

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Council Meeting Highlights | 2 |
| Congregation meeting | 3 |
| Tree of Giving | 4 |
| Our Saints | 5 |
| Ministry Plan Report | 5 |
| November Schedules | 6 |
| Thank you Note from Robin | 7 |
| Ministry Plan for September | 7 |
| AMR Convocation Recap | 9 |

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST**

- Upcoming Events (Page 2)
- Supply Schedule (Page 2)
- Birthdays & Anniversaries (Page 4)
- Congregation Council members (Page 5)
- 2024 Offering Envelopes (Page 5)
- Altar Guild Mtg. (Page 8)
- Food Drive (Page 8)
- Wintry Weather (Page 8)

Lutherans for Life

“Lutherans For Life? They’re that anti-abortion group, right?” Welllllll.....

For over 45 years Lutherans For Life has been equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. We certainly mourn the loss of the millions of babies murdered in abortion over those 45 years. We pray for repentance and forgiveness for those people who were involved in each of those millions of abortion decisions. We pray that God would change the hearts of all people so that abortion would become unthinkable throughout the world. But “Life” is FAR more than abortion. God cre-

ated the child who has moved from foster home to foster home for many years in search of a forever home. God has a purpose for the person who has been minimally responsive on life support for months. Jesus died for the drug-addicted twenty year old woman whose body has been used up and tossed aside by her trafficker. The Holy Spirit works through the person with cerebral palsy who is unable to speak or walk to bless the people around her with a smile and a touch.

God doesn’t create spare parts. He has a purpose for EVERY person from fertilization to forever. We love our neighbor

regardless of age, stage, ability, or life experience – because God also loves that person. God identifies everyone as His child and we recognize them, therefore, as a brother or sister.

Lutherans For Life? I pray that includes everyone reading this. Now let’s show the world what it means to be Lutherans – For Life! If you want to learn more about any of these Life issues or how to be “For Life,” visit www.lutheransforlife.org

Written by
the Rev. Scott Licht
Executive Director of
Lutherans for Life.



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Membership Changes

Please remove **Steven, Rachel, Christian, Jacob and Nolan Anspach** from your membership directory. They have transferred their membership.

Supply List for November

November 5 —The Rev. Paul Hansen

November 12—Kathaleen Lilley

November 19—Karen Fox

November 26—The Rev. Michael & the Rev. Karen Tamorria

Change Your Clocks!



Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 5** at 2 AM. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night. See you in church.

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

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



Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, October 10, 2023.

- The 2024 Ministry Plan was approved and will be available for the congregation to view two weeks before the November 12 informational meeting which will be held at 9:45 AM.
- Financial reports were approved pending audit.
- Committee reports were received.
- The Advent envelopes will be designated to Independent Church in India for the area of greatest need.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zivic
Congregation Council secretary

Upcoming Events

There will be **NO** Thanksgiving Eve liturgy at Messiah this year.

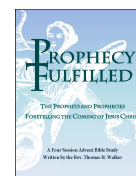


The church office will be

CLOSED

on
November 23 & 24

due to the Thanksgiving holiday.



Advent Living in Faith study!

Prophecy Fulfilled

Led by Karen Fox

Running November 26—
December 24

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!



Advent season.

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

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.

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.



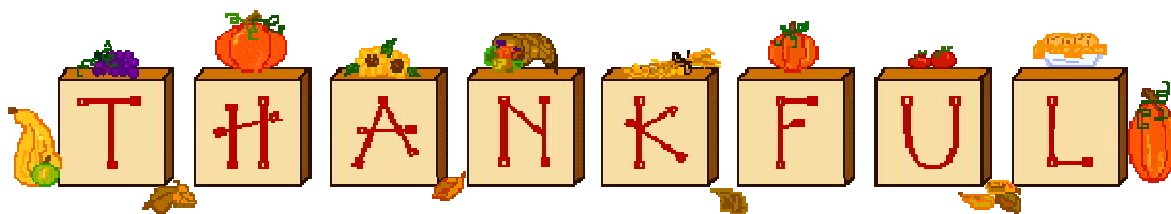
November Birthdays

- 2 Lee Stickler
- 4 Richard Wert
- 7 Hailey Hartman
- 8 Georgeanna Hanover
- 9 Lorraine Long
- 12 Erick McGuire
- 15 Karley Roof
- 17 Dennis Brossman
- 20 Karen Hatt
- 25 Debra Stickler
- 26 Sandra Smith



November Anniversaries

- 18 Larry & Evelyn Shaak
- 20 Raymond & Carol Anspach
- Harry & Karen Hatt
- 25 Dennis & Wendy Brossman



Tree of Giving



Look for the Tree of Giving in the narthex all of November. As in years past we are collecting gifts for the Agape House.

Cynthia Smith of the Agape House has requested the following items for the children currently living there:

There are ten (10) children and six (6) mothers currently residing in the Agape House. Cynthia has requested we purchase Pillow Pets for the children (which can be purchased from Walmart, Amazon, or Target).

Please take an ornament from the tree, purchase your gift(s) and return them to the church unwrapped.

The Social Ministry Committee has applied for a grant from Thrivent to purchase gift cards from Jubilee for the mothers to purchase nec-

essary needs for themselves such as clothing and also for their children.

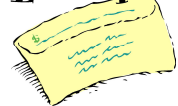
The committee looks forward to the congregation's generous response to the annual Tree of Giving and offers an advanced "thank you" to those who participate this year to help their neighbors.



(Pillow Pets are fun pillows for kids that comes in many styles, from unicorns to bees to penguins.. The strap underneath helps the animal stand up, but when the strap is released it becomes a flat pillow.)

2024 Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes



The 2024 offering envelopes have arrived and will be available to pick up at our annual congregation meeting on November 18. Please take yours home with you at your earliest convenience. If you live close to a shut-in or someone who has not returned to in-house worship, please consider helping us out by delivering their envelopes too. Please note that the envelopes will be arranged in **ALPHABETICAL** order. Thank you.

2023 Contributions

REMINDER:

ALL year-end contributions **must be received by the last Sunday of the month (December 31)** to count for 2023. All contributions received after that date will be recorded for 2024.



A Note of Encouragement

Praying for God's blessings over you and your ministry! From Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Joppa, MD

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

E-mail

Brenda Beegle: diamonds3158@gmail.com
Robin Harris (office): messiahluthleb@epix.net

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

2023 Congregation 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*

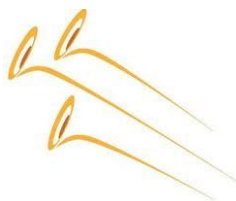
Nancie Whelan, *Treasurer*



Our Saints

On Sunday, November 5 we remember our members who joined the Church Triumphant since the last All Saints' Sunday:

Caroline Harnisch
Betty Wetzel



If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with Him.



November 2023 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 5 Sandra Smith
- 12 Nancie Whelan
- 19 Karen Fox
- 26 Charlotte Varone



Lector

- 5 Mary Garrett
- 12 Nancie Whelan
- 19 Karen Fox
- 26 Charlotte Varone



Greeters

- 5 **NEEDED**
- 12 **NEEDED**
- 19 **NEEDED**
- 26 **NEEDED**



Counting Teams

- 5 Team 2
- 12 Team 3
- 19 Team 4
- 26 Team 1



Head Usher
Eugene Martin



Altar Guild

- Rita Savant, chair
- Suzette Buffamoyer
- Gayle Hoffman



Crucifer

- 5 Mary Whelan
- 12 Gayle Hoffman
- 19 Sandra Smith
- 26 Gayle Hoffman



Acolyte

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



WELCOME TIME Sponsors



(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month at 9:30 AM in lieu of the Living in Faith Education Hour.)

November 5—Susan Lentz & Deborah Lutz



A Sincere Thank You from Robin

When I started working at Messiah as the Office Manager 13 (!!) years ago, I had no idea the impact this job would have on me and my family. Yes, I knew this was a congregation of the Church and as such I would be treated as a member of the Body of Christ. But I had no idea that I would be surrounded and enveloped in the love of Christ as I have been by YOU in these past months.

I have been absent from the office more often than in the office these past couple of months between taking care of Bennett when he was at home after his first long stay in the hospital and now having to quarantine with Covid on top of it. But your love for me and mine has not wavered.

We received gifts of food, phone calls, cards, Door Dash gift cards, yard work, and house work from the members here at Messiah. It is mind boggling! The support I feel from this congregation is palpable and powerful. I cannot thank you enough for the love and grace you have shown me.

Thank you for the altar flowers I received last month. They were beautiful. Someone left me a gift of *A Box of Blessings* on my desk—*Promises of God for Women* and *Prayers for a Woman's Heart*. Thank you. They have been

so helpful as I walk this difficult and challenging road.

The Congregation Council has been so very supportive of my situation of late. What a blessing that is. The grace and patience they have with me is unsurpassed. Thank you.

I want to especially thank Karen Fox for pinch hitting for me and getting all the physical work done (running the bulletins, setting up the chancel for Sundays, etc.). We spent many hours on the phone over many days trying to find files, email files, open files, copy files, etc. Sometimes it was quite the challenge! Please thank her for me. Without her help you would not have had a bulletin a couple times.

I also want to thank Kathy Lilley for her support and expertise as she is helping me wade through Long Term Disability paperwork. There is no way I could do this on my own, and I so appreciate the fact that she gathered me in and is helping to take care of this very important piece of legality for Bennett and myself.

I do not like doing Messiah work from home. I'd rather be in the office! But I thank you—and thank God—for the ability to be able to work from home as I continue to serve you from afar. May God bless you all. — Robin Harris

Ministry Plan Report for September

(Ministry Plan need per week: \$2,820.44)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Offering Received</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 9/3 | \$3,037.00 | 13 LiF / 29 + |
| 9/10 | \$3,248.00 | 10 LiF / 32 + |
| 9/17 | \$2,263.00 | 12 LiF / 40+ |
| 9/24 | \$2,062.00 | 12 LiF / 27+ |

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



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

Wintry Weather...



In the event of wintry weather or power outages on Sunday mornings, please **check your email or wait for a phone call** to relay the message that church is cancelled. 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.



Newsletter Deadline

The **deadline** for the December issue of the *Messiah Messenger* is **Wednesday, November 15**. Please make sure you have all your information turned in to the office (and on the work room calendar) by this date. Thank you!



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. We have some openings to fill, so any help will be most welcome. If you have any questions please contact Deb Lutz at 717-273-1155. Thank you!



Thank You Notes

Thank you notes were received from the City of Lebanon, Water Mission, and the Lebanon Rescue Mission. They are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.



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



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

Thank you!

Convocation Recap

Seventy-eight disciples of the Atlantic Mission Region gathered over two days at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, York, PA on October 13 & 14, 2023 for the annual regional Convocation. The theme for this year was "Life-to-Life Discipleship in Action." Seventy-six gathered in person and six attended virtually.

Presentations were made by the General Secretary of the NALC, the **Rev. Dr. Amy Little**, who lead a plenary session about the NALC's Life to Life Disciples process and how we can instruct the young and old in becoming disciples of the faith using the Small and Large Catechisms of Luther. **The Rev. Ray Scheck** led the assembly in demonstrating how to lead a discipleship Bible study.

The 2024 Ministry Spending Plan was approved. The assembly approved the \$63,950 Ministry Plan as presented.

Lutheran Lay Renewal was the spotlight Ministry Partner this year. Bill Oehlschlager, Executive Director of LLR and Pastor Raymond Kaija, Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCoU) spoke to the assembly about LLR and the work they do with the LCoU. The group has helped raise funds to enable churches to buy land, fund health clinics, and support missionary and ministry training programs. There are indeed good works and discipleship happening with LLR and LCoU.

Financial gifts were given to the Lutheran Lay Renewal (\$1400) and Disaster Response (\$1400). The NALC also received \$500 from the AMR as an honorarium for the work done at this Convocation by our General Secretary the Rev. Dr. Amy Little.

We heard a presentation entitled **Our Journey through Life to Life Discipleship – What Worked... and What Didn't**, which was led by members of Emanuel Lutheran, Elmer, NJ; Holy Cross, Nazareth, PA; St Matthew, Middle River, MD; and Reformation, Lancaster, PA. The members shared their journey using Life to Life Discipleship and how it has helped members to be strong disciples of Jesus Christ.

Stuff the Truck for NALC Disaster Response! The truck was filled with health kits, school kits, flood buckets, blankets, Bibles, rakes, shovels, and gift cards. THANK YOU! All donations were taken to the warehouse in Elmer, NJ. Thanks to Wayne Knerr for towing the trailer and all who helped to load the donations.

Worship: We opened the Convocation with a traditional Eucharist with the Rev Paul & Rev Sally Gausmann presiding and our assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Bill White, preaching. The Rev. Brett Jenkins led us in Compline on Friday evening. We opened Saturday with a contemporary Eucharist with the Rev Paul & Rev Sally Gausmann presiding and the Rev. Dr. Amy Little preaching.

Mission District Meetings: The assembly broke into Mission Districts on Friday night and enjoyed fellowship with each other.

Fellowship! There were plenty of opportunities for fellowship at this year's Convocation. There was scheduled free time for networking and to visit the Ministry Partner and vendor displays. We also enjoyed a cupcake social on Friday evening where we celebrated the Rev. Steve Shipman, our AMR Regional Dean's 50th anniversary of ordination.

Informal Bible Study: Mr. Bill Oehlschlager from Lutheran Lay Renewal led an informal Bible study on Friday morning for anyone interested in attending before the Convocation began.

Women's Conference: The Women of Atlantic Mission Region held their fifth Women's Conference on Friday morning in which they worked together to assemble 234 health kits for NALC Disaster Response. They also had sharing time, worship, and a Bible study led by the Rev. Dr. Amy Little.

The 2024 AMR Convocation will be held on **October 18-19 at St Luke's Lutheran Church in Bloomsburg, PA.** A **Women's Conference** is also being planned for October 18 prior to the Convocation. Mark your calendars!