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A Word from Our Treasurer

Grace and Peace to you.

I have been asked to write the October cover letter this month. I wasn't sure what to write about but came up with some topics related to Messiah's finances.

As we enter the last quarter of the year, there are many things going on related to finances. The Finance committee and Congregation Council's focus is to create the 2024 Ministry Plan, which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on November 18, 2023. We will also determine where our benevolence dollars go next year.

It has been a while since information has been presented about the John Zeller Trust. John Zeller was a long-time member of Messiah and set up a Trust with his long-time friend as beneficiary. Upon her death, the congregation of Messiah became the beneficiary in April 2006. Messiah does not own the Trust but receives annual proceeds from the income earned by the Trust.

When Pastor Kendall found out that we would be receiving proceeds from the Trust, he felt it was important for the congregation to form a strategic planning committee to

come up with some policies and procedures for handling these funds that would be received. He knew of many congregations that struggled when receiving these types of funds and did not want that to happen with Messiah. The Strategic Planning committee was formed in 2005 and functioned actively until 2017 when it was determined that all of the committee's goals had been met.

The main policies that were presented by the Strategic Planning Committee and approved by the Congregation Council and congregation were that the Zeller Trust Fund proceeds would not be used to supplement the regular ministry plan of the congregation and that at least 10% of the proceeds would be given for benevolent purposes.

Some of the things we have used the Zeller Trust proceeds for are capital improvements like the two pitched roofs over the Christian Education wing and office connector building, installing lights in the parking lot and around the church, upgrading the sidewalks, removing the pavilion, improving the shed, upgrading the security system and purchasing the electronic sign.

Benevolent donations include purchasing land for ICII's New Life Leprosy Colony and subsequent annual sponsorship of the colony, along with providing for NALC Disaster response, NALS seminary support, seminarian scholarships and seminarian debt relief. We have also sponsored missionaries and supported Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries. We have provided missionary sponsorship and helped with shipping for Haiti. We have provided Wheels for Ben Risser and helped members of the congregation with funds to cover some emergency expenses. The proceeds also help us to cover expenses for non-profit groups like AA that use the church facilities. The Zeller Trust proceeds have helped many people and organizations locally, nationally, and globally.

We receive the proceeds from the Zeller Trust quarterly in March, June, September, and December. The amount changes annually and is based upon the balance in the trust and the tax return filed by The Wilmington Trust, which is the company that manages the trust. We will receive \$39,350.00 this year.

Since 2006, the congregation has received more

than \$650,000. We have been truly blessed by Mr. Zeller, who with his legacy has made it possible for this congregation to take care of the building and benefit many people and organizations, too. Messiah has been blessed by his legacy.

The Finance Committee and the Congregation Council would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of God's ministry at Messiah. Your generosity enables us to continue to spread the Gospel. God continues to bless us through Mr. Zeller's gift.

If you have any questions about the Zeller Trust or any of Messiah's finances, please feel free to ask me and I will do my best to provide you with any information you need.

Blessings,
Kathy Lilley



Rescue Mission Food Drive

The Lebanon County Rescue Mission is once again sponsoring a food drive to help fill their larders and provide emergency support to other local agencies. Drive runs through December 11.

Needed items are :

- Pasta
- Rice
- Soup
- Juice
- Canned fruits & canned veggies
- Dry beans
- Spaghetti sauce & canned tomato products
- Stuffing
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Oatmeal packets
- Crackers
- Condiments
- Salad dressing
- Sugar
- Powdered creamer
- Coffee
- Hot chocolate

Food Drive



Please bring your non-perishable food items to the DONATIONS door at 1223 Bittner Blvd.

Stuff the Truck

With current disaster response supplies depleted, your tangible donations of quilts, flood buckets, health kits, school kits, diapers, Bibles (in English or Spanish), rakes, shovels, mops, brooms, dustpans, feminine hygiene products, and gift cards from Home Depot, Lowe's, and Walmart are urgently needed. Help us Stuff the Truck!

Please bring your donations to Messiah **by Sunday, October 8**. You may put them in the narthex. They will be taken to the Atlantic Mission Region Convocation in York and placed on a truck that will bring them to one of the disaster warehouses in our Mission Region.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!



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

New Address!

Dawn Stickler has a new address! It is:

Cornwall Manor
Corson Hall, room 110
PO Box 125
Cornwall, PA 17016



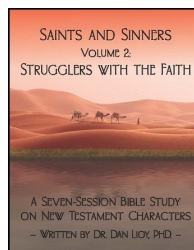
Her phone number has stayed the same.

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

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

New LiF Study Coming!



On Sunday, October 8 a new study will begin during the Living in Faith Education Hour at 9 AM.

Saints and Sinners, Vol. 2: Strugglers of the Faith will be the focus of discussion for the coming weeks. Books have been purchased (the correct ones, that is) and are available to be picked up. If you need a workbook please see Nick Adams or Brenda Beegle.

Carey Kendall will be teaching this study.

All are welcome!

September Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

- Treasurer's report was approved pending audit.
- Committee reports were given.
- The commissioning of the Lay Ministers of Communion will be held during worship on Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2023.
- Lay Ministers of Communion are Nick Adams, Barb Adams, Teenie Batdorf, Carey Kendall, Kathy Lilley, Deb Lutz, David Machamer, Rita Savant, and Charlotte Varone.
- David Machamer was appointed as our representative for the October Atlantic Mission Region Convocation.
- Approval was given to Robin to work from home while Bennett recuperates.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Zivic
Congregation Council Secretary

Annual Congregation Meeting



Reminder: The **annual congregation meeting** will be held on **Saturday, November 18 at 2 PM**. The day will begin with a pot luck luncheon which will be held at 12 noon (see below).

At this meeting we will be electing new Congregation

Council members for 2024, going over the proposed Ministry Plan for 2024, 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.



Congregation Meeting Luncheon



On **Saturday, November 18** the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a **Pot Luck Luncheon at 12 noon** before the annual Congregation Meeting.

A sign up sheet will be posted

later this month on which you may sign up to bring whatever you decide to bring. Whatever is brought is what we will eat! That can be a lot of fun.

So come on out and enjoy some good food and fellowship with your church family before we turn to business.



Christmas Cookies Needed!



The Fellowship Committee is seeking bakers from the congregation to make Christmas cookies for our fellow members. These cookies will be distributed during the Advent season.

We are asking for volunteers to bake ONE kind of cookie at home. Please bring your cookies to the church by 10:45 AM on Saturday, November 18 so they may be packed in containers at 11 AM. We ask that your cookies be already bagged (5-6 small cookies per bag or 3-4 large cookies per bag). By baking one kind of cookie we can make sure we get a nice variety for the older members of our church family to enjoy.

If you would like to help bake and/or pack the cookie containers please sign up on the sheet that will be posted on the Information Board at the end of October. Please indicate the type of cookie you plan to bake.

Thanks in advance for your help! If you have any questions please contact Karen Hatt.



October 2023 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 1 Sandra Smith
- 8 Charlotte Varone
- 15 Kathaleen Lilley
- 22 Nicholas Adams
- 29 Deborah Lutz



Altar Guild

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



Lector

- 1 Nancie Whelan
- 8 Charlotte Varone
- 15 Kathaleen Lilley
- 22 Nicholas Adams
- 29 Deborah Lutz



Crucifer

- 1 Gayle Hoffman
- 8 Sandra Smith
- 15 Andrew Surmacz
- 22 Eugene Martin
- 29 Kathaleen Lilley



Greeters

- 1 Karen Zivic
- 8 Charlotte Varone
- 15 Kathy Sanders
- 22 **NEEDED**
- 29 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 1 Karen Hatt
- 8 Karen Zivic
- 15 Harry Hatt
- 22 Karen Hatt
- 29 Deborah Lutz



Counting Teams

- 1 Team 1
- 8 Team 3
- 15 Team 3
- 22 Team 4
- 29 Team 1



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(TIME CHANGE! Welcome Time will be held the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 AM.)

October 1— Brenda Beegle



Head Usher:
Nancie Whelan



Thank You Notes



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

Dear Messiah Church Family,
Thank you for the prayers you said for my mother for the past two years. She and I had two years together and I'm grateful to God for that.

God bless all of you,
Anita L. Keisch

Many thanks to the ladies for bringing me altar flowers and visiting. Also thanks for all the cards and prayers on my behalf. I had my hip replacement done on July 31 and I am coming along slowly with therapy. Hope to see you soon!

Dorothy Martin



Greetings and prayers to all of you who sent me wishes of encouragement for my continuing ministry at All Saints Lutheran Church in Arlington, TX.

In His Service,
Pastor Abera Hellemo



Counting Teams



You might have noticed in the recent bulletins that we are now using Counting Teams instead of Finance Stewards to tally and deposit our weekly offerings. Why this change?

Our long serving Finance Secretaries Teenie Batdorf and Rita Savant are turning off their counting machines after serv-

ing for decades in this very important role. They were involved every Sunday in tallying the offering and getting the deposit to the bank. They deserve tremendous thanks for fulfilling this job so responsibly and faithfully.

Congregation Council decided it was time for a change. So, the idea of Counting Teams came about. These Counting Teams are volunteers from within the congregation who will work together on a rotating basis to tally the offering

and take it to the bank. They have all been trained and are now doing the job that Teenie and Rita did for so long. One big advantage of the Counting Teams is to have coverage every week without the responsibility being so onerous on any one (or two) people. Thank you to our new teams!

Counting Team 1:

Brenda Beegle
Michael Ernst
Charlotte Varone

Counting Team 2:

Nick Adams
Barb Adams
Carey Kendall
Gene Martin

Counting Team 3:

Harry Hatt
Karen Hatt
Dave Machamer

Counting Team 4:

Gayle Hoffman
Deb Lutz
Karen Zivic

October Birthdays

- 3 Richard Miller
- 4 Thomas Gassert
- 6 Mikey Adams
- 7 Andrew Trovinger
- 12 Michael Anspach
- 14 Keeley Hartman
- 18 Pam Knouff
- 25 Andrew Surmacz
- 27 Richard Gehret
- 29 Larry Watkins
- 30 Rick Knouff



October Anniversaries

- 8 Pastor James & Ruth DeLong
- 10 Shawn & Kelly Roof
- 12 Kevin & Sandra Smith
- 19 John & Susan Lentz
- 23 Daniel & Susan Galbraith
- 26 Andrew & Jill Hartman



2023 Congregational Council

Brenda Beegle, *President, Christian Ed. co-chair*

Nick Adams, *Vice President, Christian Ed co-chair, and Personnel chair*

Karen Zivic, *Secretary*

Ernestine Batdorf, *Finance Secretary*

Michael Ernst

Deborah Lutz, *Publicity and Volunteer Resources chair*

David Machamer, *Evangelism and Property chair*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

Karen Fox, *Worship & Music chair*

Karen Hatt, *Fellowship Chair*

Kathaleen Lilley, *Assistant Treasurer and Finance Chair*

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

Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer*

Altar Guild Meeting



You are invited to attend the annual Altar Guild meeting on **Saturday, November 4 at 9 AM** in the Conference Room. All members of the Altar Guild should attend, and any members of the congregation who

would like to join or know more about the Altar Guild are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Deb Lutz at 717-273-1155.

Ministry Plan Report for August

(Budgeted need per week: \$2,820.44)

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering Received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
	8/6	\$3,038.00	16 LiF / 36 +
	8/13	\$1,404.00	11 LiF / 28 +
	8/20	\$2,205.00	14 LiF / 42 +
ICII	8/27	\$1,311.00	18 LiF / 38 +

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