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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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From the Congregation Council President

God dispenses life the way he manages his cosmos: through seasons. "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (*Ecclesiastes 3:1 NKJV*).

When it comes to the earth, we understand God's management strategy. Nature needs winter to rest and spring to awaken. Earthly seasons don't upset us, but unexpected personal ones certainly do. Heaven's message for you is clear: when everything else changes, God's presence never does.

Change is not just a part of life; change is a necessary part of God's strategy. To use us to change the world, he sometimes redirects our assignments. Mary, from peasant girl to the mother of Christ. Paul, from local rabbi

to world evangelist. God may call you to a new season, but he wants you to know: **you'll never face the future without his help.**

Excerpt from Max Lucado's book "Calm Moments for Anxious Days:"

Assignments have changed. On behalf of the congregation, I would like to thank Nick Adams, Teenie Batdorf, and Karen Zivic for their service on the Congregation Council. Well done ... your time and faithfulness are greatly appreciated. Thank you to Carol Anspach, Karen Hatt, and Kathy Lilley for faithfully deciding to join the Congregation Council coming into the new year. We look forward to your service on the Congregation Council.

We are heading into a new year and a new season with change. Assignments are being redirected and God is and has been using us to change our life here at Messiah and in the world at large. What is he calling you to do to help with these changes? What passions and talents do you have that would serve well here at Messiah and beyond? We are always looking for people to serve in various ways in the life here at Messiah. Ask Congregation Council members how you can serve.

I look forward to doing God's work with the family here at Messiah.

Yours in Christ,
Brenda Beegle
2023 Congregation Council
President



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

Sunday Worship Schedule

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



January Birthdays

- 6 Mary Ann Hartman
Dorothy Martin
- 10 Jean Patschke
- 12 Dawn Stickler
- 18 Suzette Buffamoyer
- 22 Thomas Lilley
- 24 Leah Connatser
Gayle Hoffman
- 25 Ernestine Batdorf
- 26 Michaela (Blouch) Swoyer



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 during the week, the office will open as soon as conditions allow us to travel safely.



Ministry Plan Report for November 2023

Budgeted need per week for 2023: \$2,820.44

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
11/5	\$2,865.00	no LiF / 36 +
11/12	\$2,297.00	10 LiF / 30 +
11/19	\$2,721.50	12 LiF / 36 +
11/26	\$1,716.00	11 LiF / 35 +

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



2024 Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday February 11th** 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal.

Please join congregations around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through

the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others.

During all the **Sundays in January through February 11th**, we will be **collecting food items and monetary donations for the Lebanon Rescue Mission** as part of Messiah's Souper Bowl of Caring. Please support our efforts to tackle hunger.

Then on Super Bowl Sunday

(February 11) we will travel to the Rescue Mission to deliver our donated items and throw a **pizza party** for the men and maybe even stay to watch the football game. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 7
10:30 AM**



Installation
of
Congregation
Council
Members

**Super Bowl Pizza Party
at the Rescue Mission**

**Sunday, February 11
at 5:30 PM**



Come join us!

Ash Wednesday



February 14

12 PM ONLY

A Liturgy of
Holy Communion and the
Imposition of Ashes

Women's Weekend Retreat



The Women of the Atlantic Mission Region are having their third Women's Retreat on **Friday, April 19—Sunday, April 21** at **Black Rock Retreat in Quarryville, PA**—and YOU are invited to join us!

The theme is *Bloom Where You're Planted*. We will be concentrating on this garden theme throughout our weekend together which will include Bible study, quiet time, worship, games, a trip to a local ice cream parlor, and FUN! Five meals and linens are included. Each room has a private bath.

Cost of the weekend is \$400 for a single room, \$250/person for a double, and \$200/person for a triple. To register click here:

<https://atlanticmissionregionalc.regfox.com/2024-amr-womens-retreat>

January 2024 Schedules

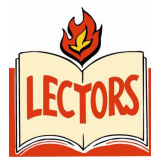
Assisting Minister

- 7 Sandra Smith
- 14 Eugene Martin
- 21 Karen Fox
- 28 Nicholas Adams



Lector

- 7 Nancie Whelan
- 14 Eugene Martin
- 21 Karen Fox
- 28 Nicholas Adams



Greeter

- 7 Karen Zivic
- 14 Karen Zivic
- 21 David Machamer
- 28 David Machamer



Counting Teams

- 7 Team 4
- 14 Team 1
- 21 Team 2
- 28 Team 3



Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- Gayle Hoffman
- Lori Wert



Crucifer

- 7 Andrew Surmacz
- 14 Sandra Smith
- 21 Kathaleen Lilley
- 28 Eugene Martin



Acolyte

- 7 Karen Hatt
- 14 Harry Hatt
- 21 Karen Zivic
- 28 Deborah Lutz



Head Usher

Nancie Whelan

WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time is held at **9:30 AM** on the first Sunday of the month.)



January 7 — Carol Anspach



Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

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

- Financial reports were read/approved pending audit.
- Committee reports were given and approved.
- Congregation Council installation will be held on January 7.
- The gifts for the Agape House were delivered on December 6.



Respectfully submitted,
Karen Zivic
2023 Congregation Council Secretary



Agape Family Shelter Christmas Party

On Wednesday, December 6 Carey Kendall, Rita Savant, and Lee Savant delivered the Christmas gifts to the Agape House.

The following is a listing of all gifts received:

- 13 Pillow Pets
- 6 gift cards to Jubilee for the mothers
- 13 bus passes
- 6 personal gift bags for the mothers



- 1 bag of assorted items for the mothers (13 body washes and 2 lotions)
- \$100 monetary gift to the Agape House
- 2 boxes of Christmas cookies



Again, many thanks to Harry & Karen Hatt for obtaining a grant from Thrivent Financial to purchase gift cards to the Jubilee store and to all the members who made the Agape House Christmas a wonderful success!

Recycle Christmas Cards



Please recycle your Christmas cards by placing them in the box on the oak table in the narthex. They will be used to make Christmas books to be distributed to shut-ins next year. Thank you!

Help Wanted!



Please sign up today to be a **Greeter!** There are many open dates.

The **Welcome Time** sponsor sheet for 2024 is posted on the Information Center in the narthex.

Ash Wednesday

The vital penitential season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. On Ash Wednesday, we will have one mid-day liturgy with proclamation, holy Communion, and the imposition of ashes beginning at 12 noon.

This liturgy marks the beginning of our 40-day journey of Lent. All are welcome to attend as we reflect on our sinful nature and all that Jesus Christ has done for us.

O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

(LBW 99)



Lenten Study Series

Messiah's Lenten discipline will be observed on Sunday mornings as well as **Wednesday** evenings from 7—8 PM with a Bible study entitled **Your Will, Not Mine**. Nick Adams will be leading this study. The workbooks will be available at our first session.

We will begin our Wednesday evenings with the **"Bread and Soup Supper" meal at 6 PM followed by study and discussion from 7—8 PM**. If the soup schedule does not suit then you are welcome to attend only the study portion of the evening.

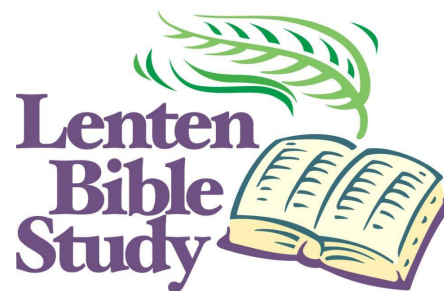
of the Season of Lent and its glorious fulfillment in the celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord.

Bring your Bible!



February 21
February 28
March 6
March 13
March 20

In accord with our mission **"to bring Christ to people and people to Christ,"** you are invited and encouraged to bring friends with you to experience the renewing power



Lenten Bread and Soup Meals

Every **Wednesday** evening in Lent the Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring a soup and bread supper beginning at 6 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. This year the meal and study to follow will be **held in the conference room**.



We need **volunteers** to either make soup or to give a donation to Karen Hatt so soup may be purchased. We would like to have **two varieties of soup per Wednesday**, so we would prefer two volunteers per week. The committee

will supply the bread, drinks, and paper products.

Sign up sheets will be posted in the narthex for each week so we may get a head count. This sheet will also list the soups that will be provided for that week. However if you are unable to sign up you are more than welcome to join us. There will be plenty.

Please consider joining us for nourishment and fellowship prior to our Lenten study series. It's food for the body and soul!



Thank You Notes



Thank you notes from the organizations we support are posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

Thank you Thank you to Deb Lutz for the altar flowers and the wonderful visit! It made me feel really great.
Your sister in Christ,
Maryann Hartman



To my Church Family,
I want to thank you for the cookies. Since I don't bake anymore I now have cookies for Christmas.

Thanks again!
Janet Miller



We would like to thank Carey Kendall and Dave Machamer for their wonderful visit. We appreciate you giving us Communion. We appreciate your dedicated service to our Lord.

Thank you for the delicious cookies. They were enjoyed very much.

In Christian love,
Laura and Gordon Ebright



Thank you sincerely for your kind expression of sympathy and thoughtfulness concerning my mother-in-law. It is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered.

Brenda Beegle



Dear fellow servants of Christ,

I would like to say thank you for the Christmas gift I received. It was an unexpected surprise. I am grateful to be part of this congregation and have the opportunity to serve the One who has redeemed us and given us all that we have. I wish for everyone a Blessed Christmas season and a healthy New Year.

In Christ's love,
Kathy Lilley

Dear Messiah Family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. The love and support you have shown me over the years has been so appreciated—and still is!

May the Lord bless you all in this new year!

With utmost gratitude,
Robin Harris



2024 Congregation Council

Carol Anspach
Brenda Beegle
Michael Ernst
Karen Hatt
Kathy Lilley
Deborah Lutz
David Machamer

OUR SINCERE THANKS are due to outgoing Council members **Nick Adams, Teenie Batdorf, and Karen Zivic** for their faithful leadership and important contributions throughout their terms of service. Those remaining on Council will miss serving with them.

We also thank **Brenda Beegle and Dave Machamer** for returning for a new two-year term.

Please keep these, and all our Congregation Council members, in your prayers as they seek to serve our Lord and His people in leadership at Messiah. They welcome your prayers, your input into the life of our congregation, and your expressions of encouragement and appreciation for their efforts. +

2023 Year End Statements

Your 2023 year end statement will be available to pick up in the beginning of January. They will be located in a box on the narthex table by the choir room.

