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**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

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## Pastor's Page

I'd like to thank everyone who has been coming for Sunday worship. The virus situation has reminded us how blessed we are when we can gather together to worship God, and encourage each other simply by being together.

I also want to commend those who prayerfully considered what to do about "in person" gatherings in light of personal health factors. Those of you who are exercising caution by remaining at home for health reasons are exercising faithful stewardship of God's gift of life, and your decision is understandable.

I'm glad we have been able to provide, via email, Sunday worship resources for you. I hope they are helping you to retain a sense of participation with your brothers and sisters in faith on Sunday mornings.

We have also had to prayerfully consider what to do in regard to our gatherings. Especially in light of changing state requirements for in-person gatherings, we

have had to calculate maximum permissible numbers, spacing, and personal protection. We monitor this in an ongoing way so that we can demonstrate our conformity with government requirements in the event that our in-person gatherings are questioned or challenged at any time by the authorities.

I have saved several news articles concerning prescribed safe practices and requirements, and we match our policies with these. Recently on a Sunday I had to ask everyone to wear their mask as prescribed (covering mouth and nose) because this is the requirement put forth by the Department of Health.

In a newspaper article, I subsequently learned that hospitals and medical centers are allowing those who cannot, for health reasons, cover mouth and nose to wear a full-face visor instead. I saved this article and so we are "covered" if anyone chooses to attend worship wearing a visor rather than a mask.

There has been a lot of fussing nationwide about mask requirements. They are uncomfortable (especially in the hot and humid weather we've had this summer) and I know from experience that they reduce blood-oxygen saturation (mine went from 99% to 94% due to the mask).

Masks were also required during the "Spanish Flu" pandemic a century ago, when the population was much smaller than it is today. That pandemic lasted for 35 months. I hope we will not be encumbered for that long this time, but remembering that there still is no vaccine for the virus which causes the common cold, I don't think we can assume that an effective vaccine will arrive by Christmas. We'll see.

To me as a Christian, my course is clear. The command to "love your neighbor" is unequivocal. Since masks both protect and reassure those around us from our potential germs, the most faithful thing to

*(Continued on page 2)*

do is simply to wear your mask when it's necessary.

People are under so much stress these days, I figure that if I can lessen the stress of another by keeping my mask on, this is a God-pleasing thing to do.

It also occurred to me to be thankful, for some masks available today (especially the blue or yellow "hospital kind") are more effective than any masks were in 1919.

So we are better protected, and can protect each other better, than was the case back then.

Let us remember to care for ourselves, and each other, and to be constant in prayer that God will deliver us from this deadly pestilence, and from every kind of evil. Stay safe. *Pastor +*



## 2020 Congregation Council

**Karen Fox**, *President and Worship Planning*

**Harry Hatt**, *Vice-President, Personnel and Property Co-Chair*

**Gayle Hoffman**, *Secretary*

**Nancie Whelan**, *Treasurer*

**Nicholas Adams**

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

**David Machamer**, *Evangelism and Property Co-Chair*

**Karen Zivic**

### Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

**Karen Hatt**, *Fellowship Chair*

**Kathaleen Lilley**, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

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

## Weekly Worship Schedule

### SUNDAYS:

9 AM The Holy Communion  
10:30 AM Living in Faith Education Hour  
**(LiF will resume on October 4.)**

### WEDNESDAYS:

10 AM Anointing and Holy Communion  
*(The Wed. service is cancelled until further notice. Communion by appointment is available.)*



## Communion by Appointment



During this time of caution due to the COVID pandemic, Pastor Kendall is offering Holy Communion by appointment on **Wednesday mornings** in lieu of the Wednesday morning service of anointing and Holy Communion. One appointment will be available at **10 AM** and one at **10.30 AM**, in order to allow air circulation between appointments.

Appointments must be made through the parish office (717-272-2922) and are on a first-

come, first-served basis. Because only two appointments are available per week, persons may only make one appointment per month.

Please arrive promptly for your appointment, and wear a mask from the time you enter the building until you depart (except when receiving the Sacramental elements).

Please do not make an appointment if you can attend Sunday worship; these limited appointments are for people who have compromised health and are avoiding exposure to others.

## Thank You Notes



*Thank you notes were received from the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC and the Lebanon Rescue Mission. They are located on the bulletin board outside the office.*



Just a little note to say thank you for all you do. Please let your congregation know that we are praying for all of you!

God bless!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Joppa, MD



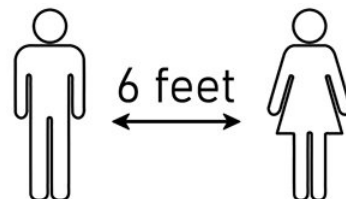
## Baptisms in the Swatara




Pastor Angel Portes (from the mission church that worships at Messiah) baptized **12** new members into the Body of Christ in the Swatara Creek on July 18. What a joyous occasion that was! Alleluia!

## Protocols for Safe Worship

- Doors are propped open before worship so fewer people will handle the door handles.
- Pews are marked at proper “physical distancing” intervals, with every-other-row seating including, if necessary, the choir loft as an “overflow space.”
- Offering plates are placed beside Communion cup trays to receive Sunday offering.



- 
  - All worshipers and worship leaders are asked to wear masks except during the sermon and to receive the Sacrament for the foreseeable future.
- Everyone will refrain from shaking hands or hugging during sharing of the Peace, while greeting each other or taking their leave from one another.
- Remember, if you cough or sneeze, to do so in the crook of your arm with your head tilted away from others. Wash your hands after you use the restroom. Restroom doors are propped open.

## Fellowship Activities Cancelled This Fall

For the safety of all, all Fellowship activities normally scheduled this time of year are cancelled. This includes:

- The meal the day of the annual Congregation Meeting in November
- Christmas cookie gathering and distribution to the shut-ins in December
- Welcome Time September–December



# September 2020 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 6 Deborah Lutz
- 13 Sandra Smith
- 20 Daniel LaRue
- 27 Nancie Whelan



## Altar Guild

- Mary Garrett, chair
- Dorothy Martin



## Lector

- 6 Carey Kendall
- 13 Sandra Smith
- 20 Daniel LaRue
- 27 Nancie Whelan



## Crucifer

- 6 Sandra Smith
- 13 Rita Savant
- 20 Gayle Hoffman
- 27 Ernestine Batdorf



## Greeters

- 6 Karen Zivic
- 13 **NEEDED**
- 20 **NEEDED**
- 27 **NEEDED**



## Acolyte

- 6 Deborah Lutz
- 13 Harry Hatt
- 20 Daniel LaRue
- 27 Nancie Whelan



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

**September 6 – CANCELLED**



## Finance Steward

Dorothy Martin

**Head Ushers**  
The Robert Bowman Family





# October 2020 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 4 Michael Bowman
- 11 Karen Fox
- 18 Ernestine Batdorf
- 25 Eugene Martin



## Lector

- 4 Robert Bowman
- 11 Karen Fox
- 18 Ernestine Batdorf
- 25 Eugene Martin



## Greeters

- 4 **NEEDED**
- 11 **NEEDED**
- 18 **NEEDED**
- 25 **NEEDED**



## Finance Steward

Karen Fox

**Head Usher**  
Nancie Whelan



## Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Rosanne Lutz
- Eileen Lutz
- Nancie Whelan



## Crucifer

- 4 Kathaleen Lilley
- 11 Robert Bowman
- 18 Eugene Martin
- 25 Michael Bowman



## Acolyte

- 4 Michael Bowman
- 11 Karen Hatt
- 18 Ernestine Batdorf
- 25 Karen Zivic



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

**October 4 – CANCELLED**



## Clothing Drive

On **Tuesday, November 3** (Presidential Election Day) we will be sponsoring a clothing drive for cold weather clothes (all sizes). Please go through your clothing and your children's and grandchildren's clothing and cull too-small items and bring them to Messiah when you come to vote. You may bring them the Sunday before (11/1) if you vote elsewhere. The cold weather clothes will stay local and be given to the members of Iglesia Misionera Asamblea Cristiana (Pr. Angel's congregation). 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 food items and toilet paper and drop them off at the "donation door" at the Rescue Mission (1223 Bittner Blvd., Lebanon) on any Monday—Saturday, 8 AM—8 PM. Thank you!

This drive runs from October 12—December 4.

## Living in Faith Resumes October 4

**Mark your calendars!** We will be starting a NEW study when we resume Living in Faith time on **Sunday, October 4**, and all are invited to participate.

The goal of this study is to grow in our ability to make more faithful, Christ-centered choices both in serving God and in fostering our own wellbeing. This will not be a "how-to" program but an experience in conversation, reflection, prayer, and seeing ourselves more clearly.

Participants need not read anything in advance; the only materials needed will be a notebook, journal or tablet and a writing instrument. People will be welcome to share thoughts and ideas, or simply to listen and absorb. Some weekday prayer, reflection and, if desired, journaling will be helpful.



### MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

#### E-mail

Pastor Kendall: [messiahpastor@epix.net](mailto:messiahpastor@epix.net)  
Robin Harris/office: [messiahluthleb@epix.net](mailto:messiahluthleb@epix.net)

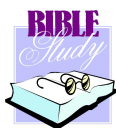
**Web Site:** [www.messiahluthleb.org](http://www.messiahluthleb.org)  
**AMR Web Site:** [www.atlantic-nalc.org](http://www.atlantic-nalc.org)  
**NALC Web Site:** <https://thenalc.org>

## CROP Walk

The annual Lebanon County CROP Walk will be very different this year due to the pandemic. Instead of having a county-wide walk, each congregation is encouraged to organize a walk of their own on **Sunday, October 18**. If you are interested in participating please see Dave Machamer.



## Upcoming Events



**There will be NO  
In-depth Bible study this  
autumn.**

### Annual Atlantic Mission Region Convocation

**Saturday, October 17  
from 9 AM—12 PM**

**GoToMeeting  
Teleconference**



See Pastor if interested.

### Annual Altar Guild meeting

**Saturday, November 7  
at 9 AM**

Conference Room

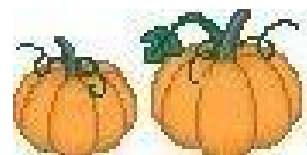


## July Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. They did not meet in August.

- Pastor's, Treasurer, and Financial secretary reports were read and approved for the past several months that Council did not meet.
- Committee reports were read.
  - Property:** The sinkhole has been fixed and the bids are being looked at for repair of a roof leak with the possibility of new downspouts.
  - The **Fellowship committee** will be collecting school supplies in August for Pr. Angel's Mission Church children.
  - Worship and Music** is planning ahead for the next year.
- Discussion was held on large gatherings held in the Nave and motion was made and accepted by Council to suspend weddings, funerals, memorial services, and community gatherings inside of the church. This will be reviewed by Council at scheduled meetings.
- Thank you to all for wearing the masks and being considerate of others with social distancing!

Respectfully submitted,  
Gayle Hoffman  
Congregation Council secretary



## School Kit and Health Kit Collections



Lutheran World Relief and the

When the summer draws to a close it will be time to think about school and school/health kits for

Independent Church in India. **We collect the money and buy the supplies** in bulk at various stores in the area. This enables us to be good stewards of the offerings that are donated. Please consider a generous donation again this year to see

if we can send even more kits than last year. There will be an offering plate in the Narthex until **October 4**. Many thanks in advance for your support of this project. Any questions—see Kathy Lilley.

### General Fund Financial Summary January through June 2020

Income & Expenses At-A-Glance			
			Year-to-date
Income			\$71,923.33
Expenses			\$86,436.40
Income Less Expenses			-\$14,513.07

	Year-to-date
Income:	
Total Giving	\$71,923.33
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$71,923.33</b>
 Ministry Plan Year-to-date	\$88,922.50
Expenses:	
Staff	\$59,779.62
Administrative	1,799.00
Maintenance	16,287.78
Committee	0.00
Additional	1,625.00
Benevolence	6,345.00
Loan Repayment	600.00
 Total Expenses	 \$86,436.40
 Income Less Expenses	 (\$14,513.07)

January through June	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total to Charity
NALC	\$4,020.00		\$4,020.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$300.00		\$300.00
Mission Partners*	\$225.00		\$225.00
NALC Seminary	\$225.00		\$225.00
NALC Disaster Response	\$225.00		\$225.00
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape	\$225.00		\$225.00
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$225.00		\$225.00
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$225.00		\$225.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$225.00		\$225.00
ICII	\$225.00		\$225.00
City of Lebanon	\$225.00		\$225.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,345.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$6,345.00</b>



# Annual Congregation Meeting



**Reminder:** The **annual congregation meeting** will be held in person on **Saturday, November 21 at 2 PM**. Please wear a mask. There will be no fellowship meal after the meeting.

At this meeting we will be

electing new Congregation Council members for 2021, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2021, 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.



# Annual Atlantic Mission Region Convocation

Once again, the pandemic has created problems. Due to the large geographic spread of the Atlantic Mission Region the decision was made to have the AMR annual October Convocation be held virtually this year for the safety of all.

Therefore, the AMR Convocation will be held on **Saturday, October 17 ONLY** via Go to Meeting teleconference. Log on time is 8:30 AM with a start time of 9 AM. It will run through noon.

The business meeting will be as short as possi-

ble. After that we have an exciting presenter who will stir us up and equip us to serve as disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As of this publication, the topic and structure of the Convocation is still being re-worked as we changed topic when the decision was made to be virtual. Much more information and registration materials will be available SOON! Watch your bulletin!



## Prayer List Reminder



Names are placed on the list through written requests to the parish office. Names will be listed for three weeks. If you would like your prayer request to stay on the list please notify Robin in the office. If a renewal request is not received at the end of the 3 week cycle the name will be removed from the list. If you would like a name to be exempted from the three week removal policy your request must be made in writing to the church office (exception to this are the deployed military). You may also request that a name be removed at any time. To keep the list from becoming overly extensive please limit your name requests to three (3) at a time.

## Newsletter Deadline

The **deadline** for the November/December issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Friday, October 16**. This issue will cover events, meetings and schedules for the months of **November and December**. Please make sure you have all your information turned in to the office (and on the work room calendar) by this date. Thank you!



# Report from the 2020 NALC Convocation

The NALC Mission Convocation was held online because of health concerns resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. The convocation met in two sessions August 7 & 8. Each day began with a devotional message on the theme from Ephesians 3:20-21. Bishop Selbo began the convocation on Friday and the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, assistant to the bishop for missions, began Saturday's sessions.

There were 267 lay delegates, 300 clergy delegates and 217 visitors registered for the convocation.

The convocation was live streamed from the Trinity School for Ministry campus in Ambridge, PA, where the Seminary Center of the North American Lutheran Seminary is located.

"This will go down as the best online convocation we have had over our 10 years of history. I think that's wonderful. It may also go down, and probably will, as the worst online convocation we have had in our 10 years of history. Either way, it's all good," Bishop Selbo said.

The best was evident in the possibility of NALC members from across North America meeting together using online communication tools. The worst manifested itself in technical difficulties that made it difficult for some delegates to be heard and in the difficulty of estimating the time the convocation would take. Each online vote took between five and fifteen minutes. The Saturday session lasted three hours longer than planned.

In addition to presenting the 2020 Vision (see page 11), Bishop Selbo gave a report of his first year as bishop. The online convocation heard reports—both live and prerecorded—from NALC ministries including Youth and Family Ministry, Life-to-Life Discipleship, Living and Giving Stewardship Team, NALC Life Ministries, Women of the NALC, NALC Disaster Response, and Missions.

Significant anniversaries of ordination and of the founding of congregations were recognized. The convocation also recognized newly ordained pastors and students in the NALC's candidacy process. Chaplains were also recognized.

The convocation received the treasurer's report and approved budgets for the NALC Operating Fund, Theological Education Fund, Great Commission Fund and Disaster Response Fund.

The convocation approved proposed amendments to the NALC constitution that will move the NALC from meeting annually for its convocation to meeting every other year.

The convocation voted to add language to the proposed amendments asking that the NALC Executive Council to provide quarterly updates to pastors and congregations.

The convocation also approved a proposed amendment to clarify the process by which the Executive Council apportions additional lay delegates to the convocation so that there is approximately an equal number of lay and clergy delegates.

Amendments approved by the convocation must be ratified within six months of the conclusion of the convocation by a two-thirds majority of NALC congregations voting on the amendments. At least half of NALC congregations must vote on whether or not to ratify the amendments for the ratification vote to be valid. Information on the ratification process will be available soon.

For a thorough explanation of the approved amendments that need to be considered and ratified by congregations please go to <https://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/News/NALC-August-2020-web.pdf>. It is explained on page 5 of this issue of the *NALC News*.

# NALC 2020 Vision: A 10-Point Plan

“A 2020 Vision for the North American Lutheran Church” was endorsed by the 2020 NALC Mission Convocation. The Rev. Dan Selbo, NALC bishop, presented the 10-point vision to the convocation which met online August 7-8.

“The title itself—a 2020 Vision—is a little bit of a play on words. I’m playing with the fact that we’re in the year 2020... It’s also as clear a vision as we currently have—20-20—for where we believe God is leading,” Bishop Selbo said.

“The rationale for this vision perhaps goes unsaid, but I believe it’s worth saying: ‘Unless the Lord builds the house, those who built it labor in vain.’ We are trusting that this vision is not simply of our making but one that is given to us by God. And ‘without a vision the people perish.’ That’s a paraphrase of one of the passages of Scripture. But it’s true. We need direction if we’re going to survive and move forward and grow. A vision is crucial.”

“It is not my desire to move us in any new and radical directions... It is my desire to keep us moving. And if we don’t know where we’re going, it’s going to be hard to get there,” Bishop Selbo said.

The Convocation approved a resolution endorsing “the direction that the 2020 Vision sets for the entire NALC for the next four years.” The resolution also asks the NALC “to commit to fervent daily prayer and action for the 2020 Vision to come to life in and among us” and “to encourage collaboration of all disciples, congregations and entities of the NALC in implementing Vision 2020.”

The resolution called for annual reports and “frequent updates on how the 2020 Vision is coming to life in individual discipleship, congregational renewal, mission district initiatives, with our mission partners, global and ecumenical partners, and throughout this church body.”

## **The NALC 2020 Vision: A 10-Point Plan**

1. A church body committed to developing disciple-making congregations and cultures.
2. A body of believers committed to increasing our mission outreach and congregation multiplication efforts.
3. A denomination in which every congregation receives regular and consistent pastoral support.
4. A continuing education emphasis that supports the ongoing development of all NALC pastors and lay leaders.
5. A strategy for continental restructuring that is able to expand with denominational growth.
6. A denomination with the strongest and most highly respected Lutheran seminary training system in North America.
7. A communications strategy focused on forming identity, unity and testimony across our church body.
8. A denomination in which our international and ecumenical relationships strengthen our shared commitment to the Great Commission, the Great Commandments and the Church catholic, and which enhance our partnership on the congregational level.
9. A church body with the financial strength to support its God-given vision.
10. A Strategic Planning Team (SPT) that continually prays for and works to develop the next steps for our God-given vision and future.

For more information on the 2020 Vision and the details of each point of the vision, please go to <http://www.thenalc.org/vision>.

# Ministry Plan Report for June & July

*(Budgeted need per week: \$3,420.10)*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
*6/7	\$1,986.00	0 (church closed)
6/14	\$4,947.00	34 + (no LiF)
6/21	\$2,739.00	34 + (no LiF)
6/28	\$1,330.00	27 + (no LiF)
7/5	\$3,999.00	30 + (no LiF)
7/12	\$2,959.00	45 + (no LiF)
*7/19	\$1,930.00	34 + (no LiF)
7/26	\$3,092.00	35 + (no LiF)

NOTE: "+" denotes Worship  
 "LiF" denotes Living in Faith Education Hour  
 \* denotes *A Cappella* Sunday



## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### September Birthdays

- 1 Anita Keisch
- 6 Daryl Artz  
Emily Trovinger
- 9 Louise Scaramuzzino
- 13 Corey Hartman
- 18 Robert Bowman, Jr.
- 19 Lori Wert
- 21 Daniel LaRue  
Nancie Whelan
- 22 Elizabeth Brightbill
- 27 Gordon Ebright  
Rosanne Lutz



### 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
- 25 Andrew Surmacz
- 27 Richard Gehret
- 30 Rick Knouff



### September Anniversaries

- 5 Harry & Karen Fox
- 6 Randy & Debra Miller
- 17 Michael & Sherri Blouch
- 24 Andrew & Erin Trovinger



### October Anniversaries

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





# For Your Information

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



**LWR INGATHERING SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, October 4**  
 Urgent need: New or “like new” blankets



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 Dave Machamer, chair of the Evangelism Committee.



Thank you!

**FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS**  
**September 6**  
**October 4**  
 All to the Rescue Mission



## Help Stuff the Truck for NALC Disaster Response

With hurricane season upon us and no physical gathering of the Atlantic Mission Region this fall—which means no Stuff the Truck— each Mission District in the Region has been asked to sponsor their own Stuff the Truck event!

The Central Mission District (of which Messiah is a part) has been asked to help fill the Disaster Response warehouse with any of the following:

- Flood buckets
- Gift cards
- Health Kits
- Bibles (in any language)
- Baby Kits
- Blankets and/or quilts
- School Kits

After all is collected here at Messiah arrange-

ments will be made to deliver all of it to:  
 Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 560 Freeport Road  
 Lebanon, PA 17046

Mary Bates and her truck are picking it all up on **Saturday, September 26** (time TBD). If you are interested in coming out to Zoar on September 26 to help physically stuff the truck and/or to see what it's all about you are more than welcome. The time will be advertised when it is determined.

