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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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The Importance of Lent

The season of Lent begins on February 14th as we hold Ash Wednesday Service at 12:00 Noon. It is a 40-day journey beginning after Epiphany and leading to Easter.

The color of the season is purple. It represents solemnity, penitence, and prayer. As you worship this Lent, please observe the changes that take place within the worship service. You will see the crucifer cross shrouded in black on Ash Wednesday and purple on the Sundays in Lent. You will see purple paraments with the symbols of Lent. We will sing a different Gospel acclamation. We will have Wednesday Lenten Bible studies to enrich our understanding of God's Word.

Lent is a time of meditation and renewal in the hope that we will deepen our relationship with our Lord in

preparation for Easter and through service in His name for the remainder of the Church year.

How we serve our Lord is important, not just so we can be seen as disciples of Christ, but to realize that we are all walking advertisements of our church and the Christ whom it proclaims. Each one of us takes the church out of its four walls and makes it live in the everyday affairs of life. In fact, what people think of our church is reflected in what they think of us. Our church is measured by what each one of us does and says. We are the vessels by which the Good News of the Gospel is communicated to people of the world.

Our church professes a concern for God's people, which is expressed in the way we act toward others within our community and the

world. We proclaim a Gospel that makes people new and opens them to a fuller life. We are the demonstration of that proclamation.

Our daily acts as Christians preach more sermons, teach more people, and save more lives than the words that are spoken inside the four walls of our church building. It is like the old Sunday School adage, "If you are the only Bible someone is going to experience today, what will that person learn about God, about the church, about Jesus Christ?"

Each one of us is a cell of the living church. Without the people of God, the church has no life. As we journey through Lent, let us be the Living Gospel and share Christ with others.

- Kathaleen Lilley

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Open Flower Dates

There are four (4) open flower dates this year:



Altar Flowers

April 14
August 25
December 15
December 22

If you are interested in sponsoring the flowers (or making a donation to the General Fund in honor/memory of someone) please contact Deb Lutz at ilutz3209@comcast.net or 717-273-1155. Thank you!



February Birthdays

- 2 Michael Bowman
- 7 Mary Garrett
- 8 Alivia Knouff
- 10 Kacie Mullen
- Scott Runkel
- 13 Ramona Roush
- 15 Erin Trovinger
- 16 Daniel Trovinger
- 21 Karen Fox
- 23 Nancy Cramp
- 24 Marion Bowman
- 25 Kelly Roof



2023 Statements

The 2023 year-end statements are finished and are available for you to pick up on the long table outside the choir room in the narthex. If you have any questions or problems do not hesitate to call Robin in the office.



2024 Souper Bowl of Caring

On **Sunday February 11th** millions of 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 lov-

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

During 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 *finally* get to stay to watch the football game. We ask if you have any kind of under-the-weather thing going on that you do not stay for the game.



We hope to see you there! And thank you!

February 2024 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 4 Kathaleen Lilley
- 11 Deborah Lutz
- 14 (12 PM) Charlotte Varone
- 18 Nancie Whelan
- 25 Eugene Martin



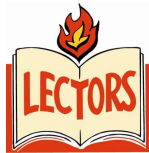
Altar Guild

- Ernestine Batdorf, chair
- Holly McGuire
- Louise Scaramuzzino
- Nancie Whelan



Lector

- 4 Mary Garrett
- 11 Deborah Lutz
- 14 (12 PM) Charlotte Varone
- 18 Nancie Whelan
- 25 Eugene Martin



Crucifer

- 4 Gayle Hoffman
- 11 Mary Whelan
- 14 (12 PM) Kathaleen Lilley
- 18 Eugene Martin
- 25 Sandra Smith



Greeters

- 4 Kathy Sanders
- 11 **NEEDED**
- 14 (12 PM) Harry & Karen Hatt
- 18 **NEEDED**
- 25 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 4 Karen Hatt
- 11 Deborah Lutz
- 14 (12 PM) Karen Zivic
- 18 Nancie Whelan
- 25 Harry Hatt



Counting Teams

- 4 Team 4
- 11 Team 1
- 18 Team 2
- 25 Team 4



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

(Welcome Time is held the first Sunday of the month after worship.)

February 4— Souper Bowl Team



Head Usher
Rita Savant



Thank You Notes



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

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the congregation for the generous gift to me on Christmas Eve. I enjoy serving this congregation in any way that I can, and hope to do so for a long time to come.

Nick Adams



Dear Friends,
Thank you for the wonderful gifts for our families. The children had the best Christmas! We are grateful for the blessings. Happy New Year!

His by grace,
Cynthia Smith
Director, Agape Shelter



To the Messiah Bakers:
Thank you for thinking of me at Christmas. I enjoyed the cookies and the Christmas card booklet.

God bless!
Nancy Cramp



Thank you to the Congregation Council for allowing us to use one of the Sunday school rooms on December 30 for our great-granddaughter Thea's first birthday party. She is the daughter of our granddaughter Kacie and her husband Vince who now live in AZ and were visiting over the holidays. A wonderful time was had by our family and friends.

A special thank you to Dave Machamer for leaving his warm, cozy home during the Penn State football game to come to the church to open the doors for us. It was greatly appreciated!

Tom & Janet Gassert



There is a dedicated group of men and women in our congregation who week after week prepare the sanctuary for us to partake in the Lord's meal. In addition, they make sure the sanctuary is clean and ready for our Services. Thank you to all who serve on the Altar Guild and especially everyone who helped to decorate for the Advent Season and also the Christmas Season set-up and take down of candelabras, Nativities and many more items, too numerous to name.

I am so happy to chair this faithful group and look forward to another year of fellowship together.

In Christian love and appreciation,
Deb Lutz



My fellow members of Messiah,
Thank you for all your prayers during this time of transition to the new normal in the lives of my husband and myself. We are adjusting, but the time that twice a day dialysis takes, plus all the appointments, is draining to say the least. I miss more involvement at church, but for now this is how it has to be.

Thank you to Karen Hatt and Carol Anspach for the Christmas cookies I had no time to make. Thank you Deb Lutz for the amazing chocolate pie to feed my craving! Thank you to Deb and Carey Kendall for running errands for me when I couldn't leave the house. Thank you to Robin for keeping me updated on things I needed to do. Thank you to Erin Trovinger and Dianne Winters for filling in when I could not play on Sunday mornings.

If I have missed anyone, I sincerely apologize. I have a lot more to keep straight, and at times some things fall away.

We continue to adapt and adjust. Please keep praying for us. There is much more ahead of us.

Your sister in Christ,
Karen Fox



Ministry Plan Report for December, 2023

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
12/3	\$2,854.00	no LiF / 36 +
12/10	\$2,686.00	11 LiF / 34 +
12/17	\$3,291.00	11 LiF / 38 +
12/24	\$3,994.00	10 LiF / 38 +
Xmas Eve 12/24	\$1,253.00	57 +
12/31	\$2,637.00	5 LiF / 26 +



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

Upcoming Events

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14
at noon
ONLY



A Liturgy of Holy
Communion with the
Imposition of Ashes

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31
at 8:30 AM



Tickets go on sale
next month!
\$4 per person
Age 5 & under are
free

Saturday, May 4
from
9 AM—1 PM



Central Mission District
Convocation

Holy Trinity Ev. LC
2086 Parkview Ave.
Abington, PA

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.



Epiphany

Weekly Worship Schedule

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

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 begin-



ning 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 Je-

sus 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)

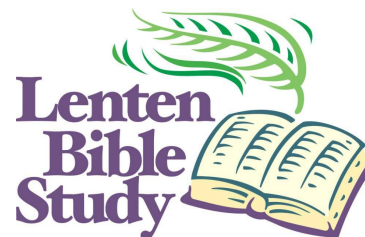
Lenten Study Series

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.

with you to experience the renewing power 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

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!



January Congregation Council Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

- ◇ Finance: Audit report for 2023 and year end financial reports were presented and approved.
- ◇ Fellowship: Lenten Bread & Soup meals will begin on Wednesday, February 21. Reviewing possible spring road trips.
- ◇ Property: Reviewed proposal for updated electrical needs in office area. Update of stucco repair on the front of the building. Tree trimming to be scheduled when weather improves. Receiving quotes and pursuing options to remove old boiler.
- ◇ Approved three neighborhood Homeowners Association meetings to be held at the church.
- ◇ Concluded the meeting with the Election of Officers and Committee Chairs for 2024 (see below).



Respectfully submitted,
 Deb Lutz, Congregation Council Secretary

Supply Schedule

- February 4 The Rev. Paul Hansen
- February 11 The Rev. Sally Gausmann
- February 14 (Ash Wednesday at noon)
 The Rev. Michael & the Rev. Karen Tamorria
- February 18 The Rev. Sally Gausmann
- February 25 Kathaleen Lilley



2024 Congregation Council

- Brenda Beegle**, *President and Volunteer Resources chair*
- David Machamer**, *Vice President, Personnel, and Property chair*
- Deborah Lutz**, *Secretary and Publicity chair*
- Carol Anspach**, *Social Ministry co-chair*
- Michael Ernst**, *Stewardship co-chair and Assistant Finance Secretary*
- Karen Hatt**, *Fellowship chair*
- Kathaleen Lilley**, *Stewardship co-chair and Assistant Treasurer*

Non Council Committee Chairs and their positions:

- Nicholas Adams**, *Christian Education chair*
- Karen Fox**, *Worship & Music chair*
- Rita Savant**, *Social Ministry co-chair*
- Larry Watkins**, *Finance chair and Finance Secretary*
- Nancie Whelan**, *Treasurer*



LENT

Membership Changes

Please remove **Rodney & Eileen Ledger** from your directory. They have transferred to Friedens Lutheran Church in Myerstown to be closer to family.