

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Christmas Worship Times	2
Monthly Schedule	3
Year End	5
Birthdays	5
Open Flower Dates	5
Thank You Note	5
Congregation Council Highlights	6
2018 Ministry Plan	7

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Living in Faith* caroling (Page 2)
- Congregation Council (Page 2)
- October Ministry Plan Summary (Page 4)
- Membership Changes (Page 5)
- 2018 Offering Envelopes (Page 5)
- Wintry Weather (Page 6)
- Upcoming Events (Page 6)

Pastor's Page

What made the “Holy Night” holy?

It wasn't the self-serving “hospitality” of Bethlehem, where nobody would make room for a very pregnant young woman and her weary and anxious husband. They finally had to shelter in a stable, likely carved into a rock face outside the town.

It wasn't the shepherds, living on the margin of subsistence in a job nobody else wanted which took all of their time, day and night, tending sheep that were probably owned by somebody else. It wasn't Joseph and Mary, who had done what God asked them to do but were simply ordinary people of Israel.

God made the “Holy Night” holy. Why do we remember Bethlehem? Because the wondrous Incarnation took place on its fringe.

Why do we remember the shepherds at all? Because God sent angels to *these* shepherds to announce that God had done a Holy Thing.

Why do we call Joseph, Mary and Jesus “The Holy Family?” Because Jesus made them holy.

How is it that we consider ourselves part of “A Holy People,” the Church of Jesus Christ?

Not because we try to be “good people.” Not because we've “always” been members of a church. Not because we read our Bible, or pray, or say “I love Jesus.”

We are holy because Jesus makes us holy. What He does, not what we do, “makes Holiness” in us. His teachings, His example, His Spirit's labors, His atoning death on the Cross, His Resurrection, His Promise of salvation—these make us holy as we live in them.

Only the shepherds came to see Jesus that Holy Night. They came because they were *told* about it. The angels declared to them the “tidings of great joy” because God was *inviting* them to see and be part of it—to become participants in the Holy Night. The shepherds were the first

people to worship the Newborn King.

No one else was there. Not citizens of Bethlehem. Not priests. Not even the “wise men”—they were on the way, also invited, led by a distinctive star.

Only those who had given themselves to God—Mary and Joseph—and those told and invited—the shepherds—were part of the Holy Night.

By now, many have been told—through hearing the Good News of Jesus. Many are offered Holiness—called, invited, welcome.

Many of us have let ourselves be lax in responding to God's telling and invitation. Have you let yourself drift away from that which makes us Holy? Be honest.

Remember that only by making us holy does God make us fit for eternal life with Him. He has invited us to life with Him, to our own holy Transformation. Let us wait no longer to rededicate ourselves to the holy Life Jesus came to give us. +

2017 Congregation 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*

Christmas Worship

4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 24
9 AM

The Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, December 24
4 PM and 7:30 PM

A liturgy of Holy Communion, carols and candle lighting



Messiah Lutheran Church

1800 Oak Street

Lebanon, PA 17042-5852

Office Phone 717-272-2922

Living in Faith Caroling & Cookie Delivery

The *Living in Faith* Sunday School will once again put their vocal talent to good use! We will be delivering our packed containers of Christmas cookies to our shut-ins during the *LiF* hour every Sunday in Advent. Everyone is welcome to join us!



Address Change

New address:

Jordan and Justyn Connatser

534 S. High St, Apt. 1
West Chester, PA 19383



Staff Christmas Gifts

Christmas is coming, and our custom has been to request donations towards Pastor Kendall's Christmas gift. As we did last year, we are also asking that you donate towards gifts for our other staff members. As you know, there has been a deficit in congregation giving for the past several years, and we are not able to budget an appropriate amount for our employees. Please help us to give each of our employees a generous Christmas gift. Please give your contribution to any Council member or officer (see list on the upper left of this page).



Harry Hatt

Congregation Council President

E-mail

Pastor Kendall: messiahpastor@epix.net

Robin Harris/office: messiahluthleb@epix.net

Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>

December 2017 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 3 Michael Bowman
- 10 Sandra Smith
- 17 Karen Fox
- 24 Deborah Lutz
- 24 4 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 31 Eugene Martin



Lector

- 3 Robert Bowman
- 10 Sandra Smith
- 17 Karen Fox
- 24 Deborah Lutz
- 24 4 PM Ernestine Batdorf
- 7:30 PM Nancie Whelan
- 31 Eugene Martin



Greeters

- 3 Marion Bowman
- 10 Nicholas & Barbara Adams
- 17 David Machamer
- 24 Deborah Lutz
- 24 4 PM **NEEDED**
- 7:30 PM The Bowman Family
- 31 **NEEDED**



Finance Steward
Gayle Hoffman

Head Usher
Carol Anspach



Altar Guild

- Janet Gassert, chair
- Carol Anspach
- Raymond Anspach
- Tom Gassert



Crucifer By Carol Artz

- 3 Eugene Martin
- 10 Rita Savant
- 17 Sandra Smith
- 24 Nicholas Adams
- 24 4 PM Rita Savant
- 7:30 PM Gayle Hoffman
- 31 Carol Artz



Acolyte

- 3 Michael Bowman
- 10 Mikayla Bowman
- 17 Nancie Whelan
- 24 Deborah Lutz
- 24 4 PM Harry Hatt
- 7:30 PM Michael Bowman
- Mikayla Bowman
- 31 Ernestine Batdorf



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

December 3—The Bowman Family



For Your Information

December 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:



December:
Rescue Mission

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



Please sign up today to be a **Greeter!** The sign up sheets for 2018 are posted and ready for you to fill in your name!

The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2018 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex.



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 the Evangelism Ministry Team: Deb Lutz, Charlotte Varone or Mary Garrett.

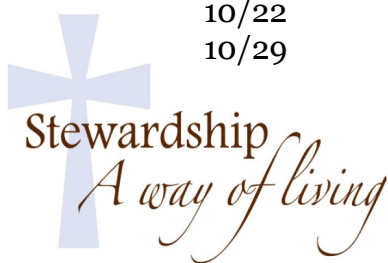
If you are thinking of **COFFEE, TEA, OR COCOA** as Christmas gifts they will be available during Welcome Time on December 3 to make your choices. Remember that these beverages not only solve your gift needs but will help small farmers around the world and return some of the cost to our national organization. Thank you!



Ministry Plan Summary for October

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

10/1	\$3,639.00	50 + / 20 Covenant study
10/8	\$2,866.00	40 + / 12 Kline presentation
10/15	\$2,012.00	38 + / 9 Kline presentation
10/22	\$1,171.25	42 + / 19 Covenant study
10/29	\$3,709.00	38 + / 19 Covenant study



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

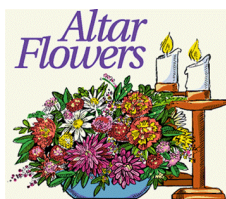
December Birthdays

- 1 Jacob Anspach
Nolan Anspach
- 5 Holly McGuire
Joan Prestegord
Walter Shirey
Carol Van Raay
- 7 Eileen Lutz
- 8 Andrew Hartman
- 9 Barbara Adams
Susan Galbraith
- 12 Nancy Potteiger
- 18 Alyson Hartman
- 22 Debra Miller
- 23 Dolores Rittle
- 24 Donald Munford
- 25 Mikayla Bowman
- 26 Beckett Lutz
- 31 Mary Ellen Dietrich
Gary Dohner



Open Flower Dates

There are **SIX** open flower dates for **2018**. If you are interested in sponsoring the altar flowers (or giving an additional contribution to the General Fund in lieu of flowers) for any of these dates please contact Janet Gassert at 717-272-3757.



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

Thank You Notes

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to all the Christmas cookie bakers and shut-in container cookie packers. It was a success—we had 10 different kinds of cookies!

Also, a BIG thank you to all who brought in the Spaghetti Miracle donations last month. We received 29 jars of sauce and 34 boxes of pasta which were all donated to the Rescue Mission. We also donated two pans of cooked spaghetti with sauce to them. I would also like to give a big THANK YOU to Bob and Mike Bowman for cooking.

Karen Hatt
Fellowship Committee Chair

2017 Contributions

YEAR-END
GIVING



ALL year-end contributions **must be received by the last Sunday of the month (December 31)** to count for 2017. All contributions received after that date will be recorded for 2018.

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

- 9 AM THE HOLY COMMUNION
- 10:30 AM LIVING IN FAITH
(4th Sunday of the month—Joint class)

WEDNESDAYS:

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

2018 Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes The 2018 offering envelopes have arrived. Please take yours home with you at your earliest convenience. If you live close to a shut-in, please consider helping us out by delivering their envelopes too. Please note that the envelopes are arranged in **ALPHABETICAL** order. Thank you.



Upcoming Events

**IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY
on the Book of Romans
Thursday, December 14**

7 PM
Conference Room



**There will be
NO
GAME NIGHT
this month.**

See you next year!

Christmas Office Hours

The office will be closed on
December 25 & 26.
Merry Christmas!



November Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, November 14, 2017.

- A Spaghetti Miracle will be held at noon on Saturday, November 18, prior to the Annual Congregation meeting. Bob Bowman will be the chef.
- Packing cookies for shut-ins will be done at 9 AM on November 18, prior to the Spaghetti Miracle.
- Work days will continue to be held the second Saturday of each month to continue maintaining the grounds (outside, weather permitting) and the buildings.
- Social Ministry is going shopping for the Agape Shelter.
- Game Day will be held on Friday, November 24, weather permitting.
- Harry Hatt, Rita Savant and Teenie Batdorf have all agreed to be placed on the ballot for Congregation Council elections. Thank you to Charlotte Varone who is completing 3-two year terms, and additional time to fulfill an opening on Council.



Respectfully submitted,
Karen Fox
Congregation Council Secretary



In Case of Wintry Weather...



In the event of wintry weather or power outages on Sunday mornings, please listen to WLBR radio for information on worship schedules. If there is a power failure on a Sunday morning, worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The emergency generator provides enough light in that area.

Also, in the event of adverse weather/road conditions, the office will open as soon as conditions allow us to travel safely. On a Wednesday morning, if the Cornwall-Lebanon or Lebanon City school districts have a 2 hour delay or are closed, the Wednesday morning worship service is cancelled.



Messiah Lutheran 2018 Ministry Plan

	2018	2017	Net Change	Percent Change
Staff Ministries				
Pastor Salary	39,371	38,800	571	1.47%
Pastor Housing	30,000	31,000	-1,000	-3.23%
Pastor's Social Security	5,716	5,786	-70	-1.21%
Car Allowance	2,600	2,800	-200	-7.14%
Pension	9,852	9,524	328	3.44%
Medical/Dental/Disability/Survivor Insurance	16,000	16,000	0	0.00%
Pastor's Continuing Ed	100	100	0	0.00%
Secretary Salary	13,300	13,300	0	0.00%
Secretary Social Security	1,017	1,017	0	-0.04%
Workers Compensation Insurance	700	800	-100	-12.50%
TOTAL	118,655	119,127	-472	-6.71%
Percent of Total Plan	73.13%	72.37%		
Administrative Ministries				
Consumable Supplies	1,800	1,800	0	0.00%
Technology Support	0	0	0	0.00%
Non-Consumable Supplies	100	100	0	0.00%
Postage	100	100	0	0.00%
Worship Supplies	500	500	0	0.00%
Telephone & Internet	1,500	1,500	0	0.00%
Offering Supplies	450	450	0	0.00%
NALC Convocation	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	4,450	4,450	0	0.00%
Percent of Total Plan	2.74%	2.70%		
Maintenance Ministries				
Electric	9,000	10,000	-1,000	-10.00%
Gas	3,500	4,500	-1,000	-22.22%
Water & Sewer	600	600	0	0.00%
Refuse Removal	400	400	0	0.00%
Equipment Service	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%
Grounds Care	4,400	4,400	0	0.00%
Facilities Services (Contractor)	3,600	3,600	0	0.00%
Snow Removal	1,400	1,400	0	0.00%
Janitorial - Non-paper Supplies	250	400	-150	-37.50%
Janitorial - Paper Supplies	300	400	-100	-25.00%
Property & Liability Insurance	5,000	4,600	400	8.70%
Organ/Piano Tuning/Repairs	1,300	1,300	0	0.00%
Funded Depreciation	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	32,750	34,600	-1,850	-5.35%
Percent of Total Plan	20.19%	21.02%		

The 2018 Ministry Plan was adopted by those members attending the Annual Congregation meeting on November 18, 2017.

	2018	2017	Net Change	Percent Change
Committee Ministries				
Publicity/Advertising	0	0	0	0.00%
Christian Ed	100	150	-50	-33.33%
Evangelism	100	100	0	0.00%
Fellowship	25	25	0	0.00%
Social Ministry	40	40	0	0.00%
Stewardship	50	50	0	0.00%
Youth Ministry	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	315	365	-50	-13.70%
Percent of Total Plan	0.19%	0.22%		
Additional Ministries				
Speakers & Substitutes	170	150	20	150.00%
Organist Substitutes	5,875	5,875	0	0.00%
Pastoral Care Resources	0	0	0	0.00%
Awards & Gifts	30	50	-20	-40.00%
VBS	0	0	0	0.00%
Library	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	6,075	6,075	0	0.00%
Percent of Total Plan	3.74%	3.69%		
Future Ministries				
Organist Salary	0	0		
Organist Social Security	0	0		
Continuing Education	0	0		
Choir Director Salary	0	0		
Choir Director Social Security	0	0		
Continuing Education	0	0		
Chime Choir Director Stipend	0	0		
Chime Choir Dir. Soc. Security	0	0		
Music	0	0		
Choir Fellowship	0	0		
TOTAL	0	0		
Percent of Total Plan	0.00%	0.00%		
General Fund Total	162,245	164,617	-2,372	-1.44%
Benevolence Ministries				
NALC Benevolence	8,400	9,300	-900	-9.68%
Other Benevolence	6,000	6,700	-700	-10.45%
TOTAL	14,400	16,000	-1,600	-10.00%
Loan Repayment				
Loan - Repay endowment fund	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
TOTAL	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
GRAND TOTAL	177,845	181,817	-3,972	-2.18%

These figures are here for information only in the event that the congregation would hire an organist, choir director or cantor in the future.

* Total Benevolence Commitment: The congregation's tithes that is designated as this congregation's benevolence support will consist of 10% of offerings received in regular giving envelopes and other benevolences as specifically determined by Congregation Council.

Notes for 2018 Ministry Plan

1. Pastor's Letter of Call has been modified to reduce his recommend salary "amount" by 5% The word "amount" refers to the minimum salary guidelines that are used to calculate Pastor's salary. Pastor Kendall made this recommendation to modify the Letter of Call.

PLEASE NOTE: The removal of the 5% amount **REDUCES** Pastor's salary from \$75,878 to \$69,371.

2. Car allowance has been reduced to reflect the lower cost for gas and the reduction in the IRS allowable mileage rate.
3. In light of the deficit, this figure reflects one a Capella Sunday per month.
4. **Benevolence Breakdown for 2018:** The committee recommends the following benevolence amounts for 2017 as follows:
 1. NALC - \$8400 per year or \$700 each month (6.0%)
 2. Atlantic Mission District - \$700 per year or \$60 per month (.5%)
 3. NALC Partner Ministries (\$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)):
 - a. Ethiopian Church Relief Fund
 - b. The Great Commission Society
 - c. Water Missions International
 - d. Lutheran Bible Translators
 4. North American Lutheran Seminary– \$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)
 5. Independent Church in India – \$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)
 6. Caring Cupboard - \$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)
 7. Lutheran World Relief - \$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)
 8. Lebanon Free Clinic - \$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)
 9. NALC Disaster Response - \$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)
 10. Lebanon Rescue/Agape - \$600 - divided \$150.00 per quarter (.4%)
 11. City of Lebanon (in lieu of taxes) - \$500 per year in November (.3%)

TOTAL Estimated Benevolence Giving: \$14,400 (represents 10% of 2018 estimated giving)

5. *****Please Note:** In December of each year, the finance committee will review offerings given for the year to determine if there are additional offerings to send to each organization based upon our 10.00% tithe. The additional offerings will be divided according to the percentages listed above and sent to each organization.