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**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

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## Pastor's Page

**Sunday, September 11** (the Sunday after Labor Day Weekend) will be an important "launch date."

**The Congregation Conversation Process** hosted by the Strategic Planning Committee enters a new stage on this day. The five conversations held over the spring and summer inaugurated the journey toward "*Seeing Clearly in 2020*" and we will continue to build on the good start we've made.

As you are aware, Messiah Church faces changing circumstances in society, community, and congregation. We are resolved to seek the guidance and Will of God as we walk with Him into the future He intends for us.

You are all members of this faith community. Your involvement, your listening and speaking, and your prayers in this journey are important, for every one of us has been "anointed by the Holy Spirit" and called by Christ to share in His work of redemption.

**The new season of the Messiah Bible Covenant** also commences on **September 11**. The new schedule has been prepared, and the Book of Scripture slated for discus-

sion on the fourth Sunday of September is Nehemiah, which builds on the events recorded in the August Ezra reading.

Since its start, the Bible Covenant process has evolved. In response to feedback from conversation participants, we are spreading longer Books of Scripture out over several months in order to examine them in more depth. The "main" autumn reading will be Ezekiel.

**The new "Bible in Depth" study is the Book of Romans.** This study, held at 7 PM on the second Thursday of each month, is a verse-by-verse journey through one of the most important and influential Letters of St. Paul. The last study, on the Gospel of John, spanned the better part of two years, approached at the level of detail requested by the study participants. Bring yourself, friends, and your Bible.

**A Reminder:** the wedding of Andrew Trovinger and Erin Kendall will be Saturday, 24 September. Members of Messiah are welcome to attend the ceremony (and share refreshments in the Fellowship Hall afterward). There is a sign-up sheet at the Infor-

mation Center; please sign individually if you plan to attend (please, no gifts).

**You may have noticed a subtle improvement** in the chancel. A big "Thank you!" goes to Harry Hatt for installing side railings in the chancel. Negotiating the carpeted stairs when distributing Holy Communion can be difficult (some Sundays, it's hard to see the steps). The railings are a big help at such times.

**Another big Thank You** to everyone who helped make the 150th Anniversary Sunday a memorable and delightful day: Marion Bowman, Joan Smith, Lois Smith, Nick & Barb Adams, Carol Artz, Rita Savant, Teenie Batdorf and Harry & Karen Hatt for their work exploring archival materials and setting them out for display; Michael Adams for photography for the occasion; the Fellowship Committee; Karen Fox, Alyssa Knouff, Erin Kendall and the Anniversary Choir for the special music they offered. Plus everyone who came to share the festivities. Finally, **Thanks be to God** for the holy fellowship we share in Christ at Messiah Church. To God be all glory and honor forever. +



# *Covenant Day*



*Sunday, September 11, 2016*

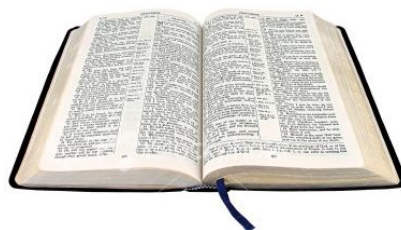
9 AM  
Worship

10:30 AM  
Covenant Day Welcome Time

*Featuring*  
*Bible Reading Covenant Schedule for 2016-17*  
*Summary of God's Vision: Seeing Clearly in 2020*  
*Prayer Covenant*  
*Fellowship*

Make plans to stay for our Covenant Day which kicks off a new year of Living in Faith Education! We will be receiving our new Bible Reading Covenant schedule for the up coming year, and the Strategic Planning Committee will be presenting a summary of the *God's Vision: Seeing Clearly in 2020* Conversations that were held this past summer. So make plans to stay—enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, some delicious cake and good, stimulating conversation!

If you have any questions please see Nancie Whelan (Christian Education chair) or Gayle Hoffman (Strategic Planning Chair).





*Christ Centered  
Mission Driven  
Traditionally Grounded  
Congregationally Focused*

August 28, 2016

Pastor and Lay Leadership  
Messiah Lutheran Church, Lebanon, PA.

Dear Pastor Kendall and all the saints in the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is my privilege and honor to greet you on behalf of all your brothers and sisters in Christ who are partners with you in the life, ministry and mission of the North American Lutheran Church. We join with you in celebrating the 150th year of ministry as a faithful Lutheran congregation serving the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the life of your congregation, the faithful who have gathered have surely been attentive to the Great Commission of Christ, reaching out to touch the lives of people with the Gospel, leading them into a life-giving relationship with Jesus and including them in the life of your community. We give thanks for your ministry seeking to share Christ's love and make His Gospel known.

Through the generations, you have shown yourselves to be disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and through Him a part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Following Christ you are continuously nurtured in the faith through your commitment to God's Word and our Lutheran confessions. Your spiritual health is evident in your commitment to mission and ministry as well as your sacrificial giving to support and sustain ministry.

Your congregation is a wonderful place where leaders are being developed, equipped and sent to do ministry in the name of Jesus, in your homes, the places where you work, throughout your community and far beyond. Through his ministry you have been blessed and passed on that blessing to many others.

It is right for you to give thanks to God for the life and ministry of your congregation and we join you in gratitude and celebration.

Through this letter I commend your congregation for your faithful ministry and witness to Christ. May the Lord's presence and blessings fill you with great joy! You have the promise of my prayers throughout this important day.

With you following Christ Jesus,

Rev. John F. Bradosky, Bishop

3500 Mill Run Drive  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
614-777-5709  
www.thenalc.org

The Rev. John Bradosky  
*Bishop*  
614-777-5709  
jbradosky@thenalc.org

The Rev. Mark Chavez  
*General Secretary*  
717-898-0801  
mchavez@thenalc.org

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba  
*Assistant to the Bishop  
for Mission*  
614-777-5709  
gbuba@thenalc.org

The Rev. Dr. David Wendel  
*Assistant to the Bishop  
for Ministry and Ecumenism*  
614-777-5709  
dwendel@thenalc.org



# NALC News

NALC Convocation

August 10-12, 2016

## 2016 NALC Convocation focuses on “Holy God, Holy Lives”

More than 400 NALC members gathered August 10-12 for the 2016 NALC Convocation in Anaheim, Calif., around the theme, “Holy God, Holy Lives.”

Major presentations were provided by the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Guite of the University of Cambridge, England, and musician Steve Bell from Winnipeg, Manitoba. They combined to lead devotions during the Convocation and led a poetic and musical reflection on the theme. Prof. Guite also gave an address entitled, “C.S. Lewis: ‘Friendship and Holiness.’”

The Rev. Dr. James Nestingen, a noted Lutheran historian, led a Bible study and was preacher for the Communion service.

“Holy Families” will be a special NALC emphasis as a part of the 2017 celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. A variety of resources will be available for congregations and families.

**The NALC Mission Festival** began the Convocation under the theme, “Faith is Made Whole in Community.” Time on Wednesday and Thursday was spent focusing on what it means for the NALC to be a Mission-Driven church. Speakers included Bishop John Bradosky, Pastor Gemechis Buba, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, and Gary Pecuch of [faithwebbing.com](http://faithwebbing.com). Delegates also focused on developing mission plans for their congregations and Mission Districts.

**Elected to the NALC Executive Council** to four-year terms were Lynn Kickingbird of Edmond, Okla., and Pastor Kenneth Kimball of Waterville, Iowa. Pastor David Schafer of Waukon, Iowa, was elected to the Court of Adjudication. The Convocation also ratified the election of four people to the NALC-Canada Section Governing Board.

**North American Lutheran Seminary** Board of Regents members were elected. Pastor Cathi Braasch of Elwood, Neb.; Donna Evans of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Pastor Jeffray Greene of Brooks, Ga., were elected to six-year terms. Bishop Paull Spring of State College, Pa., was elected to a four-year term to fill a vacancy on the board.

**2017 budgets were approved.** The Convocation approved a \$2 million operating budget for the NALC. Budgets were also approved for the NALC’s two designated funds: \$140,500 for the Great Commission Fund and \$525,160 for the Fund for Theological Education (which includes the North American Lutheran Seminary). Treasurer Ryan Schwarz reported that NALC “income is very substantially below budget.” Many delegates expressed concerns about the shortfall and committed to addressing support for the NALC in their congregations or encouraging gifts by individuals.

**The Braaten and Benne Lectures in Theology**, the annual theological conference which precedes the Convocation, focused on theological perspectives on the Person of Christ. Five speakers explored the theme from different theological perspectives. The speakers were Dr. Carl Braaten, Dr. Phillip Cary, Dr. Wesley Hill, Dr. Mickey L. Mattox, and Dr. Michael Pasquarello III.

**Video recordings** of the NALC Convocation and the Braaten-Benne Lectures on Theology will be available for viewing online at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org). Documents from the Convocation and daily summaries are also available online.

# Thank You Notes



*Thank you notes were received from the Lutheran World Relief, the NALC Seminary, and the Atlantic Mission District of the NALC. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.*

Pastor Kendall and Church Council,

Thank you so much for the gift certificate to Gabby's. Janet and I had a very tasty meal. I was so happy to be able to fill the gap and take care of the church after Carl's passing. Unfortunately, my other "duties" would not allow me to continue on. Thank you for allowing me to serve the congregation and care for God's house.

Tom Gassert



Messiah Church Family,

I want to thank the church family of Messiah for their many prayers, hugs, the beautiful cards with personal notes and poems to uplift Lee and I during this time of sorrow in our lives.

Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers who witnessed to our daughter Linda while she was a member of Messiah.

Linda was a devoted Christian in her lifetime and now a resident of Heaven.

In Christian love,  
Rita and Lee Savant

Dear Fellow Members of Messiah,

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support during Bryan's leukemia treatment. After 2 1/2 years of chemotherapy, blood transfusions, and a stem cell transplant, he is now considered to be a chronic (not acute) patient. While still needing immunosuppressing medications (which have their own effects), he is gradually getting some strength and normalcy back. We have often felt the love and benefit of prayer from many of you through cards and conversation. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all.

Gayle and Bryan Hoffman



Many thanks to all of the congregation who attended the Conversations on *God's Vision: Seeing Clearly in 2020*. Also thanks go out to my fellow members of the Strategic Planning Committee—Pastor Kendall, Kathy Lilley, Deb Lutz, Nick Adams, Teenie Batdorf, and Dave Machamer for their assistance in the note taking and leading of the groups.

I hope everyone will pray daily for God's direction and leadership for our congregation, and all are welcome and encouraged to attend the September 11 event in the Living in Faith hour.

Sincerely,

Gayle Hoffman

(Strategic Planning Committee chairperson)



## Address Change

**Tim & Nancy Frye**

1019 Percy Lane  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
Phone: 717-964-5166

Cell & email remain the same.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO WATCH FOR STOPPED BUSES! The children are back in school.

### **SUNDAYS:**

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

### **WEDNESDAYS:**

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



## Upcoming Events



### BIBLE STUDY

**Thursday, September 8  
7 PM**

We will begin our in-depth discussion of Romans.

### EVENT NIGHT

**Thursday, September 15  
6:30 PM**

Come on out for a fun evening of games and fellowship.



### CHRISMON MAKING DURING LIF

**Sunday, September 18  
10:30 AM**

Help make new symbols to decorate our Chrismon Tree! All supplies and instructions will be provided.

## Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Congregation Council met on Tuesday, August 9, 2016. There was no meeting in July.

- All current Congregation Council members were present.
- Devotions were presented by Nick Adams. Charlotte Varone will offer the devotions next month.
- We received with regret the resignations of two Council members: Don Smith and Lori Oliver.
- Nick Adams was appointed as the delegate from Messiah to the Atlantic Mission District Convocation to be held in October in Baltimore.
- Note was made of the fact that we are falling behind in giving versus expenses by \$1,000 per month.
- The new locks were installed on the downstairs class room doors and the two doors leading to the second floor in the education building.
- Approved a request to transfer \$5,000 from the Money Market Fund to the General Fund to cover expenses.
- Approved a second payment of \$21,000 to Strohm's for the current contract to install the new HVAC system.
- Approved a bid of \$1,976 from Reed's Locksmith to re-key the entire building.
- Approved a bid from Precision Window Tinting for \$1,350 to tint the main doors to the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Adams, 2016 Congregation Council President

## School Kit and Health Kit Collections

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

from **August 21-September 25**. Many thanks in advance for your support of this project.



# September 2016 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 4 Nicholas Adams
- 11 Sandra Smith
- 18 Eugene Martin
- 25 Charlotte Varone



## Lector

- 4 Carey Kendall
- 11 Sandra Smith
- 18 Eugene Martin
- 25 Charlotte Varone



## Greeters

- 4 Raymond & Carol Anspach
- 11 Kathaleen Lilley
- 18 Deborah Lutz
- 25 Harry & Karen Hatt



**Finance Steward**  
Nicholas Adams

## Head Ushers

Robert and Michael Bowman



## Altar Guild

- Mary Garrett, chair
- Dorothy Martin
- Lori Wert



## Crucifer

### By Carol Artz

- 4 Sandra Smith
- 11 Nicholas Adams
- 18 Nicholas Adams
- 25 Carol Artz



## Acolyte

- 4 Harry Hatt
- 11 Mary Whelan
- 18 Mikayla Bowman
- 25 Keeley Hartman



## WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

**September 4**— Laurite Vranesic



**September 11**—Covenant Day  
Christian Education Committee



# General Fund Financial Summary, June & July

	June	July	Year/date
Income	\$10,241.11	\$12,879.14	\$88,735.26
Expenses	\$14,424.43	\$14,220.15	\$103,521.01
Income-expenses	<b>-\$4,183.32</b>	<b>-\$1,341.01</b>	<b>-\$14,785.75</b>

Income	June	July	Year/date
Regular giving	\$9,903.98	\$12,798.99	\$87,302.93
Jesus Tree envelopes	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$560.00
Bowl of Blessings	\$82.00	\$0.00	\$82.00
Checking interest	\$0.13	\$0.15	\$1.33
Donations (use of church)	\$175.00	\$50.00	\$390.00
Other General Fund*	<u>\$30.00</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>	<u>\$399.00</u>
Total Income	\$10,241.11	\$12,879.14	\$88,735.26

\*initial envelope, altar guild, communion gifts, etc.

Expenses	June	July	Year/date
Staff	\$10,004.83	\$10,004.83	\$70,410.69
Administrative	\$414.95	\$136.44	\$2,452.14
Maintenance	\$2,196.31	\$2,145.55	\$17,499.85
Committee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Additional	\$375.00	\$500.00	\$3,125.00
Benevolence	\$1,333.34	\$1,333.33	\$9,333.33
Loan Repayment	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>	<u>\$700.00</u>
Total expenses	\$14,424.43	\$14,220.15	\$103,521.01
Income less expenses	<b>-\$4,183.32</b>	<b>-\$1,341.01</b>	<b>-\$14,785.75</b>

## Benevolence Giving

June/July 2016	Regular Giving Benevolence	Additional Designated Giving	Total Given to Charities
NALC	\$1,550.00		\$1,550.00
Atlantic Mission District	\$150.00		\$150.00
North American Lutheran Seminary	\$108.34		\$108.34
Independent Church in India	\$108.33		\$108.33
PACC Caring Cupboard	\$108.33		\$108.33
NALC Disaster Response	\$108.34		\$108.34
Lutheran World Relief	\$108.34		\$108.34
Lebanon Rescue Mission/Agape Shelter	\$108.33		\$108.33
Lebanon Free Clinic	\$108.33		\$108.33
City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes)	\$100.00		\$100.00
The Great Commission Society/ Water Missions International	\$108.33		\$108.33
Total	\$2,666.67	\$0.00	\$2,666.67



# Ministry Plan Report for June & July

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

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Offering Received:</u>	<u>Attendance:</u>
6/5	\$3,530.00	56 + / 25 Conversation
6/12	\$2,005.00	52 + / 16 LiF
6/19	\$1,980.00	45 + / 19 LiF
6/26	\$2,726.00	47 + / 21 Conversation
7/3	\$2,353.00	41 + / 25 Stewardship update
7/10	\$2,152.00	45 + / 31 ICII
7/17	\$4,197.01	54 + / 19 Conversation
7/24	\$1,765.57	46 + / 24 LiF
7/31	\$2,467.00	55 + / 26 Kline presentation

**Received to date: \$88,735.26**

**Needed to date: \$92,965.50**



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



## 2016 Congregational Council

- Nicholas Adams, *President & Property co-chair*
- Charlotte Varone, *Vice President & Personnel chair*
- Nancie Whelan, *Secretary, assistant Treasurer & Christian Ed 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 Fox, *Worship & Music chair*
- Karen Hatt, *Fellowship co-chair*
- Gayle Hoffman, *Strategic Planning chair*
- Kathaleen Lilley, *Treasurer & Finance chair*

## Open Flower Dates

There is one date left in 2016 that is in need of flower sponsorship:

December 11

There are several dates in 2017 that are open as well:



- February 19, 2017
- May 7, 2017
- June 18, 2017
- August 6, 2017
- August 13, 2017

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



## September Birthdays

- 1 Anita Keisch
- 2 Ethel Matthew
- 5 Reuben Miller
- 6 Daryl Artz
- 9 Louise Scaramuzzino
- 13 Corey Hartman
- 16 Melanie Gettler
- 18 Robert Bowman, Jr.
- 19 Lori Wert
- 21 Daniel LaRue  
Nancie Whelan
- 22 Elizabeth Brightbill
- 25 Janice Hartman
- 27 Gordon Ebright  
Fred Harnisch  
Rosanne Lutz
- 28 Terry Wilson
- 29 Matthew Knouff
- 30 Sean Behney



## September Anniversaries

- 5 Harry & Karen Fox
- 6 Randy & Debra Miller
- 10 Tilman & Nancy Frye
- 17 Michael & Sherri Blouch



## For Your Information

### September 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:

September  
Caring Cupboard



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

## 2016 CROP Walk for Hunger



The annual Greater Lebanon C R O P H u n g e r 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 onto 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.

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1800 Oak Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042-5852  
Office Phone 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: <http://www.messiahluthleb.org>  
NALC Web Site: <http://thenalc.org>

## Christmas Card Booklets

**An invitation:** I would like to invite a person, or group of people, to share their Christian love and talent in an enjoyable way: making Christmas card booklets.



For many years, we have made these available for sharing Christmas with others (nursing home residents, homebound church members/shut-ins, hospitalized, and so on).

We already have many supplies available for this project, and the booklets for Christmas, 2016 are finished. I would like to step down from this particular ministry, and hope some of my fellow Messiah members will keep this tradition going.

I would be glad to help you get started and explain how to use the supplies. Please consider taking up this ministry, which Pastor tells me has been much appreciated by many who benefit from it. Contact Pastor, Robin in the office, or myself. Thank you,

—Joan Smith

*Ed. Note: Joan has faithfully carried out this work for longer than we can remember—perhaps twenty years now, taking it up after Doris Toennes was no longer able. Please thank Joan for her devoted and loving service, and, if you are able, take up the ministry to keep it going.*

## Road Trip!



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.

## Bowl of Blessings



Over the summer three blessings were dropped into our Bowl of Blessing:

*We rejoice! God has blessed Lee and Rita Savant with 50 years of marriage and four children.*

*Thanks be to God for love, guidance and direction in my 82 years of life!*

*Blessing and honor to you, dear LORD, for my baptism as Your child 82 years ago.*