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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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## Pastor's Page

*"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts."*  
Psalm 84:1

God has made a lovely dwelling place here at Messiah Lutheran Church. I see the Lord dwelling among his people here by the power of the Holy Spirit who draws us all together. You are the blessed people of God and I see in your worship and fellowship and study of scripture the liveliness that is the mark of God's work among you. Thank you for welcoming Pastor Paul and I to your congregation. We have felt very much at home.

I was asked to tell you a little about myself and my role here at Messiah Lutheran Church for the next couple of months. I grew up in Johnstown, PA and did my undergraduate at Indiana University of PA and my seminary at Gettysburg (where I met my husband, Paul.) My father was a steel worker and my mother was a store clerk for JC Penney. I am the youngest of 5 children. I have been a pastor for 33 years.

I began my ministry as an associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Rochester, PA. After a short time there my husband and I felt called to work together and we accepted a joint call to Faith Lutheran Church in

Shell Rock, Iowa where we ministered for almost 7 years. Most recently we served together at Saint Paul Lutheran Church on Trinity Road in York for 24 years, retiring in November of 2023. We are the parents of our son William (married to Alyssa) who works for Millersville University. They have three children: Charlotte (9), Lucy (7) and Noah (4) and they live in York. We also have a daughter Laura (married to Christopher) and she works for Johns Hopkins University. They have two children: Maci (9) and Max (5) and they live in Gettysburg.

One of the reasons we retired (besides reaching retirement age!) is that we wanted to be available for either babysitting or attending sporting events for our little brood. That explains why I agreed to a very part-time role here at Messiah.

Having said that you should know that I have had a very hands on ministry over the years and I hope to give this congregation as much attention as I possibly can considering the limitations imposed by my family obligations.

The schedule that I have worked out with the Congregation Council is that I

will be in Lebanon one weekday each week. That will usually be Tuesday, but if I have to change days it will always be on a day when Robin is also present in the office. I will also preach twice a month on a four Sunday month and three times a month on a five Sunday month. This agreement is for six months starting May 1. I will attend Congregation Council meetings and will be available for consultation for other committees as well.

One of the things I hope to do is visit the members of the congregation in their homes. These will be approximately one hour visits and I hope to simply get to know you and pray with you. It will take me a while to get around and if you would rather just have a phone call just say so when I call to make an appointment with you. We could also meet at the church if you would rather not have me come to your home. My priority will be the shut-ins and anyone with current health or family issues. But I think it would be beneficial as the congregation works toward calling a regular pastor to have some time just to process all that you have been through in the last couple of years.

Please feel free to call, text or e-mail me. I will respond as quickly as I can but un-

fortunately because of the distance and my age I will not be able to drive to Lebanon on the spur of the moment.

Please include me in your daily prayers. Pastor Paul and I have been praying for you already and will continue to do so. I'm looking forward to this new adventure we are on together.

Also, on a side note, my given name is Sara but I've had Sally as a nickname my whole life. It's no law, but when I write Pastor, I write Sally (more informal) and when I write Reverend, I write Sara (more formal.) Some advice – never give your child two first names!

Love and God's blessings,  
Pastor Sally

Cell 717-487-1790

## May Birthdays

- 2 Avery Fox
- 3 Abbey Hartman  
Jill Hartman
- 5 Rita Savant
- 8 Matthew Lutz
- 10 Mia Lutz
- 16 Mary Whelan
- 20 Susan Lentz
- 30 Evelyn Shaak



## May Anniversaries

- 5 Lee & Debra Stickler
- 7 David & Suzette Buffamoyer
- 22 Richard & Beth Miller
- 27 Rick & Pam Knouff  
Ray & Vivian Mayopoulos
- 28 Nicholas & Barbara Adams



## Information Needed

If you or a loved one are graduating from high school, college, graduate school, trade school, etc. we would love to let your church family know all about it! For your convenience there is a small form available on the oak table in the narthex that asks for all your pertinent information. Please fill it out and leave it with Robin in the church office so she may include your graduation information in next month's *Messiah Messenger*. And congratulations!



## 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*

## Landscape Care Servants



As in previous years, we again invite you to serve God and neighbor by signing up to care for a portion of Messiah's grounds. The area chart and sign-up form are posted on the Information Center in the narthex. Tools and mulch will be available.

Your offerings of time and energy are greatly appreciated.

# May 2024 Schedules

## Assisting Minister

- 5 Sandra Smith
- 12 Charlotte Varone
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Eugene Martin



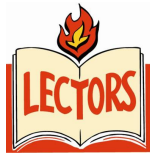
## Altar Guild

- Karen Hatt, chair
- Barbara Adams
- Harry Hatt
- Karen Zivic



## Lector

- 5 Sandra Smith
- 12 Charlotte Varone
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Eugene Martin



## Crucifer

- 5 Kathaleen Lilley
- 12 Mary Whelan
- 19 Sandra Smith
- 26 Andrew Surmacz



## Greeters

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



## Acolyte

- 5 Harry Hatt
- 12 Karen Hatt
- 19 Deborah Lutz
- 26 Karen Zivic



## Counting Teams

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



## WELCOME TIME Sponsor

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



**May 5** — Deb Lutz

**May 12**—Special Welcome Time after worship to welcome Pastor Sally!



**Head Usher**  
Gayle Hoffman



# Thank You Note



Thank you notes were received from the Rescue Mission, Lutheran World Relief, the Caring Cupboard, and the Atlantic Mission Region. They are available for you to read on the bulletin board outside the office.

I would like to say a BIG thank you to all who made or donated money for the Lent bread and soup suppers.

I would also like to say thank you to those who made and donated breakfast casseroles, donated the juices and the mini muffins. All money that was given for the tickets was donated to the church.

Thank you!  
 Karen Hatt  
 Fellowship Committee chair

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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

### E-mail

Pr. Sally Gausmann: [psgaus@comcast.net](mailto:psgaus@comcast.net)  
 Robin Harris (office): [messiahluthleb@epix.net](mailto:messiahluthleb@epix.net)

### Web Site

<http://www.messiahluthleb.org>

### NALC Web Site

<http://www.thenalc.org>

### Atlantic Mission District Web Site

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

# Weekly Worship Schedule

## SUNDAYS:

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

# Geraniums for Pentecost



The Altar Guild is accepting donations for geraniums to decorate the chancel for Pentecost (May 19). Please put your donation in a plain envelope marked "geraniums" and place it in the offering plate or drop it in the church office. Thank you!

# Ministry Plan Report for March

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

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering received</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
	3/3	\$2,970.00	no LiF / 38 +
	3/10	\$1,094.00	8 LiF / 31 +
	3/17	\$2,326.00	12 LiF / 36 +
	3/24	\$1,675.07	10 LiF / 41 +
Maundy Thurs.	3/28	\$1,075.00	37 +
Good Fri.	3/29		28 +
Easter	3/31	\$2,859.00	no LiF / 46 +

**Average worship attendance for March: 37**

Wed. Lenten study		
	3/6	14
	3/13	14
	3/20	14

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





# April Congregation Council Meeting Highlights

The Messiah Congregation Council met on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

- Fellowship: There was good response/feedback of Easter breakfast. Donations of \$108.00 were collected and deposited to the General Fund.
- Finance: The Interim Pastor Agreement has been signed by the Rev. Sara ("Sally") Gausmann and the Congregation Council and has been forwarded to the bishop's office. A new email address will be created for the interim pastor.
- Property: Electrical upgrades have been completed in the church offices. We're waiting on a bid from Long's Tree Service for tree trimming of dead and low hanging branches. We will receive bids for a solar light for the parking lot light in the back corner.
- Social Ministry: Committee continues to send birthday cards and Easter cards and makes phone calls to shut-ins.
- Stewardship: Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7.
- Kathy Lilley has been approved to be the delegate from Messiah at the NALC Convocation which will be held online on Friday, August 9.
- Recommendation to purchase a laptop and necessary software for designated use by the pastor has been approved. The computer used by Pastor Kendall is over 10 years old.
- There was discussion to return to the use of bread instead of wafers for Communion. Deb Lutz will review several local bakeries and make a recommendation to start using for services in May.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Lutz  
Congregation Council Secretary

## Supply Schedule

May 5—Pastor Logan Swanger  
May 12—Pastor Sally Gausmann  
May 19—Pastor Logan Swanger  
May 26—Pastor Sally Gausmann

## Communion Gifts Available

If you would like to sponsor the communion gifts during the month of **September** 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.



## Stewardship Committee

You are cordially invited to attend a Stewardship Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 PM in the conference room. The committee has been inactive for a few years, but the Council would like to see a renewal of our stewardship emphasis in the congregation. Stewardship is more than giving money. It is the expression of our Christian faith in daily living as we express and understand our Christian use of time, talents, and treasures of which we are gifted by God in abundance. Anyone interested in attending the meeting on May 7 is encouraged to take part in the re-forming of the committee. If you have any questions or need additional information, please talk to Kathy Lilley or Michael Ernst, Co-chairpersons.



Stewardship