on **Saturday, November 4 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: \$3,483.79)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
8/6	\$4,122.00	44 + / 17 LiF
8/13	\$1,996.00	35 + / 12 LiF
8/20	\$2,007.00	43 + / 12 LiF
8/27	\$2,234.00	40 + / 17 joint LiF

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