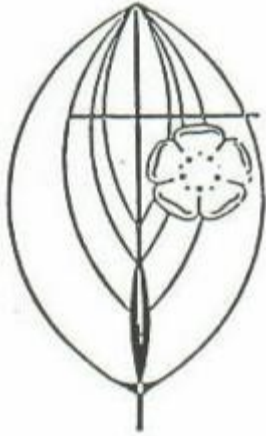


---

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

---



# *Messiah Messenger*

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

Email: [lcmaprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmaprinceton@gmail.com)

[www.princetonlutheranchurch.org](http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton)

---

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

---

### Giving Thanks in All Circumstances

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

I'm excited! I'm excited about Reformation Day, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas, about the beginning of a new liturgical year, about baptisms and new members joining our congregation, about opportunities to worship, learn, and enjoy one another's company. God has blessed us in so many ways, and holidays help us to remember and thank God for his good gifts.

Partly because of all the celebrating, holidays are not easy times for everyone. When things aren't going well, seeing everyone else happy can make us feel isolated and guilty for not being as cheerful and grateful as those around us. Especially in these circumstances, it is good to remember that we are not alone. Even the most apparently cheerful, put-together, well-adjusted people suffer and feel lonely, sad, and estranged. Christians are baptized into congregations, and not as independent believers, in part so that we'll realize that we all go through difficult times and can help one another through them. In congregations, we build the bonds of solidarity and kinship that mark us as Jesus' disciples, obeying his command in John 13:34 that we love one another.

Congregations provide those of us who are grieving with occasions to celebrate and give thanks in the midst of our distress. We don't need to be happy in order to participate. What we do together does not depend on how each of us is feeling at the moment, but allows us to step out of ourselves and join the spirit of the community, in whatever state we're in individually. We don't have to pretend everything is fine in order to worship, give thanks, or receive God's hope, peace, joy, and love from our Christian community. We're here for each other. We can and should share our burdens with trusted sisters and brothers in Christ, so that together we can bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).

*continued on the next page*

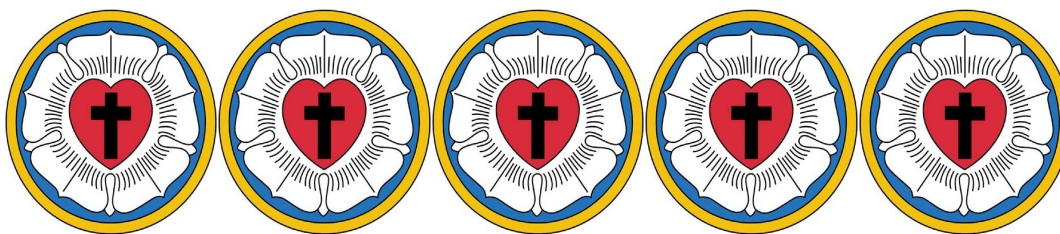
## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

Last week, we sang two hymns of praise and thanksgiving that were written in times of extreme hardship. The first was *Now Thank We All Our God* (LBW 533), which we sang on Sunday, October 13. Martin Rinkhart, a Lutheran pastor in the town of Eilenburg, near Leipzig in what is now Germany, wrote the hymn text in the midst of the carnage of the Thirty Years War in the early seventeenth century. Because Eilenburg was a walled city, people from out of town fled there for refuge, resulting in overcrowding, hunger, and disease. Pastor Rinkhart often conducted burial services for dozens of people a day. He eventually fell ill himself and lost his wife and two fellow pastors to disease. It was in these circumstances that Pastor Rinkhart offered God and the church his now classic hymn of thanksgiving.

The second hymn was *It Is Well* (LBW 346), one of Anne Bolick's requests for her memorial service on October 19. The first stanza reads, "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." The prosperous Chicago lawyer Horatio Spafford wrote these words following the death of his four daughters in a shipping collision in the Atlantic Ocean in November 1873. Spafford didn't pretend that all was well, but knew that even in the midst of terrible circumstances, the peace of God that surpasses all understanding was guarding his heart and his mind in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). Knowing that, he was able to write without irony, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

In this season of celebration and thanksgiving, our congregation is at once a community of hope and desperation, of peace and turmoil, of joy and sorrow, of love and loneliness. God has cobbled us together from many walks of life to join in celebration and lament, in thanksgiving and consolation, in praise and in prayer. He has not left us alone, but has made us members of Messiah to receive his gifts and to share them with one another and with his hurting world. In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, we can join in saying and singing, "Thanks be to God!"

Pastor Erhardt



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, November 3***All Saints Sunday***Thursday, November 7, 6:30 pm***LCM Table Talk***Saturday, November 9, 9 am***Fall Work Day***Thursday, November 14, 7 pm***Executive Board Meeting***Saturday, November 16, 3 pm***Gishlick Open House***Thursday, November 21 7:30 pm***Book Group***Saturday, November 23, 9 am***Men's Forum***Sunday, December 1***First Sunday of Advent***Thursday, December 5, 6:30 pm***LCM Table Talk***Sunday, December 8, 12:15 pm***Voters Meeting***Saturday, December 14, 5:30 pm***Advent Potluck with Christmas Carols***Saturday, December 21, 9 am***Men's Forum***Saturday, December 21, 7 pm***Live Nativity at Bethany, Ewing***Tuesday, December 24, 8pm***Christmas Eve Candlelit Service***Wednesday, December 25, 10:30 am***Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion***Thursday, January 9, 6:30 pm***LCM Table Talk***Thursday, January 16, 7 pm***Executive Board Meeting***Friday, January 17, 6 pm***International Student Dinner***Thursday, January 23, 7 pm***Book Group***Saturday, January 25, 9 am***Men's Forum*

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

### Fall Work Day at Messiah: Saturday, Nov. 9, 9:00am - 12:30pm



Come when you can and leave when you must. We'll have plenty of work to go around for people of all ages and abilities. Gardening volunteers, please bring gloves and tools. It's fun, lunch is provided, and your help is greatly appreciated!

### Join Messiah's book discussion group this fall and winter:

Thursday, Nov. 21: *The Samurai*, by Shusaku Endo

Thursday, Jan. 23: *God's Secretaries*, by Adam Nicolson



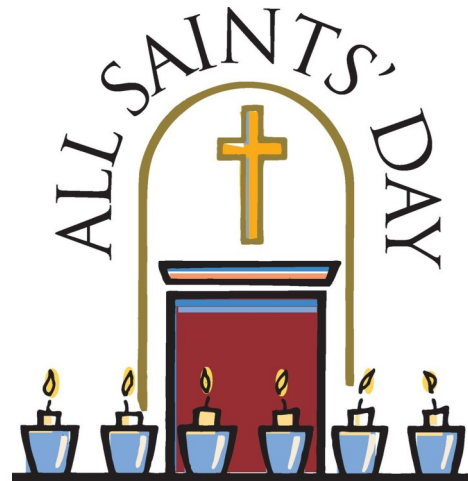
Discussions begin at 7:30pm at Messiah. Please obtain and read the book before each discussion, and come with your thoughts and questions. All are welcome, but space is limited, so if you'd like to participate for the first time, email [LCMprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:LCMprinceton@gmail.com) or call 609.924.3642 to reserve your place.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Sexuality, Integrity, and the University conference, Fri-Sat, Nov. 8-9:**

An annual conference at Princeton University, sponsored by the Love & Fidelity Network. Registration closes Nov. 1. Information is available at [loveandfidelity.org](http://loveandfidelity.org).



**On Sunday, Nov. 3, we will commemorate All Saints Day (Nov. 1).**



### **Open House at the Gishlicks: Saturday, Nov. 16, 3:00pm**

Enjoy food, fellowship, and the Gishlick Model Railroad Empire. BYOB. Sign up on the sheet on the back pew by November 10.

### **Congregational Voters Meeting: Sunday, Dec. 8, 12:15pm**

Please attend this important meeting, which will include a review of and outlook for Messiah's ministry, and at which members of the congregation will vote on a 2020 budget proposal.

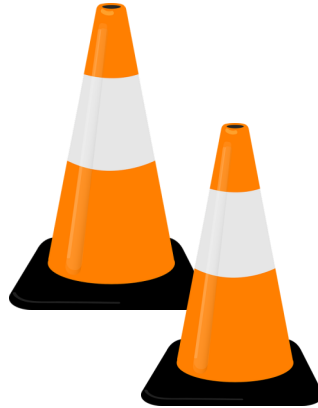
### **Advent Potluck and Christmas Caroling: Saturday, Dec. 14, 5:30 pm**

Bring a side dish and your favorite cookies or dessert to share.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Alexander Street closure:** From November 6, 2019, to approximately April 20, 2020, Alexander Street will be closed between Lawrence Drive in Princeton to Canal Pointe Boulevard in West Windsor. Please plan your route to church accordingly. More information is available at [tinyurl.com/y6pyh2e4](https://tinyurl.com/y6pyh2e4)



**The New Jersey Dept. of Motor Vehicles** has begun to issue driver's licenses that meet federal REAL ID standards. If you'd like to be able to use your NJ license as ID at airport security on or after Oct. 1, 2020, learn more at [realidnj.com](https://realidnj.com).

### Protect Messiah from the flu

Get your seasonal flu shot now, available at most pharmacies. In addition to protecting you, vaccines protect vulnerable people around you for whom infection could cause serious illness. The cost of the shot is covered by most health insurance plans. If you're paying out of pocket, the standard version of the shot is available at Costco for \$20, and their pharmacy is open to non-members.



The proceedings of the 2019 LCMS Convention are now available at [lcms.org/convention](https://lcms.org/convention)



**This is the annual open enrollment season** for Medicare (Oct. 15 – Dec. 7) and ACA marketplace individual health insurance plans (Nov. 1 – Dec. 15) when you can enroll or make changes for 2020. More information about Medicare is available at [www.medicare.gov/blog/get-ready-for-medicare-open-enrollment](https://www.medicare.gov/blog/get-ready-for-medicare-open-enrollment), and about ACA plans at [healthcare.gov](https://healthcare.gov)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The new year is good time to review your will and estate plan**, and if you'd like to update them, now is a good time to make an appointment with your lawyer or financial advisor. Leaving a bequest in a will is one way to make a long-term investment in Messiah's ministry. Another way is to designate Messiah as a beneficiary of a bank account, life insurance policy, or brokerage account. Designating Messiah as a beneficiary of an account or policy must be done with the company with whom you hold the account. It can usually be done at no cost and without a lawyer, and typically avoids the probate process and fees. If you'd like to learn more about how you can leave a financial legacy to Messiah, contact your lawyer or financial advisor, or the LCMS English District's Gift Planning Counselor, Ron Grimm, at 412.584.7039.

### **Tax Tip: Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA**

Federal law allows taxpayers who are at least age 70 ½ and owners of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to distribute money from an IRA directly to a charity of the owner's choice. This is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) and has the advantage of not counting as federally taxable income, but still counting toward a required minimum distribution. QCDs have been possible for many years, but in the past two years, with so many more people taking the standard deduction instead of itemizing, QCDs are advantageous for many more of us than they used to be, especially for owners of traditional (rather than Roth) IRAs. It's a way to reduce income without having to deduct it (because you never receive it -- it goes directly from your IRA account to the charity).

If you'd like to learn more about QCDs, talk with your IRA custodian (company) or financial advisor about how to proceed. You can find more information about the tax implications at:

<https://www.ira-help.com/slottreport/5-qcd-rules-you-must-know>

## OCTOBER 19TH INSTALLATION OF REV. ALFRED THIAGARAJAN



The Oct. 19 installation of the Rev. Alfred Thiagarajan as pastor of the the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Valley Stream, New York. In his capacity as Circuit Visitor of the New York Circuit of the LCMS English District, Pastor Erhardt installed Pastor Thiagarajan on behalf of English District Bishop Jamison Hardy.



Debbie Baer  
with ISI  
friends



International Students, Inc. (ISI) is a Christian ministry to international students and scholars supported by Messiah and many other congregations.





## SEPTEMBER 7TH FELLOWSHIP: MESSIAH BBQ!



Miranda, Ben, Cristel, and Pastor Martin ask each other why we don't do this every Saturday



Nat and Drew chat amicably while ensuring that no one gets past them in line.

BBQ



Werner and Barnabas to Hans: "I'll take the first one that's ready."



## SEPTEMBER 7TH FELLOWSHIP EVENT: MESSIAH BBQ!



Doris and Hank: "If this isn't heaven, it's certainly the next best thing."



Rachel and Beatrice exemplify their favorite fruit of the Spirit: Joy.



Julia: "Dad, I'm ready for solid food."



Louise and Rick: "This was definitely worth crossing the Delaware for."



## OCTOBER 20TH BAPTISM OF CARTER ZAK



**A joyful occasion and a full house, celebrated with the extended Zak and Rossi families.**

**Welcome to Messiah, Carter!**

## OCTOBER 27TH REFORMATION SERVICE AT HOLY TRINITY, LAWRENCEVILLE



**Liberian Praise Choir  
from Bethany, Ewing.**

Parishioners from at least seven LCMS congregations of the English, New Jersey, and Eastern Districts joined to celebrate the Lutheran Reformation of the Church.



## THANK YOU SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS



Rachel, Skye, and Miranda teach our children Bible, faith, and the love of God.

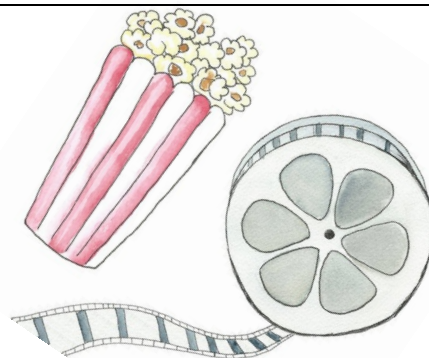
*Thank You*



## MESSIAH GOES TO THE MOVIES!

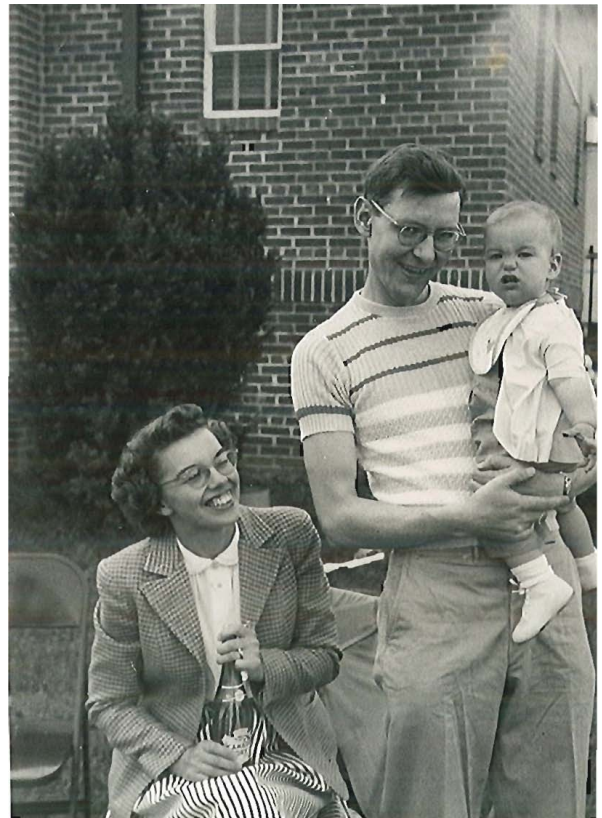


Join us!! For details, contact  
Debbie Baer





## BLAST FROM THE PAST



**SEE ANYONE YOU  
RECOGNIZE?**



*Photos courtesy of Messiah archives*

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
All Saints November 3, 2019	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18	Psalms 149	Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31
The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost November 10, 2018	Haggai 1:15b-2:9	Psalms 145:1-5, 17-21	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost November 17, 2019	Isaiah 65:17-25	Isaiah 12	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
Christ the King November 24, 2018	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Luke 1:68-79	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43





## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
The First Sunday in Advent December 1, 2019	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalms 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
The Second Sunday in Advent December 8, 2019	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
The Third Sunday in Advent December 15, 2019	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalms 146:5-10	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 22, 2019	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25
Christmas Eve December 24, 2019	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day December 25, 2019	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
The First Sunday after Christmas Day December 29, 2019	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalms 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23



## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday of Christmas January 5, 2020	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:10-18
Epiphany of Our Lord January 12, 2020	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 19, 2020	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalms 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 26, 2020	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalms 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23



# November 2019



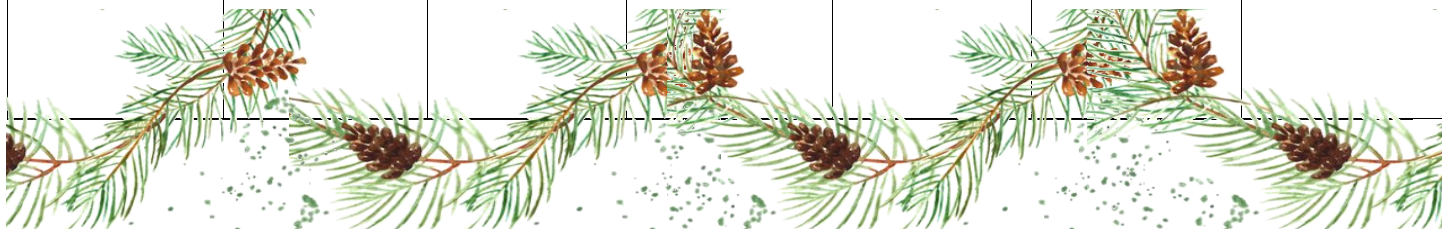
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	4	5	6 Alexander Road Bridge Closes 7:30 pm Choir	7 6:30 pm LCM Table Talk	8	9 9am Fall Work Day
10 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	11	12	13 7:30 pm Choir	14 7pm Executive Board Meeting	15	16 3pm Gishlick Open House
17 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	18	19	20 7:30 pm Choir	21 7:30pm Book Group	22	23 9am Men's Forum
24 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	25	26	27 7:30 pm Choir	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30



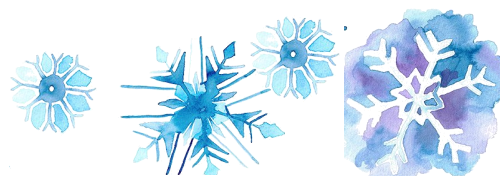
# December 2019



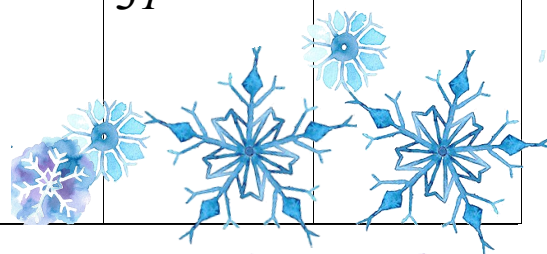
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Choir	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm LCM Table Talk	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion and Sunday School Program 12:15 Voters Mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Advent Potluck with Carols
<b>15</b> 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9am Men's Forum 7pm Live Nativity at Bethany, Ewing
<b>22</b> 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 8pm Christmas Eve Candlelight	<b>25</b> 10:30am Christmas Day Holy Communion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:30am Holy Communion	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



# January 2019



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







THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE MESSIAH

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: 609-924-3642  
[lcmprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmprinceton@gmail.com)  
[www.princetonlutheranchurch.org](http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org)

---

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

---

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry, but it means it's not on file. Help update our data...  
Call (609) 924-3642 or email the church office at [lcmherald@gmail.com](mailto:lcmherald@gmail.com)

---