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Pastor's Page

Two months ago, with the government indicating that the worst of C19 looked to be over, I wrote optimistically about celebrating a “Return to Worship Rally Day” at Messiah on Sunday, September 12.

Now we are hearing of mandatory vaccinations to “stop the spread,” renewed concerns about masking, warnings about indoor gatherings and, in general, renewed uncertainty about the pandemic.

At Messiah, Congregation Council recently voted to lift the requirement for non-vaccinated persons to wear masks in worship (for maximum safety and worshipers’ confidence, Assisting Ministers continue to mask during distribution of Holy Communion elements).

When the pandemic was first widely publicized in March 2020, I researched the so-called “Spanish Flu” in the early 20th Century, and learned that pandemic lasted for 35 months. To help prepare you for what might occur

with the C19 pandemic, I shared this information with you.

It has become clear that no one and no agency can predict with confidence how long the pandemic will last. We must all make the most prudent decisions for our health and wellbeing, and for the safety of our neighbors.

We will proceed as planned with our “Rally Day,” and I invite everyone to return to “in-person” worship together on Sunday, 9/12.

However, in light of recent developments with Covid, if you decide the best course for you right now is to stay at home instead of coming to worship for health reasons, everyone will understand. The emailed worship resources will still be available. I do ask you to hold your congregation and all our people in your prayers, asking especially that God will make it safe for all believers to gather for worship as soon as He wills.

If you do come on Sunday

the 12th, the Fellowship Committee will provide a “Welcome Time” after worship. We hope that everyone will use this time to “catch up” with one another and enjoy companionship as Christian brothers and sisters.

Please continue to pray for health care workers. Many of these dedicated people are being pressured to receive vaccinations in order to keep working, or are being penalized in financial and other ways if they decline vaccinations for personal health reasons. This is unjust, but is increasingly a sign of the troubling times in which we live. Pray for these, and for all health care and emergency services providers.

Finally, let us all remember God’s Promises in Scripture, which transcend all times and situations. I find this one especially encouraging for many reasons:

Surely He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence.

Amen! Peace to you all. +

2021 Congregation Council

Nicholas Adams, *President*
David Machamer, *Vice-President, Evangelism, Personnel and Property Co-Chair*
Gayle Hoffman, *Interim Secretary, Volunteer Resources*
Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary*
Michael Ernst
Harry Hatt, *Property Co-chair*
Deborah Lutz, *Stewardship Chair*
Karen Zivic

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship Planning*
Karen Hatt, *Fellowship Chair*
Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*
Rita Savant, *Assistant Finance Secretary and Social Ministry Chair*
Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer*

Weekly Worship Schedule

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

WEDNESDAYS:
 10 AM Communion by appointment
 10:30 AM Communion by appointment



Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from the Atlantic Mission Region of the NALC, Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries, Lutheran World Relief, and the Lebanon Rescue Mission. They are located on the bulletin board outside the office.

To Pastor Kendall and the members of the congregation who attended the memorial service for my son Art—thank you so much.

I would also like to thank those members who sent cards expressing their kindness and concern at my loss. Thank you to all who extended their sympathy personally. It's nice to know you have so many friends who care about you.

Blessings to all of you!

Yours in Christ,
 Betty Wetzel



New Email Address

Tom and Janet Gassert have a new email address!

It is gassertjanet@gmail.com. Please update your directories and their contact information in your address book.



Reminder! School is back in session. Watch for children and stopped buses!

Bowl of Blessings

On August 22 Charlotte Varone shared her blessings:



To God be honor and glory for the 87th anniversary of my baptism.

September 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 5 Kathaleen Lilley
- 12 Sandra Smith
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Nancie Whelan



Lector

- 5 Carey Kendall
- 12 Sandra Smith
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Nancie Whelan



Greeters

- 5 **NEEDED**
- 12 Deborah Lutz
- 19 **NEEDED**
- 26 Eugene Martin



Finance Steward
Karen Zivic

Head Ushers

The Robert Bowman Family



Altar Guild

- Carey Kendall, chair
- Nancie Whelan



Crucifer

- 5 Sandra Smith
- 12 Eugene Martin
- 19 Daniel LaRue
- 26 Kathaleen Lilley



Acolyte

- 5 Harry Hatt
- 12 Karen Zivic
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Nancie Whelan



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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



September 5—CANCELLED

September 12 — Fellowship Committee for RALLY DAY!



October 2021 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 3 Ernestine Batdorf
- 10 Eugene Martin
- 17 Daniel LaRue
- 24 Karen Fox
- 31 Charlotte Varone



Altar Guild

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



Lector

- 3 Nancie Whelan
- 10 Eugene Martin
- 17 Daniel LaRue
- 24 Karen Fox
- 31 Charlotte Varone



Crucifer

- 3 Gayle Hoffman
- 10 Rita Savant
- 17 Kathaleen Lilley
- 24 Eugene Martin
- 31 Sandra Smith



Greeters

- 3 **NEEDED**
- 10 **NEEDED**
- 17 **NEEDED**
- 24 **NEEDED**
- 31 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 3 Ernestine Batdorf
- 10 Karen Hatt
- 17 Daniel LaRue
- 24 Harry Hatt
- 31 Karen Zivic



Finance Steward
Nicholas Adams

Head Usher
Nancie Whelan



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

October 3 – CANCELLED



Upcoming Events



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

Atlantic Mission Region Theological Conference



**Thursday, September 16
9 AM—3 PM**
at
St. John LC
Birdsboro, PA

***Embodiment:
Must Real Presence be In Person?***

Annual Altar Guild meeting

**Saturday, November 6
at 9 AM**

Conference Room

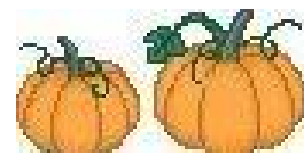


August Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met on Tuesday, August 10, 2021. They did not meet in July.

- Reports were read and approved for June and July, 2021.
- Property Committee has started with parking lot line painting; pursuing tree trimming
- Refrigerator in the church kitchen was replaced.
- Mask wearing is now an individual's choice. There will still be social distancing
- Property work day will be Saturday, September 18.
- Council enjoyed a group picnic indoors.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Hoffman
Interim Congregation Council secretary



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

E-mail

Pastor Kendall: messiahpastor@epix.net
Robin Harris/office: messiahluthleb@epix.net

Web Site: www.messiahluthleb.org
AMR Web Site: www.atlantic-nalc.org
NALC Web Site: <https://thenalc.org>

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 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! Please see the flyer on the Information Board for more details.

Food Drive



This drive is running from now until December 10.

General Fund Financial Summary January through June 2021

Income & Expenses At-A-Glance			
			Year-to-date
Income			\$76,299.70
Expenses			\$84,881.32
Income Less Expenses			-\$8,581.62

		<u>Year-to-date</u>
Income:		
Total Giving		\$76,299.70
Total Income		<u>\$76,299.70</u>
Ministry Plan Year-to-date		\$177,845.00
Expenses:		
Staff		\$59,686.53
Administrative		1,966.61
Maintenance		13,783.18
Committee		0.00
Additional		2,500.00
Benevolence		6,345.00
Loan Repayment		600.00
Total Expenses		<u>\$84,881.32</u>
Income Less Expenses		<u><u>(\$8,581.62)</u></u>

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	\$0.00	\$225.00
ICII	\$225.00	\$280.00	\$505.00
City of Lebanon	\$225.00		\$225.00
Total	\$6,345.00	\$280.00	\$6,625.00

Ministry Plan Report for June & July

(Budgeted need per week: \$3,396.13)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
6/6	\$4,495.16	36 + / 16 LiF
6/13	\$1,479.00	29 + / No LiF
*6/20	\$1,681.00	34 + / No LiF
6/27	\$3,563.00	32 + / 13 LiF
7/4	\$3,243.00	36+ / 12 LiF
7/11	\$2,884.36	34 + / 12 LiF
*7/18	\$1,871.00	31 + / 12 LiF
7/25	\$1,642.00	32 + / 13 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
- 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



Annual Congregation Meeting



Reminder: The **annual congregation meeting** will be held in person on **Saturday, November 20 at 2 PM.** There will be desserts to enjoy after the meeting.

At this meeting we will be electing new Congregation

Council members for 2022, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2022, 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

Mark your calendars for **Friday, October 22 & Saturday, October 23** for the annual AMR Convocation which will be held in person at Holy Cross ELC (696 Johnson Rd.), Nazareth, PA. There will be an online option.

The theme this year is worship! We will have four plenary sessions featuring the **Rev. Dr. Eric Riesen** (president of the NAL Seminary), **Rev. Christopher Porter**, **Rev. Jay Jackson with Ryan McAllister**, and **Lara Bhasin** (a student at the NALS).

We will experience worship throughout the Convocation. There will be good food, lots of fellowship opportunities, a meeting of our Mission District, and many opportunities for discussion.

We are also **electing a new Regional Dean**, so it is important to have as many congregations participate as possible. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please see Pastor, Robin, or Kathy Lilley. Registration materials are available.



Women's Conference!



Ladies! Join other women from around the Atlantic Mission Region at 9:30 AM on **Friday, October 22** at Holy Cross ELC in Nazareth, PA for our third annual October Women's Conference: **Caring... Bearing... Sharing.**

We will be assembling school and health kits for NALC Disaster Response. Each congregation is being asked to bring loose components for 5 complete health and 5 complete school kits. We will be assembling them at the conference. We will also be hearing from Mary Bates, Disaster Response coordinator. All are welcome!

Please see Robin for more information.

Newsletter Deadline



The **deadline** for the November/December issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Friday, October 15.** 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!



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.



a minute to tell Pastor Kendall "thank you" for his service to Our Lord and this congregation.

FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAYS

September 5
October 3



All to the Rescue Mission

There will be **NO Christmas cookie baking or distribution for shut-ins** again this year. Maybe next 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 Dave Machamer or Deb Lutz, co-chairs of the Evangelism Committee.



Thank you!



Help Stuff the Truck for NALC Disaster Response

Disasters happen all the time, and Disaster Response is there to help. But, they need YOUR help to fill their warehouses with needed supplies.

The Atlantic Mission Region is sponsoring a Stuff the Truck event at their annual regional Convocation on **Friday, October 22** at Holy Cross ELC in Nazareth, PA.

On the next page is a comprehensive list of all the things on their needs list, from **flood buckets and school kits to health kits and gift cards**. Miscellaneous items such as diapers, rakes, mops, etc. are also welcome.

Any and all **Bibles and prayer books** are also welcome. They may be large print, in Spanish, children's or teen's, used or new.

Please consider donating any of the items on the wish list and bring them to Messiah. Please place them by the oak table in the narthex. They will be taken to Nazareth and put on the truck. If you want to donate a gift card please place it on Robin's desk and she will make sure it does not get lost.

Deadline for donations is Sunday, October 17.





Disaster Response

KIT PACKING LIST

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2021

Bibles

- new or used (highlighted & underlined text is acceptable)
- children's, teens
- Spanish
- large print
- prayer books

We encourage you to write messages of hope in the front pages of donated Bibles

Flood Bucket

- 1 five-gallon bucket with lid
- 1 jug bleach
- 2 large trash bags
- 1 roll paper towels
- Comet or scouring cleanser
- Pine Sol or liquid cleaner
- scrub brush
- gloves, 1 pair each, size L preferred
 - rubber (reusable, i.e. Platex, dishwashing type)
 - leather
 - cotton

Health Care Kit

(Pack in 2-gallon Ziplock bag or tote bag)

- 1 bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 shampoo (regular size or 2 travel size)
- 1 bar of soap (regular size or 2 travel size)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 pack of floss
- 1 toothpaste (2 if travel size)
- 1 comb
- 1 deodorant
- 1 nail clippers

Quilts and Blankets

- any size
- any fabric including religious, patriotic/military theme, seasonal

School Kit – Elementary

- 1 backpack or duffle bag
- 4 notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
- 1 blunt scissors
- 1 ruler
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 4 pencils
- 2 pens
- 1 eraser
- 1 box of crayons

School Kit – High School

- 1 backpack or duffle bag
- 4 notebooks
- 4 pocket folders
- 4 pencils, 1 pencil sharpener & 1 eraser -or-
- 4 mechanical pencils
- 4 pens
- 1 high school calculator

Miscellaneous (pack like items together)

- masks (bundle/pack each type separately)
 - painting
 - sanding
 - N95
- baby diapers (disposable, assorted sizes)
- high school calculators
- any school supply can be donated in bulk quantities.
- mops, brooms & dustpans
- rakes, shovels, etc.

Gift Cards

- Home Depot
- Lowes
- Walmart



HOW TO PACK YOUR DISASTER KITS:

- Pack completed kits, in sturdy boxes (not overly large).
- Label contents and quantity in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS and place labels on at least one end and one side of the box so the contents will be visible regardless of how box is stacked.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box with a label that says: *A GIFT FROM [church/group name and address]*

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Your monetary donations are always appreciated. Please note that, effective 12/14/2020, the address to which all monetary donations should be sent has changed to:

North American Lutheran Church
 PO BOX 860565
 Minneapolis, MN 55486-0565

For more information, please email Mary Bates, disasterresponse@thenalc.org or visit thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response/

“Serve one another humbly in love”

GALATIANS 5:13b

Report from the 2021 NALC Convocation

The 2021 NALC Mission Convocation heard updates on the 10 points of the NALC's *2020 Vision* and overwhelmingly approved two resolutions supporting decisions by the Executive Council to establish a central NALC office in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area and to add four part-time assistants to the bishop.

The convocation revolved around the 10 points of the *2020 Vision*. Each vision point was highlighted with oral and written reports. Opportunities for discussion of each point and questions from delegates were provided.

More than 400 delegates and visitors gathered August 4-6 in Corpus Christi, Texas, for the 2021 Mission Convocation around the theme, "God the Father Creates." The convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC's annual Lutheran Week.

2020 Vision Appeal: We are excited to share that we are moving forward with funding and implementing our *2020 Vision* with the full support of the bishop and Executive Council. We are working with Cramer & Associates from Dublin, Ohio, a Christian-based philanthropic advisory firm, to execute this powerful and important initiative. We look forward to communicating and working with you on building our future.

Elections: The Rev. Mark Werner of Pittsgrove, New Jersey, and Joel Williams of Erwin, South Dakota, were elected to four-year terms on the Executive Council. The Rev. Dr. Jeffray Greene of Brooks, Georgia, and Matthew Lind of Bainbridge Island, Washington, were elected to the Court of Adjudication.

The Rev. Dr. Amy Little was installed as the General Secretary of the NALC. The general secretary is the chief operating officer of the NALC and manages its administrative functions.

A major address on the convocation theme, "God the Father Creates," was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Steven Paulson. He focused on the significance of the first article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation of it in his Small Catechism.

Melissa Ohden told the moving story of her life as the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion and now as an advocate for abortion survivors and pro-life policies.

2022 budgets were approved. The Convocation approved a \$2 million Operating Budget for the NALC. Budgets were also approved for the church's designated funds: \$875,000 for the Theological Education Fund (which includes the North American Lutheran Seminary); \$215,500 for the Great Commission Fund; and \$143,000 for the Disaster Response Fund.

Prayer for Ethiopia: The convocation unanimously approved a resolution inviting NALC pastors, congregations and members to unite in "intentional and intensive prayer for Ethiopia." Ethiopia is going through a time of significant political unrest. The NALC is in a full-communion relationship with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the largest Lutheran church in the world.

Amendments to the NALC Constitution adding language naming mission districts and mission regions were approved. The amendments must be ratified by NALC congregations.

Reports of the work of the NALC's staff, teams, task forces, ministries and ministry partners were warmly received.

The Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology, which preceded the convocation, focused on God the Father. Other events of Lutheran week included the Women of the NALC Annual Gathering and workshops on discipleship, stewardship and youth ministry.

Documents, photos and videos from the convocation and other events of Lutheran Week will be posted at lutheranweek.com.