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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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Easter Blessings

Spoiler Alert - You will be reading this April newsletter article before the celebration of the Resurrection, but it's going to be about Easter. So with that being said, "CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!" What a truly joyous reason for celebrating God's Gift of Eternal Life for each and every one of His believers.

"For I know that my Redeemer lives." (*Job 19:25*)

Job is presumed by many to be the oldest book in the Bible. And the oldest of books has to do with the oldest of problems: "Why do the righteous suffer?" Up to this verse in the story of Job, he is asking tough questions. "Man dies, and is laid low; man breathes his last and where is he?" (*14:10*). "If man dies, shall he live again?" (*14:14*). They were unanswerable questions back then, which rose from a troubled and anguished heart. But with his cry of faith, "I know that my Redeemer lives," Job is on solid ground.

Job is led by the Spirit to make the statement of assurance for believers down through the centuries. He says, "I know." He points with certainty to the fact that the solution to all problems, and the ultimate answer to all questions, whether they be old and persistent or new and passing, lies in knowing that the Lord, our Redeemer, lives! Christ has conquered the last great enemy, which is death. He is "declared to be the Son of God with power ... by the resurrection from the dead" (*Romans 1:4*).

God's plan for us is that by the testimony of the Holy Spirit, and by opening one's eyes to see the innumerable evidences of God's power and authority in the world of nature and human history, we may come to a place where we can say WE KNOW!

God's agenda is that we come to know HIM! This is why the Holy Scriptures were given to us; so that we might know by the Holy

Spirit that we have been granted eternal life through the death and resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We do not guess. We do not suppose. We do not wish. We do not wonder. We know!

We know that our Redeemer lives. We praise God for the gift of the Holy Spirit to know. We know there is no vagueness in God's promises and no wondering if God really means it.

We are delivered from the bondage of the fear of death. We are free because we are claimed by the One who has power to lift us up and save us from our sin and spiritual death.

Christ is real to us. We know Him. He is our great eternal Redeemer because He lives. He lives, and to eternity we shall praise HIM, knowing that because He lives, we too shall live, so we proclaim CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!



April Birthdays

- 3 Terri Brightbill
- 6 Karlyn Roof
- 9 Cheryl Lutz
- 10 Debra Bowman
- 11 Adam Brossman
Carey Kendall
- 12 Angela Gassert Fair
- 18 Carol Watkins
- 22 Joshua Risser
- 29 Karen Zivic



Thank You Notes

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



To my church family and friends,

Thank you for praying for my husband Harry and me. His condition will take up to 3 months to resolve, if it resolves. Thank you to those who have given us food and cookies. Thank you for the cash gift to order food on those days that are especially difficult. We appreciate anything you do for us. I am thankful to God for giving me such faithful people to help me.

May you all be blessed according to His Will.

Peace and blessings to all,
Karen Fox

April Anniversaries

- 4 Thomas & Janet Gassert
- 16 Donald & Karen Munford
John & Vicki Schimminger
- 25 Bryan & Gayle Hoffman
- 27 Matthew & Jessica Lutz



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*



Member Contact Updates

Kevin & Sandy Smith no longer have a land line. Please update your directory with these numbers:

Kevin: 717- 269-3970

Sandy: 717-304-2095

April 2024 Schedules

Assisting Minister

- 7 Karen Fox
- 14 Nicholas Adams
- 21 Kathaleen Lilley
- 28 Eugene Martin



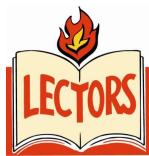
Altar Guild

- Deborah Lutz, chair
- 7 Barb Adams & Karen Zivic
- 14 Rita Savant & Gayle Hoffman
- 21 Karen Hatt & Nancie Whelan
- 28 Deborah Lutz



Lector

- 7 Mary Garrett
- 14 Nicholas Adams
- 21 Kathaleen Lilley
- 28 Eugene Martin



Crucifer

- 7 Kathaleen Lilley
- 14 Eugene Martin
- 21 Andrew Surmacz
- 28 Gayle Hoffman



Greeters

- 7 Deborah Lutz
- 14 Karen Zivic
- 21 Kathy Sanders
- 28 **NEEDED**



Acolyte

- 7 Karen Zivic
- 14 Nancie Whelan
- 21 Deborah Lutz
- 28 Karen Zivic



Head Ushers
Harry & Karen Hatt

Counting Teams

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



WELCOME TIME Sponsors

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



April 7—Susan Lentz



Central M.D. Convocation



Come join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from around the Central Mission District at our annual convocation on **Saturday, May 4** at Holy Trinity ELC, Abington, PA. Fellowship begins at 8:30 AM, and the meeting will run from 9 AM—1 PM with lunch included.

We will be celebrating the liturgical year and taking the time to share with each other the unique and special things we do as a congregation throughout the year.

There will also be an election for a NEW lay representative from the Central Mission District to the Atlantic Mission Region Council.

If you are interested in attending please see Robin or Kathy Lilley. Registration materials are available.

Weekly Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS:

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



Membership Changes

Please **amend your directory** to reflect she who joined the Church Triumphant last month:



Annabel Karnes
1924—2024

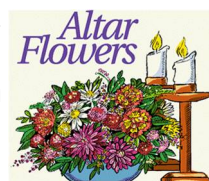
If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with Him.

Open Flower Dates

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

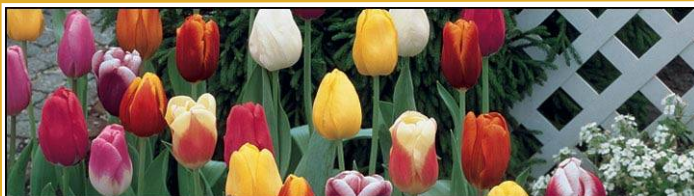
April 14
August 25
December 15
December 22

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.



Supply Schedule

- April 7 Pr. Mike & Pr. Karen Tamorria
- April 14 Pr. Sally Gausmann
- April 21 Pr. Sally Gausmann
- April 28 Nick Adams



Church Keys

The Congregation Council is doing an inventory of church keys—who has them and who no longer needs to have one.



If you are no longer serving on Congregation Council or are no longer a committee chair please turn in your key to Robin (or leave it on her desk with a note).

Only those on Congregation Council, committee chairs, or other authorized holders should have a key. Thank you!

Ministry Plan Report for February

(Budgeted need per week: \$3,022.63)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
2/4	\$3,367.00	no LiF / 38 +
2/11	\$1,099.00	15 LiF / 37 +
Ash Wed. 2/14	(rolled into 2/18)	42 +
2/18	\$3,475.00	10 LiF / 32 +
2/25	\$1,360.00	12 LiF / 40 +
Average attendance for Feb 38 +		
Wed. Lenten study		
2/21		14
2/28		13



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

March Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

- Pastor Sally Gausmann was a guest at the meeting. Current congregation needs for Messiah's Interim Pastor were discussed. Finance Committee prepared estimated financial costs.
- Fellowship: Meeting on March 16 to discuss Easter Breakfast and possible day trips.
- Personnel: Gayle Hoffman agreed to be committee "person at large."
- Property: MR Roofing repaired flashing between conference room and sanctuary wall. Will receive information from Long's Tree Service for future tree maintenance.
- Publicity: Received approval to place ads in local advertisers.
- Worship and Music: Organ to be tuned Thursday, March 14.
- Approved Nick Adams to be delegate at the Central Mission District Convocation on May 4.
- Approved GenServe/Dynatech maintenance agreement for generator.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Lutz, Congregation Council Secretary



For Your Information

PA Dutch Church Service

**Sunday, April 28
2:30 PM**

Zoar Lutheran Church
560 Freeport Road
Lebanon

Refreshments to follow.



Messiah Lutheran Church

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Lebanon, PA 17042-5852
Office Phone 717-272-2922

E-mail

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

Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>

NALC Web Site

<http://www.thenalc.org>

Atlantic Mission Region Web Site

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