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Pastor's Page

September things . . .

Waiting for rain to pass in order to get outside things done sometimes made this summer feel very long. August, however, seems to be flying by.

Now it is time to prepare for September's events. For some, this means football, soccer or cross-country meets. For students and teachers, it means a new school year, with its opportunities and challenges.

For all of us at Messiah, September means events and opportunities.

Sunday, September 10 we will have Lowell and Kathy Smith with us to report on their most recent India mission trip. We believe Pastor Britto and Pastor Asif will be able to visit as well. They will speak during worship, offer a presentation during the Living in Faith hour, and share the covered dish picnic with us.

Those sharing the meal will have a new experience: we will be able to see everything we're eating with abundant clarity. There are new LED lights

in the Fellowship Hall, and what a huge difference they make. This was necessary both to ease maintenance and to replace lights impacted by water during the Fellowship Hall roof project. No doubt voters and voting officials in the November elections will be very happy with the improvement too.

Sunday, September 24 we launch the new Bible Covenant. On that day, the Book being studied will be Second Peter.

On that day, the new Covenants for the 2017-18 Covenant Year will also be distributed and signed.

Based on participant input and suggestions, several changes are being implemented.

First, study guides will be provided one week in advance of each month's Covenant Sunday (this was initiated for the August session and will continue). The study guides are posted on the church's web site and will be available in print form for Covenant participants the Sunday prior to each Covenant Sunday (they will

be available on the third Sunday of the month).

It is suggested that Covenant participants read the month's designated texts in the first half of the month, obtain the study guide, then re-read/review in light of the discussion questions provided, making notes or journaling. This way, you will be able to make the most of the Covenant Sunday discussions.

The new format relies heavily on participation by everyone. Your questions and insights will be welcome.

Since this year marks the **500th Anniversary of the 95 Theses**, we will use the October Covenant time to discuss Scripture texts which particularly informed Luther's understanding of salvation by grace through faith.

In November, Covenant time will be devoted to learning how to use the "study Bibles" and other resources, so you can make the most of your Bible study time. The Covenant experience is for all of us. Renew your commitment, or join in! +



Covenant Day



Sunday, September 24, 2017

9 AM

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

10:30 AM

Covenant Day Welcome Time

Featuring

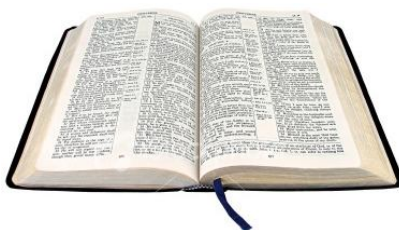
Bible Reading Covenant Schedule for 2017-18

Discussion on September's reading: 2 Peter

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 we will have our 4th Sunday of the month discussion on this month's assigned reading—2 Peter. 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 Karen Hatt (Fellowship Chair).



2017 NALC Convocation focuses on Discipleship and Reformation

Nearly 700 NALC members gathered August 9-11 for the 2017 NALC Convocation in Nashville, Tenn., around the theme, "Holding Fast: Being Reformed."

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation provided a focus for the Convocation. The leaders of the largest Lutheran churches in the world were featured speakers for the worship services. The Rev. Dr. Fredrick Onael Shoo, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, was the preacher for a festival service observing the Reformation anniversary. The Rev. Yonas Yigezu, President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, preached for the opening worship of the Convocation Mission Festival.

The Rev. Dr. James Nestingen and the Rev. Dr. Nathan Yoder delivered keynote Bible study addresses on Reformation themes. The Rev. Dr. Jared Wicks addressed Martin Luther from a Roman Catholic perspective, and Carmen Fowler LaBerge addressed the Lutheran Reformation from a Reformed perspective.

The NALC's focus on discipleship featured prominently in the Convocation. Bishop John Bradosky provided a keynote address and Bible study on discipleship for the Mission Festival. Discipleship was also a focus of his report to the Convocation and of other speakers and workshops.

The NALC Mission Festival began the Convocation under the theme, "Renewing Congregational Life Through the Word of God." Keynote addresses were given by Bishop Bradosky, the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, and the Rev. Dr. Joseph Parsalaw of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Church leaders from around the world took part in a panel discussion on congregational life in their countries. Workshops addressed a variety of topics.

Stuff the Truck for NALC Disaster Response was a great success. So many supplies were brought for NALC Disaster Response that a larger truck needed to be obtained. Donated supplies included 400 quilts, 366 health kits, 112 school kits, 70 flood buckets, and 225 Bibles.

The Bishop election process will remain the same as proposed constitutional amendments were not approved.

Elected to the NALC Executive Council to four-year terms were Brian E. Sutton of Statesville, N.C., and Pastor Mark Braaten of Tyler, Texas. Pastor Jeffray S. Greene of Brooks, Ga., and Lyle Hollander of Boyden, Iowa were elected to the Court of Adjudication. The Convocation also ratified the election of Julie Eskeland to the NALC-Canada Section Governing Board.

2018 budgets were approved. The Convocation approved a \$2.1 million operating budget for the NALC. Budgets were also approved for NALC designated funds: \$543,000 for the Theological Education Fund (which includes the North American Lutheran Seminary); \$165,500 for the Great Commission Fund; and \$64,000 for the Disaster Response Fund. Budgets anticipate spending some cash reserves. Delegates also approved a resolution encouraging congregations to increase their benevolence giving to the NALC by at least 1 percent of their congregational budget annually

The Braaten and Benne Lectures in Theology, the annual theological conference which precedes the Convocation, focused on theological perspectives on the Work of Christ. The speakers were Dr. Don Collett, Dr. Gordon Isaac, Dr. Paul Hinlicky, Dr. David Luy, and Dr. David Yeago.

Video recordings of the NALC Convocation and the Braaten-Benne Lectures on Theology will be available for viewing online at www.thenalc.org. Documents and photos from the Convocation are also available online.

Thank You Notes



Thank you notes were received from the Rescue Mission, 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.

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, September 10

Immediately following the Living In Faith Education Hour

Provided:

- Hamburger BBQ
- Hot dogs
- Buns
- Paper products



Sign up to bring:

- Side Dish
- Drink
- Dessert



Special guests:

Lowell & Kathy Smith
from Independent Church in India

A sign up sheet is posted on the Information Board.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1800 Oak Street
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E-mail

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

Web Site: www.messiahluthleb.org
AMD website: www.atlantic-nalc.org
NALC Web Site: <http://thenalc.org>

Address Changes

Mary Whelan is off to college. Here is her address for the upcoming school year:

Grove City College, #2765
200 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127

Joan Prestegord is in a new room. Her new address is:

202 Northview
Cornwall Manor
PO Box 125
Cornwall, PA 17016

Nurses' station: 273-2647

September Living in Faith

We are blessed here at Messiah to have many people willing to share their knowledge, experience and faith with us! There's more to come in October!

- Sept 3**—The relationship of hymns to the appointed Scripture (led by Karen Fox)
- Sept. 10**—Independent Church in India presentation by the Lowell Smith Family
- Sept. 17**—A slide show on Jerusalem led by Pr. Phil Kline (in the nave)
- Sept. 24**—Covenant Day discussion on 2 Peter led by Pastor Kendall



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 14
7 PM

We will continue our in-depth discussion of Romans.

GAME NIGHT

Friday, September 15
6:30 PM

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



Property Work Day

Saturday, September 16
8 AM

Many hands make light work!



Reformation Invitation

St. John, Fredericksburg and Zoar, Mt. Zion (our sister NALC congregations in the northern part of the county) are throwing a 500th anniversary of the Reformation commemoration party and YOU are invited!

When? Saturday, October 28 from 12–4 PM
Where? Zoar Lutheran Church (560 Freeport Road, Lebanon 17046)

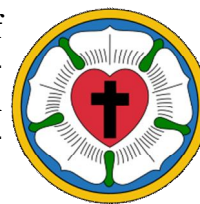
Featuring:

- A pork and sauerkraut luncheon (with bratwurst, mashed potatoes, applesauce, etc.)
- Traditional German desserts
- A keg of beer (birch beer, that is)
- Martin Luther presentation by Dr. Kevin Pry
- Activities for the whole family
- Great fellowship!

Look for a sign-up sheet in the coming weeks!

Mission District Convocation

The Atlantic Mission District of the NALC will be holding its annual Convocation this year on **Friday, October 13—Saturday, October 14 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Camp Hill.** The theme this year is *Discipling in the Local Congregation* featuring Pastor Bradley Hales. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend! Harry Hatt has been selected to be Messiah’s delegate.



If you are interested in attending please see Pastor Kendall. **Deadline for registration is September 15.** He has all the paperwork needed. Cost is \$40 for both days (with 3 meals included).



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 20—October 8.** Many thanks in advance for your support of this project. Any questions—see Kathy Lilley.

September 2017 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 3 Eugene Martin
- 10 Ernestine Batdorf
- 17 Michael Bowman
- 24 Charlotte Varone



Lector

- 3 Carey Kendall
- 10 Ernestine Batdorf
- 17 Michael Bowman
- 24 Charlotte Varone



Greeters

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



Finance Steward
Deborah Lutz

Head Ushers
The Robert Bowman Family



Altar Guild

- Mary Garrett, chair
- Dorothy Martin
- Lori Wert



Crucifer

By Carol Artz

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



Acolyte

- 3 Nancie Whelan
- 10 Ernestine Batdorf
- 17 Mikayla Bowman
- 24 Harry Hatt



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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



September 3— Pr. J. Philip Kline
September 24—Covenant Day



Ministry Plan Report for June & July

(Budgeted need per week: \$3,483.79)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
June 4	\$3,824.00	54 + / 19 LiF
June 11	\$1,679.00	35 + / 12 LiF
June 18	\$2,084.00	42 + / 12 LiF
June 25	\$2,081.00	54 + / 24 Joint LiF
July 2	\$3,245.00	46 + / 14 LiF
July 9	\$2,911.00	46 + / 13 LiF
July 16	\$2,833.00	51 + / 14 LiF
July 23	\$1,394.00	39 + / 16 Joint LiF
July 30	\$2,486.00	42 + / 16 LiF



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



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*

Open Flower Dates

There are two dates left in 2017 that are in need of flower sponsorship:

- December 10
- December 31

There are six dates in 2018 that are open as well:

- April 29, 2018
- July 1, 2018
- August 5, 2018
- August 12, 2018
- December 9, 2018
- December 30, 2018



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
- 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



September Anniversaries

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



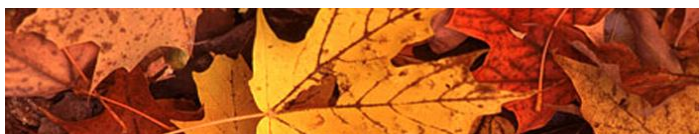
For Your Information

September 3 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!



2017 CROP Walk for Hunger



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

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 through 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.

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.

