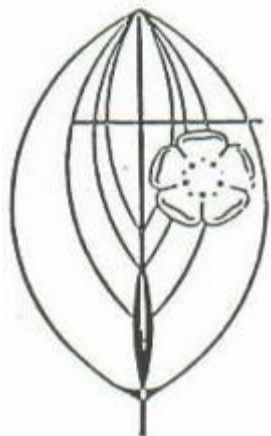


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

Email: lcmaprinceton@gmail.com

www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Welcoming and Faithful

THE REV. DR.
MARTIN K. ERHARDT
PASTOR

THE REV. DR.
JOHN MARK GOERSS
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER
ORGANIST AND
CHOIR DIRECTOR

ALLY PEXA
OFFICE ASSISTANT

Six years ago (May/June 2013), I wrote here a column entitled, "Hospitality and Faithfulness". I mentioned then how difficult it can be to know to what extent we should engage with people who believe and practice things we consider false, harmful, and/or confused. Since 2013, discernment hasn't become much easier. On one hand, we want to welcome and be hospitable to our neighbors. On the other hand, we want to be faithful to the truth, and not condone or facilitate the spread of falsehood, harm, or confusion.

Life is difficult, as are the choices it presents us. But God has not left us alone to fend for ourselves. As we heard in our scripture readings and choir anthem on Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth, and guides us into all truth. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and the Holy Spirit keeps us in him. Living in the truth will sometimes make us unpopular and cause us to suffer. We'll suffer even from our internal disagreements about what is true and how important it is that we insist on that truth.

Truths to which Christians hold that are likely to make us unpopular in contemporary American society include our perspectives on life and death (e.g. euthanasia, abortion, and suicide), and on marriage and sexuality (e.g. what marriage is, divorce, and marriage as the only appropriate place for sexual relationship). If you'd like to learn more about how to view these matters from a Christian perspective, I encourage you to read the reports on them produced by the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) at tinyurl.com/y5r56h2r

How do we welcome people from whom we differ on these important matters while remaining faithful to the truth?

continued on the next page

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

One example: in a worship service, everyone is welcome, though not all behavior is welcome and not all beliefs are affirmed. There is a higher bar to become a member of the congregation than there is to attend a worship service. Membership includes affirming certain doctrines (e.g. those in the Creed) and rejecting others. So those whom we welcome to worship we may not welcome to membership.

How about when we're the ones on the outside, wondering to what extent we should participate in institutions of ambiguous moral standing? We're in this situation when we decide how to invest our money — a topic addressed in a March/April 2017 Adult Forum series entitled *Choose Life: A Lenten Look at How We Spend Time, Treasure, and Talent*. Another perennial concern is what our children are exposed to in school or among their peers. These questions are real and important. There are beliefs and practices we may willing to tolerate as adults, but unwilling to subject our children to. In these cases, here are a few questions we can ask ourselves:

How important is this? To what extent can I be accommodating?

What options exist?

Must I decide this alone? If not, with whom can I share my concern and think through this?

If it's important enough, can I organize a group of like-minded people to act in concert rather than individually?

If I'm reacting to something I perceive to be wrong, can I articulate what should happen instead and why?

How can I be part of the solution? Are there existing channels for me to voice my concerns? How can I establish a positive relationship with, for example, a teacher or administrator who could help?

Much more could be said, but this is a place to begin. If you are facing issues like these and would like help, please contact me. I'd welcome the opportunity to help you navigate through them.

We live in a fallen world, and we are all sinners. But we are redeemed sinners, and God has not left us alone. Life is difficult, but not dreadful. Knowing that God has given us the Spirit of truth, let us avail ourselves of the tools of the Spirit, e.g. scripture, prayer, and the wisdom accumulated in the Church over many generations, to discern what is best in an imperfect world.

One with you in the Holy Spirit, as we strive to be both welcoming and faithful,

Pastor Erhardt

Visit our website to listen to audio recordings of Sunday Sermons.
<http://new.princetonlutheranchurch.org/worship/service-and-sermon-audios/>

OFFICE ASSISTANT UPDATE

Dear People of Messiah,

It has been a delight to work for the church as the Office Assistant for the past two years. Though many of you may only know me by name and email, I am deeply grateful for my time here at Messiah. In the past few months I graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and married my best friend, Chris. Chris and I are moving to Indianapolis where he will be serving at a church as a resident pastor. Thank you for your faithful service to Messiah and your kindness extended to me. After June 28 I will no longer be serving as the Office Assistant. I will continue to pray for Messiah and Princeton.

With gratitude,

Katherine



Hello!

My name is Ally Pexa and I am thrilled to be the new office assistant the Lutheran Church of the Messiah! I recently moved to Princeton from Seattle, Washington. I just finished my first year of the MDiv program at Princeton Theological Seminary. While living in Seattle, I received my bachelors degree in Biblical Studies from Seattle Pacific University and served a small Presbyterian congregation as their Youth Director. I grew up in Sacramento, California and still consider it home. While I miss the west coast, I am truly enjoying my time in Princeton so far. I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve this congregation and I look forward to work with you!

Warmly,

Ally Pexa

Visit our website to listen to audio recordings of Sunday Sermons.
<http://new.princetonlutheranchurch.org/worship/service-and-sermon-audios/>

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUMMER BOOK GROUP

June 19:

The Cube and the Cathedral
by George Weigel

July 17:

The Remains of the Day
by Kazuo Ishiguro

August 21:

The Crisis of Islam
by Bernard Lewis

Discussions begin at **7:30pm** at Messiah.



Please obtain and read the book before each discussion, and come with your thoughts and questions. All are welcome, but space is limited, so if you'd like to participate email LCMprinceton@gmail.com or call 609.924.3642 to reserve your place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, July 17, 7:30 pm

Summer Book Group Discussion

**Thursday, July 25, 7 pm**

Executive Board Meeting

**Saturday, July 27, 9 am**

Men's Forum

**Wednesday, August 21, 7:30 pm**

Summer Book Group Discussion

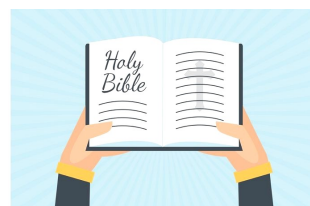
**Saturday, August 31, 9 am**

Men's Forum



ANNOUNCEMENT

On June 24 Messiah received a letter from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon, informing us that they have extended a Call to Pastor Erhardt to serve as their pastor. They ask us to join them in prayer that God provide His guidance to Pastor Erhardt as he considers this Call. The letter is posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

WHEELCHAIR LIFT AND ORGAN PRESERVATION PROJECTS



This spring and summer, Messiah will undertake two major facilities projects: replacing our wheelchair lift and stopping a water leak that is damaging the organ. Because of your generous giving and the Executive Board's careful stewardship of Messiah's funds, we do not plan to have a fundraising campaign for these projects. Contributions are certainly appreciated, however, and can be designated for the wheelchair lift or organ preservation project.

7PM FRIDAY, JUNE 28 TRENTON THUNDER BASEBALL

Trenton Thunder vs. the New Hampshire Fisher Cats at Waterfront Park.

See or email Debbie Baer for tickets (\$7).

Meet us there for Pork Roll Night!



NEW JERSEY HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATE

As of January 1, 2019, New Jersey requires its residents to maintain health insurance. The law requires you and your family to have minimum essential health coverage throughout 2019 and beyond, unless you qualify for an exemption. Failure to have health coverage or qualify for an exemption will result in a Shared Responsibility Payment when you file your 2019 New Jersey Income Tax return. Exemptions are available, e.g. if you are not required to file a 2019 New Jersey Income Tax return or if you participate in a religious healthcare cost sharing program. For more information on the latter, go to tinyurl.com/y2q1wmvj



MAY 19, 2019 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ARCHITECTURAL TOUR



Walking tour of Princeton University led by Jon Hlafter, focusing on architecture in the historic central area of the campus.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



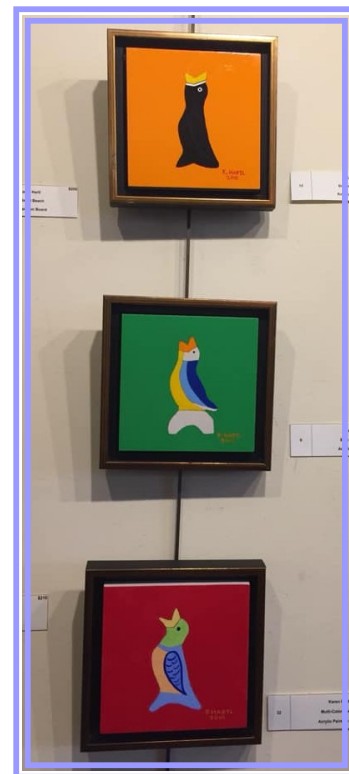
Martha Peck with Debbie & Ted, Pepe, Mary, and Pastor Erhardt on June 5



Parishioners and friends gathered to wish Martha farewell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Karen Hartl on her art show in Lambertville!
Messiah members enjoyed the reception on June 14th.



Oil and Acrylic Paintings
June 1-30, 2019
Bucks on Bridge
25 Bridge Street
Lambertville, NJ



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pastor Goerss, Pastor Erhardt, and Pastor Matthew Laubenstein
(former seminarian field worker at Messiah, now a pastor in Libertyville, IL) on
Pentecost Sunday (June 9).

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
You Are Invited to an OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, August 25, 2019

2:00 -- 4:00 PM

JOHN and KAY GOERSS

63 Lexington Drive

Pennington, New Jersey 08534

No Gifts, Please

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pastor Erhardt and Stewart Stroebel
on graduation day at Princeton University



Lutheran students with Dr. Dennis Olson and
Dr. Paul Rorem graduating from Princeton
Theological Seminary



Graduates Karen Hartl, Justin Hylden, Kyle
Sorkness, and Stewart Stroebel with Pastor Erhardt



Congratulations to Dan Baer, graduating
from Robbinsville High School!

FAREWELL FROM KYLE SORKNESS



Dear people of Messiah,

My sincerest thanks for welcoming me into your church family the past four years. You provided a warm and encouraging home away from my Minnesota home and, above all, a community where I could count on being fed law and gospel.

Thanks also for allowing me to serve as your field-education intern during my time there. The experience was almost certainly more a service to *me*, so thank

you for weathering sermons, adult forums, and Table Talks that (hopefully!) developed over time, thanks to your help.

Finally, a special thanks to Pastor Erhardt. As pastor, supervisor, advisor, and more, he provided a sort of second curriculum to my studies at the seminary, and I know his way of doing theology and ministry will remain with me as a welcome "voice in my head." Messiah and the students at the seminary and university are blessed to have someone with his unique history and gifts there in Princeton.

I am now off to pursue an advanced master's degree in philosophy and theology at Yale Divinity School. So, I will not be too far away, and I will look forward to visiting you all!

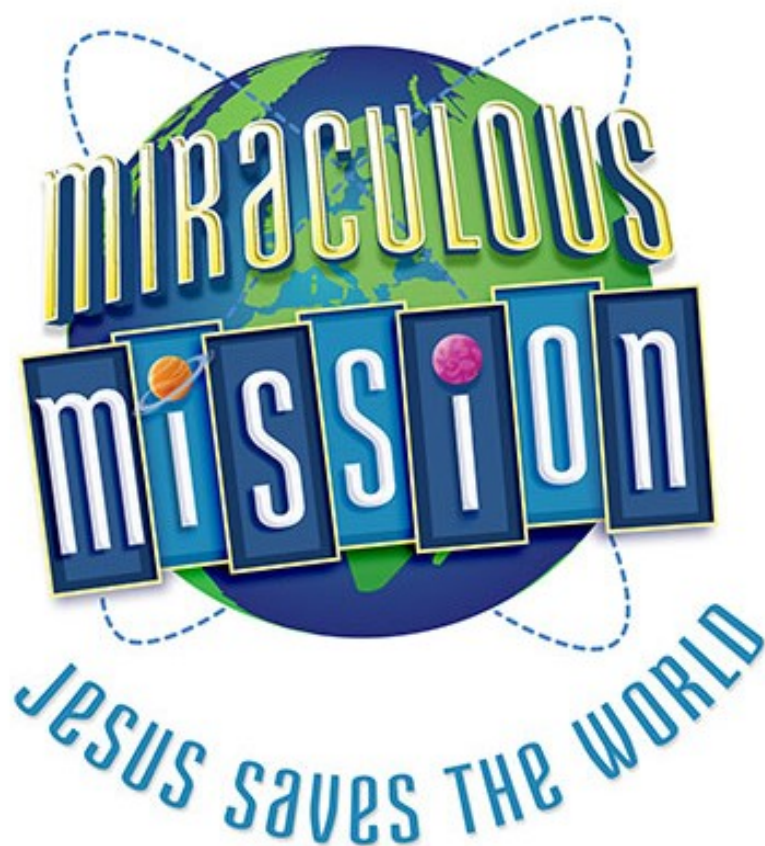
My first Sunday with you, I was struck that you each took enough time to "pass the peace" to everyone else. For investing so much in me, especially by passing that peace of Christ onto me these past four years, I will be forever grateful.

Your partner in the gospel,

Kyle Sorkness



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Vacation Bible School at St. Peter Lutheran Church
JOIN US ON A VBS OUTER SPACE ADVENTURE!

July 15th-19th

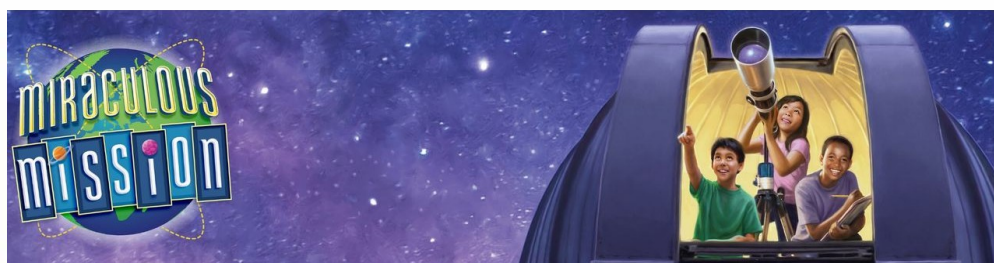
9-11:30 am

Grades Preschool through 4th grade

Located at St. Peter Lutheran Church

ON THE CORNER OF 579 AND 518

Hopewell Twp, NJ 08530 (609) 466-0939



UPCOMING READINGS IN JULY

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost <i>July 7, 2019</i>	2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalms 30	Galatians 6:1-16	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost <i>July 14, 2019</i>	Amos 7:7-17	Psalms 82	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost <i>July 21, 2019</i>	Amos 8:1-12	Psalms 52	Colossians 1:15-28	Luke 10:38-42
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost <i>July 28, 2019</i>	Hosea 1:2-10	Psalms 85	Colossians 2:6-19	Luke 11:1-13



UPCOMING READINGS IN AUGUST

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost <i>August 4, 2019</i>	Hosea 11:1-11	Psalm 107:1-9, 43	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost <i>August 11, 2019</i>	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20	Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>August 18, 2019</i>	Isaiah 5:1-7	Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost <i>August 25, 2019</i>	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17



BLAST FROM THE PAST



See anyone
you recognize?



Photos courtesy of Messiah archives

July 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30am Holy Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:30am Holy Communion	15	16	17 7:30pm Summer Book Discussion Group	18	19	20
21 9:30am Holy Communion	22	23	24	25 7pm Executive Board Meeting	26	27 9am Men's Forum
28 9:30am Holy Communion	29	30	31			

August 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:30am Holy Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30am Holy Communion	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:30am Holy Communion	19	20	21 7:30pm Summer Book Discussion Group	22	23	24
25 9:30am Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30	31 9am Men's Forum





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
