

INSIDE THIS
 ISSUE:

Thank You Notes	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	2
Monthly Schedules	3
Lenten Meals & Bible Study	4
Central Mission District Convo	4
Holy Week Schedule	5
Easter Breakfast	5
February Council Meeting Highlights	6
January Ministry Plan Report	7

SPECIAL
 POINTS OF
 INTEREST

- Readers Needed (Page 2)
- Upcoming Events (Page 4)
- Open Altar Flower Dates (Page 4)
- Supply Schedule (Page 5)
- Congregation Council (Page 5)
- Souper Bowl of Caring Update (Page 6)
- Friends of Spang Crest (Page 7)
- Announcements (Page 7)

Preparation for Holy Week

As springtime approaches and we get closer to Easter, many Christians begin talking about “Holy Week.” So what is Holy Week, and why does it matter?

Very shortly after the beginnings of Christianity, followers of Jesus who lived around Jerusalem would gather and visit the places that had shaped the end of Jesus’ earthly life. Over the centuries, this practice of remembering the last days of Jesus’ earthly life spread throughout Christianity – and it is this time of remembering that we call “Holy Week.” Holy Week recalls the events of the week that led up to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Over the years, this week has been considered the most important and holy time in the life of the church—especially what is known as the “*Triduum*” — or Great Three Days — of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning.

Two thousand years later and half a world away, we continue this ancient and holy practice at Messiah. Many of the elements of our Holy Week worship have been used by Christians since at least the year 400 AD, and continue to be used by Christians around the globe.

Passion Sunday (or Palm Sunday) marks the beginning of Holy Week. We rejoice with the crowds as Jesus enters into the city of Jerusalem, waving palms and shouting “Hosanna!” At our 10:30 AM service on March 24 we will encounter the crowds that gathered around Jesus as we listen to a dramatic reading and celebrate Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the Latin word, “*mandatum*”, which means “commandment.” We remember when Jesus told his disciples, “A new commandment I give to you: Love one another.” We mark the official end of Lent by receiving individual absolution, or forgiveness, with laying on of hands just as the ashes marked our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. We also remember the first Lord’s Supper. Worship begins at 7 PM (*note time*) on Thursday, March 28.

Good Friday commemorates the day when our Lord gave His life to save us from our sins. It is a very humbling service, as

we contemplate the cost that Jesus paid for our redemption. This is the one day out of the church year when it is not appropriate to celebrate Holy Communion. On this day the Body of our Lord is broken on the cross—not at the table; so no celebrations are appropriate. Join us for worship at 7 PM (*note time*) on Friday, March 29.

Easter Sunday is the day of the resurrection – a joyous celebration of God’s victory over sin and death. On March 31 we will gather together at 10:30 AM to hear the story of our salvation, and celebrate the resurrection together.

On Passion Sunday, you will receive a bulletin insert with the worship schedule for Holy Week on it. Please take the bulletin insert with you on Passion Sunday and share it with others. Ask them to join with us for our worship during Holy Week, as we contemplate the sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us spread the Good News of God’s Salvation for us through His Son, Jesus, the Christ.



Thank You Notes



A thank you note was received from the Lutheran Bible Translators. The colorful postcard is available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.

Thank you!



I want to thank Charlotte Varone for her visit and for giving me communion. It was a wonderful visit. I can't thank you enough—it made me feel so blessed.

In Christian love,
Mary Ann Hartman



Dear Messiah Congregation,

Thank you so much for your generous and thoughtful Christmas gift. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel in being able to be one of your organists. God has blessed each of us with talents and gifts. I am thankful that he blessed me with both the pleasure of and opportunity to share music. Every Sunday that I play for Messiah, I am thankful. I truly love to play music and share it with others. To have a group of people who enjoy that music with me is a gift from God. To be able to be blessed by serving God while playing that music is a wonderful way to share all praise and glory to Him.

Thank you to Andy and my mom for supporting me and caring for Emily and Daniel so that I may continue to play and praise God through music.

Thank you, Messiah Congregation, for your generous gift as well as your continued love and support. My family and I are continually grateful for your encouragement, kindness, and graciousness. I am honored to continue to contribute towards our worship through music.

In Christian Love,
Erin Trovinger



March Birthdays

- 2 Drew Surmacz
- 8 John Schimminger
- 12 Carol Anspach
Cash Anspach
Jaxson Roof
- 13 Ivy Lutz
Janet Miller
- 15 Brenda Beegle
- 19 Pr. Rodney Lilley
- 20 Alyssa Knouff
- 24 Seth Hartman
- 25 Bernard Batdorf
- 28 Deborah Lutz
- 29 Kay Zellers



March Anniversaries

- 11 Gordon & Laura Ebright



Readers Needed

On Passion Sunday (March 24) we will hear the Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark read as a dramatic reading. But we



need YOUR help! There are many parts to be read and we need volunteers to read them.

If you are interested in reading a line or two in the dramatic reading of the Passion please contact Robin in the office. A script will be provided for you to practice. Thank you.

Spring Forward!



Don't forget to **set all your clocks forward one hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 9 so you will be on time for church on **March 10!**

March 2024 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 3 Nicholas Adams
- 10 Sandra Smith
- 17 Charlotte Varone
- 24 Deborah Lutz
- 28 (7 PM) Deborah Lutz
- 31 Nancie Whelan



Altar Guild

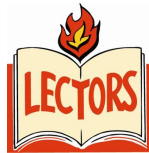
- Deborah Lutz, co-chair
- Ernestine Batdorf, co-chair
- Brenda Beegle
- Karen Hatt



Maundy Thursday: Karen Hatt, Lori Wert & Gayle Hoffman will assist Deb Lutz

Lector

- 3 Nancie Whelan
- 10 Sandra Smith
- 17 Charlotte Varone
- 24 Deborah Lutz
- 28 (7 PM) Deborah Lutz
- 31 Carey Kendall



Crucifer

- 3 Andrew Surmacz
- 10 Mary Whelan
- 17 Gayle Hoffman
- 24 Sandra Smith
- 28 (7 PM) Andrew Surmacz
- 29 (7 PM) Gayle Hoffman
- 31 Mary Whelan



Greeters

- 3 **NEEDED**
- 10 **NEEDED**
- 17 **NEEDED**
- 24 **NEEDED**
- 28 (7 PM) Harry & Karen Hatt
- 31 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 3 Karen Zivic
- 10 Harry Hatt
- 17 Karen Hatt
- 24 Deborah Lutz
- 28 (7 PM) Deborah Lutz
- 31 Harry Hatt
Karen Hatt



Head Usher
Eugene Martin

Counting Teams

- 3 Team 1
- 10 Team 3
- 17 Team 2
- 24 Team 4
- 31 Team 3



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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

March 3 — Deborah Lutz



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.

- February 28
- March 6
- March 13
- March 20

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.

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

Bring your Bible!



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.

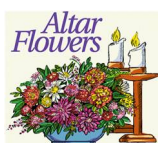
Sign up sheets will be posted in the narthex for each week so we may get a head count. This sheet will also list the soups that will be provided for that week. However, if you are unable to sign up you are more than welcome to join us. There will be plenty.



Open Flower Dates

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

- 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.

Central M.D. Convocation

You are invited to the annual Central Mission District Convocation for fellowship, worship, business, and **election of a new lay representative**.



Saturday, May 4
 from 8:30 AM—1 PM (lunch is included)
 Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 2086 Parkview Dr.
 Abington, PA

Registration materials will be available soon!
 For more information see Robin.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 24, The Sunday of the Passion:

9 AM Living in Faith Education Hour
10:30 AM The Holy Communion with the Blessing of Palms

Maundy Thursday, March 28:

7:00 PM The Liturgy of the Last Supper with the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 29

7:00 PM The Passion and Death of Our Lord

Sunday, March 31, Resurrection of Our Lord:

8:30 AM Easter Breakfast
10:30 AM The Holy Communion
 (No Living in Faith Education Hour today.)



Supply Schedule for March

March 3—The Rev. Sally Gausmann
 March 10—The Revs. M. & K. Tamorria
 March 17—The Rev. Sally Gausmann
 March 24—The Revs. M. & K. Tamorria
 March 28—The Revs. M. & K. Tamorria
 March 29—The Rev. Sally Gausmann
 March 31—The Rev. Sally Gausmann

Lent



Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31
 8:30 AM

Cost is **\$4 per person** (to help defray the cost and get a more accurate head count). Children under age 5 are free. Tickets will be on sale during the month of March **after worship**. See Harry and Karen Hatt for tickets or more information.



Menu

A variety of egg casseroles
 Fruit Cup
 Coffee
 Tea
 Juice



Easter Breakfast set up will be held on Saturday, March 30 at 9 AM. Any help will be appreciated.

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*

For Your Information



FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY

MARCH 3

Donations will be going to the Rescue Mission



Communion Gifts Sponsorship Available

If you would like to sponsor the communion gifts during the month of **February** please let Robin know. Cost is \$30 for the month, and they can be dedicated in honor or in memory of whomever you would like. Thank you.



Reminder:

Please contact Robin in the office with an update on the people you have placed on our prayer list. Prayer is a powerful thing! But our list can also get unwieldy. Please remember to contact Robin if your prayer request may be removed from our list. We will give thanks to God for that great news. Thank you.



February Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

- Evangelism: Will be pursuing the next course of the NALC's Life to Life Discipleship.
- Fellowship: Welcome time sponsorships are needed July through end of year.
- Finance: All 2023 tax forms have been completed and issued.
- Property: Cost to clean the stucco on front of building will be looked into to be done at a later date. Electrical upgrades to the office area were approved. Due to a water leak in the conference room, approval was given to have M&R Manheim repair the degraded caulk around the flashing.
- Social Ministry: Cards were sent to the shut-ins.
- Other Business: The AA group using the Fellowship classroom was given approval to use the bulletin board and chalk boards to display materials.

Respectfully submitted,
 Deb Lutz
 Congregation Council secretary

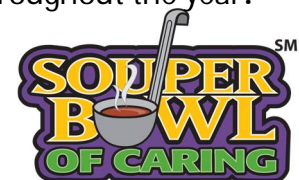


Souper Bowl of Caring Update

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Souper Bowl of Caring another great success. We donated **\$550** and **171 items of food** to stock the shelves at the Rescue Mission.

The folks who run the Rescue Mission and the guys who are living at the Mission truly appreciated the Super Bowl party and everything that the congregation does for them

throughout the year.



Friends of Spang Crest



Now is the time to join or renew your membership with the Friends of Spang Crest!

This wonderful auxiliary organization is dedicated to supporting the activities and projects benefitting the residents of Spang Crest, the Lebanon senior living community in Luthercare's network of services.

In 2022-23, the Friends of Spang Crest generously donated

over \$26,000 to support programs, services, and purchases, including

- Benevolent care
- Resident Christmas gifts
- Outdoor patio furniture
- Activity program equipment
- Outdoor band concerts
- Fish tank maintenance

This year we hope to do even more!

Your membership dues, combined with generous donations from congregations, individuals, annual fundraising events

and proceeds from the Spang Crest Gift Shop, supports the work of the Friends of Spang Crest to continue its work in 2024.

Membership levels are:

Member:	\$2.00
Contributor:	\$5.00
Sustainer:	\$10.00
Patron:	\$25.00

You may make a contribution to Messiah's Key Person, **Nancie Whelan**. Please add "Friends of Spang Crest" to your check's memo line.

January Ministry Plan Summary

Budgeted need per week: \$3,022.63

Date	Amount Received	Attendance
1/7	\$2,816.00	no LiF / 34 +
1/14	\$2,394.49	9 LiF / 34 +
1/21	\$2,120.00	11 LiF / 38 +
1/28	\$1,035.00	9 LiF / 31 +



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



Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

6 PM Soup and Bread Supper
7 PM Lenten Study Series

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NALC Web Site

<http://www.thenalc.org>

Atlantic Mission Region Web Site

<http://www.atlantic-nalc.org>