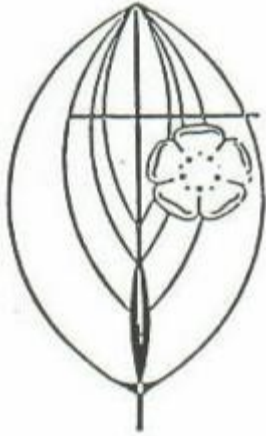

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

Email: lcmprinceton@gmail.com

www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE REV. DR.
MARTIN K. ERHARDT
PASTOR

THE REV. DR.
JOHN MARK GOERSS
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER
ORGANIST AND
CHOIR DIRECTOR

KATHERINE ELLIS
OFFICE ASSISTANT

Jesus' Disciples Defend Human Dignity

On October 19, I and some others from Messiah and St. Peter Lutheran Church of Hopewell Township went to see *Gosnell*, a movie about the investigation and trial of Kermit Gosnell. Dr. Gosnell owned and operated the Women's Medical Society clinic in Philadelphia, and was well-known for providing abortions to poor minority and immigrant women.

I was especially impressed by the acting of Earl Billings, who portrayed Dr. Gosnell as the affable, unfussy man he apparently was when he was still a licensed physician. Killing human beings inside and outside the womb didn't seem to bother him, though he did express regret at the death of some of the adults in his care, or lack thereof. Dr. Gosnell saw himself as a provider of services to those in need. So do many abortion providers, most of whom follow laws that Dr. Gosnell considered optional.

We can thank God for small mercies. Abortion after the 24th week of pregnancy was and still is illegal in Pennsylvania. But we in New Jersey have no such limit. In our state, abortion is legal at any time for any reason. That lack of protection makes me feel like I'm living in a slave state before the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment, in which slaves had few legal protections.

Left to ourselves, we can make our peace with just about anything. Without a steady diet of Law and Gospel from God's Word, we often don't recognize our sin or receive God's forgiveness. Without being fed by God's Word and sacraments, and without the witness of the church, we forget what human dignity means and what's wrong with slavery and elective abortion.



continued on the next page

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

Receiving God's gifts in the fellowship of the church teaches us what it means to care for one another. Our congregation extends that care to others too, supporting organizations like Womanspace (provides refuge for women from violent homes), Choice One (provides crisis pregnancy care), as well as speaking out strongly in defense of unborn children.

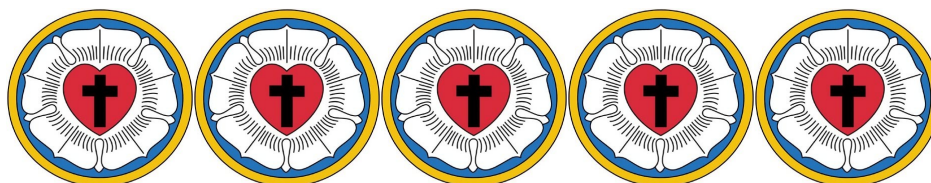
The church is not immune from sin, and sometimes refuses to acknowledge the sin in its midst. We see that in the sexual abuse scandal in the Roman communion today. In the nineteenth century, controversy over slavery tore American churches apart. Racism is still with us, and we cannot purge ourselves of all sin. But, justified, Baptized, and forgiven by God, we can still strive to love one another, even if we do it imperfectly. We can care for the least of our sisters and brothers, who are vulnerable and cannot care for themselves. I'm proud of the faithful, principled, and compassionate stand of our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) defending human dignity at all stages of life, with specific reference to abortion and euthanasia. The LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations has published thoughtful, careful, and faithful studies on these issues, available at <https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/commission-on-theology-and-church-relations/documents/life-issues>

Some of us remember the American civil rights marches of the 1960s. I'd like to think that if I had been alive then, I would have defended the life and dignity of all people, regardless of skin color, even if it would have made me controversial and unpopular. I'd like to think that had I been alive in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, I would not have turned a blind eye to Nazi crimes, whether they were legal or not.

We can't all do everything, but we can each do something. Through our support of Womanspace and Choice One, we at Messiah are doing something to help mothers in distress and unborn children. We will continue to speak of God's grace to sinners, and to stand up for human dignity in all stages of life. We can ask one another, our neighbors, and our state legislators to make New Jersey a leader in protecting children in the womb, with legal protections such as those described in NJ Assembly Bill A3452, available at www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/A3500/3452_11.PDF

It's not easy to live as a disciple of Jesus. Frequently, I don't want to. But it's better to take the difficult path the right way than the easy path the wrong way. Job knew what that was like, and he kept the faith, saying, "But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold" (Job 23:10). Thanks be to God who loves each of us regardless of our ability to defend ourselves, who tries and refines us, who walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death, and who is with us always, to the end of the age (Psalm 23:4; Matthew 28:20).

Pastor Erhardt



Visit our website to listen to audio recordings of Sunday Sermons.
<http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org/services.html>

CHURCH CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 4

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Set clocks back an hour on Saturday

Thursday, November 8, 6:30 pm

LCM Table Talk (p. 5)



Thursday, November 15, 7 pm

Prayer Shawl Meeting



Saturday, November 17, 9 am

Men's Forum at Wegmans



Thursday, November 29, 7 pm

Executive Board Meeting



Thursday, December 6, 6:30 pm

LCM Table Talk (p. 5)



Saturday, December 8, 6 pm

Potluck & Caroling



Sunday, December 9, 10:30 am

Holy Communion with

Sunday School Christmas Program



Sunday, December 9, 12:15 pm

Voters Meeting



Saturday, December 15, 9 am

Men's Forum at Wegmans



Monday, December 24, 8 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Tuesday, December 25, 10:30 am

Christmas Day Holy Communion



Thursday, January 10, 6:30 pm

LCM Table Talk (p. 5)



Thursday, January 17, 7 pm

Prayer Shawl Meeting



Friday, January 18, 6 pm

International Student Dinner



Thursday, January 24, 7 pm

Executive Board Meeting



Join the choir!
Rehearsals on Wednesday
at 7:30 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Messiah Movie Group: A new Fellowship group has been formed, with a simple objective: get together once a month to see a movie and then repair to the nearest restaurant for something to eat and wide-ranging discussion. The group has seen two very different movies so far - "Three Identical Strangers," a riveting documentary about triplets who were separated shortly after birth by an adoption agency and astonishingly discovered each other by chance when they were college age, and "Crazy Rich Asians," a good-natured romantic comedy about - you guessed it - crazy rich Asians.



Each month a movie will be announced, and all you have to do if you want to attend is show

up at the designated movie theater fifteen minutes or so before show time. Miranda Hempel and Debbie Baer will be happy to answer any questions and take suggestions for movies to see!



From Lois Sulla: Operation Christmas Child

Our deadline is approaching - Nov. 18th - and you still have time to fill your shoebox by shopping on line at the OCC website, or go to the Dollar Tree, Target or such. Take along some younger children with you if that is a possibility, and have them help with the shopping. They will learn a lesson as to how blessed they are. Pick up your suggestion for shopping list and envelope to include your shipping costs in at the back of the church on the pew to the left as you enter. The age levels again are 2 - 4, 5 - 8, and 10 - 14. The hardest to fill but most needed is the older age bracket. If you include a little note with your name and address-and maybe a picture-there is a chance you might get a response from a thankful child in another country. If you pay for the shipping ahead of time online, you can track your shoebox to see where it goes and get a label to put onto the shoebox, instead of having to include the envelope. No toothpaste, candy, gum, liquids, or lotions. Just remember these kids are so blessed by your investment of time into a small gift, and it lasts a lifetime. The families even use the cardboard from the boxes for warmth, as well as other things. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors-maybe they will help too!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lutheran Campus Ministry Table Talks

Thursday, November 8: Sin: The Dirty Word We Still Need

Thursday, December 6: A Baptism Story—An Interview with Hadley Arkes



Thursday, January 10: Humility as Withdrawal and Engagement

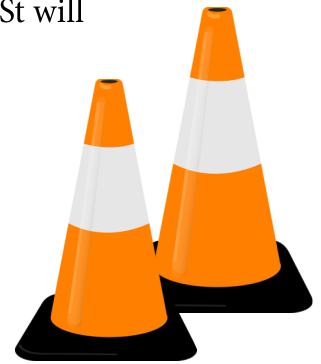
All discussions are scheduled for **6:30 – 8:00 PM** in 210 Murray-Dodge Hall, Princeton University, and include dinner at no cost.

After 5:00 PM on weekdays, free parking is available in the university lot on William St., between Washington Rd. and Charlton St.

Nov. 4 HiTOPS Half Marathon – Traffic Delay Notice

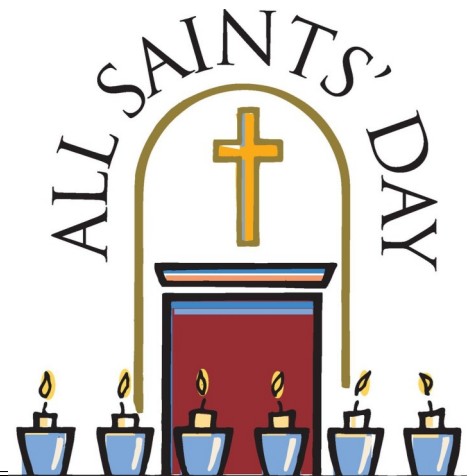
Between 6:30 and 10:00 AM on Sunday, Nov. 4, there will be traffic delays and intermittent road closures in and around Princeton, including Washington Road, Snowden Lane, Hamilton Ave, Mercer St, and Mt. Lucas Rd. US Route 206, Nassau St, and Harrison St will be open, but expect traffic delays on Nassau St due to the closures of Library Place and Washington Rd. For a course map, see www.princetonhalfmarathon.com/the-course/.

Most of the delays should be over by the time people normally arrive for worship, but please allow yourself a little extra time to get to church and more to get to Christian Education classes or choir rehearsal the morning of Nov. 4.



On Sunday, Nov. 4, we will commemorate All Saints Day (Nov. 1).

We will remember with thanksgiving the faithful departed of this congregation, or known to us, who have died since last All Saints Day. If you haven't already submitted the names of those you would like to have remembered to Katherine at LCMherald@gmail.com, you may do so by 9am on Friday, Nov. 2.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

News from Pastor Jukka Kaariainen (Messiah's pastor 2008-2011):

Dear family, friends, and supporters:

I am writing to share with you the news of my appointment, today, to the position of interim “mission-theologian-in-residence” in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland’s national office in Helsinki. This means that we will be leaving Taiwan and moving to Helsinki, Finland before the end of this year. I will begin in my new position sometime around mid-January 2019. If all goes well, I will be a frontrunner for the full-time appointment starting May 1, 2020.

While we are sad to be leaving Taiwan, we look forward to what the Lord has in store for us in this new stage of our lives. We are especially grateful that we will be close to my elderly parents, in order to be able to care for them as they age.

I am deeply humbled and amazed by this gesture of confidence in me. I pray that the Lord of the Church will give me all the wisdom, strength, and ability I will need to further His mission, both in Finland and globally. Please pray for my family and I during the coming months of packing, transition, etc. I hope we stay in touch.

**The Symphonic Wind Ensemble of
Concordia University Wisconsin**

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble of Concordia University Wisconsin will perform at Martin Luther Chapel in Pennsauken on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 7:00 PM. For more information, call the church office at (856) 665-0116.



AUGUST 25 FELLOWSHIP EVENT: CHURCH BBQ





BBQ
Time!



NEW MEMBER RECEPTION & BLESSING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!

THANK YOU!

WELCOME!



We are thankful for Sunday School teachers, Skye, Rachel, and Miranda. They were commissioned on Sunday, September 9.

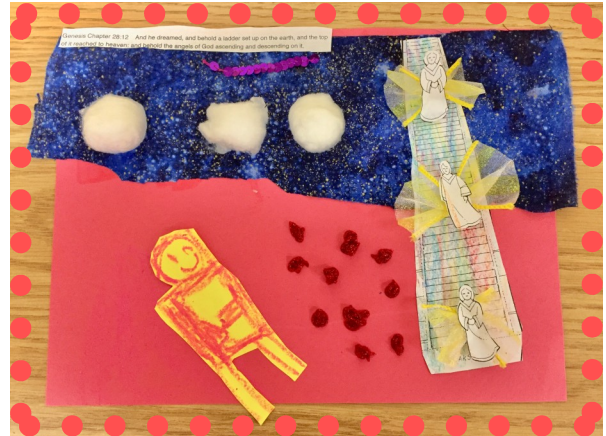
On Sunday, September 9 we welcomed new member Louise Cooper!



SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS FALL TERM: UPDATE FROM MIRANDA HEMPEL

Messiah's Sunday School is well under way again. This Fall the spotlight is on Old Testament readings, from Creation and Adam and Eve to Ezra and Nehemiah. In these lessons, we trace God's plan of salvation throughout the Bible—pointing to Jesus, our Savior.

Last year, our Sunday School students illustrated many of the episodes in the life of Jesus for a lively timeline which currently festoons one of the crossbeams in the Fellowship Hall.



This time around, we are creating mixed-media illustrations of Old Testament stories which will soon decorate a second beam. The six days of creation, Adam and Eve, Noah with his ark crowded with animals, the Tower of Babel, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, along with their wives Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, as well as a motley crew of sullen siblings, problematic relatives, handmaidens, sidekicks, and supernatural visitors - all have been read about, discussed, and then translated into artwork for the Sunday School timeline.



It is amazing to see how the stubborn, disobedient, foolish, and downright bad people we encounter in the Bible can be used by God to accomplish his will no matter what. Hooray! That means we, too, can be used by God despite our flaws and shortcomings.

It is also amazing to know that from the family tree of Eve, of Noah, and of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with all its colorful characters (to put it euphemistically) God sent us Jesus.

In a few weeks, we will be turning our attention to celebrating the birth of Jesus, with the beginning of the Advent season, which welcomes in the new liturgical year.

(Shown above are two different interpretations of Jacob's dream about a ladder stretching from heaven to earth)

BLAST FROM THE PAST & CHURCH HUMOR



Photo courtesy of Messiah archives

So technically Moses is the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.

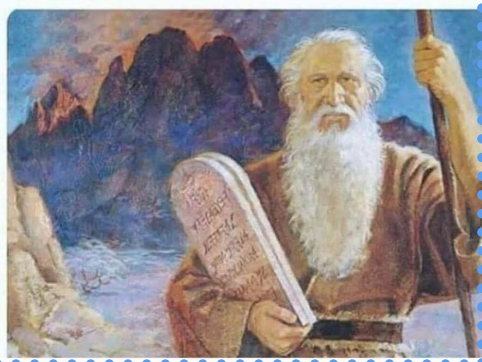


Photo courtesy of Debbie Baer

SEE ANYONE
YOU
RECOGNIZE?



Photo courtesy of Messiah archives

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
All Saints November 4, 2018	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalms 24	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 11, 2018	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	Psalms 127	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost November 18, 2018	1 Samuel 1:4-20	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8
Christ the King November 25, 2018	1 Samuel 23:1-7	Psalms 132:1-18	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
The First Sunday in Advent December 2, 2018	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalms 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
The Second Sunday in Advent December 9, 2018	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
The Third Sunday in Advent December 16, 2018	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 23, 2018	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalms 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55
Christmas Eve December 24, 2018	Isaiah 9:2-7		Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day December 25, 2018	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
The First Sunday after Christmas Day December 30, 2018	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Epiphany January 6, 2019	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Baptism of the Lord January 13, 2019	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalms 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 20, 2019	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalms 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 27, 2019	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21



November 2018



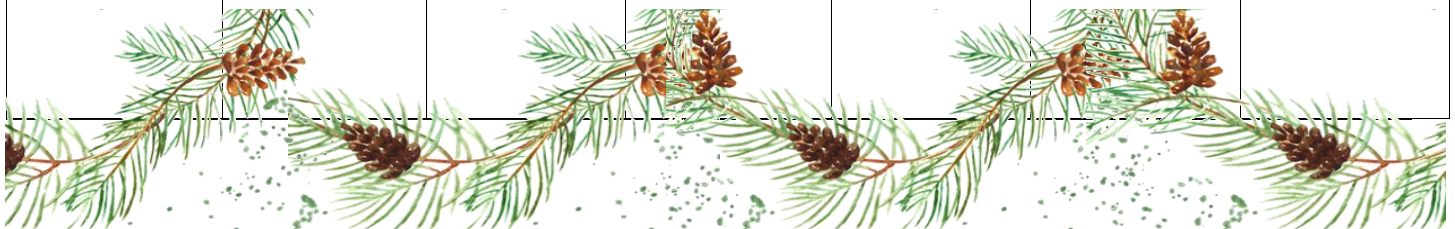
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30 pm Choir	2 7:30 pm Catechism	3
4 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	5	6	7 7:30 pm Choir	8 6:30 pm LCM Table Talk	9 7:30 pm Catechism	10
11 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	12	13	14 7:30 pm Choir	15 7pm Prayer Shawl Meeting	16 7:30 pm Catechism	17 9am Men's Forum
18 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	26	27	28 7:30 pm Choir	29 7pm Executive Board Meeting	30 7:30 pm Catechism	



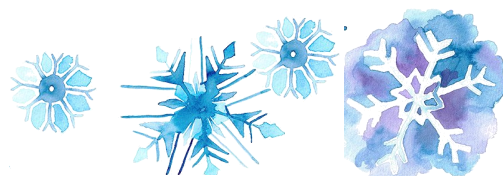
December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	3	4	5 7:30 pm Choir	6 6:30 pm LCM Table Talk	7 7:30 pm Catechism	1 <hr/> 8 6pm Potluck & Caroling
9 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion with Sunday School Program 12:15 Voters Mtg	10	11	12 7:30 pm Choir	13 7pm Prayer Shawl Meeting	14 7:30 pm Catechism	15 9am Men's Forum
16 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	17	18	19 7:30 pm Choir	20	21 7:30 pm Catechism	22
23 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	24 8pm Christmas Eve Candlelight	25 10:30am Christmas Day Holy Communion	26	27	28	29
30 10:30am Holy Communion	31					



January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:30 pm Choir	3	4	5
6 10:30am Holy Communion	7	8	9 7:30 pm Choir	10 6:30 pm LCM Table Talk	11	12
13 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	14	15	16 7:30 pm Choir	17 7pm Prayer Shawl Meeting	18 6pm International Student Dinner	19
20 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	21	22	23 7:30 pm Choir	24 7pm Executive Board Meeting	25	26
27 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	28	29	30 7:30 pm Choir	31		



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