

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

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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

ALLY PEXA
OFFICE ASSISTANT

Midwinter Joy

What a delightful winter we're having at Messiah! The hope, joy, peace, and love of Christ have carried over from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany and permeate our congregational life. Our sanctuary and worship services are full of light emanating from Jesus – recognized by wise men as a king, by a voice from heaven as God's beloved Son, by John the Baptist as the Lamb of God, by the apostle Andrew as the Messiah, by the apostle Paul as our Savior from sin, death, guilt, and shame, and by Simeon and Anna as a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel.

The book group and Men's Forum are back in session, the choir has had their Christmas rest and is back in the saddle, people are home from holiday travel, *The Screwtape Letters* is generating spirited discussion in the Adult Forum, our Sunday School children are growing in faith, hope, and love, our faithful Temple Servants and financial donors inspire and support us with their generosity, more people are finding us online and making Messiah their church home, and we look forward to welcoming as many as nine new members on Transfiguration Sunday (Feb. 23)!

joy

continued on the next page

The symbol in the upper left corner expresses by means of candle and messianic rose the worship of the Messiah and the Truth of Christ. The cross signifies His central deed and the five crosses in the rose the sacred wounds.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK CONTINUED

The Lord has blessed us. Despite the ever-present challenges, it is a joy and privilege to be an embassy of God's kingdom and ambassadors for Christ here in central New Jersey. God has commissioned us to carry to our neighbors the light and warmth of His love. Having received God's love ourselves, the Holy Spirit kindles in us love for our neighbors and ourselves, despite our flaws and failings. How good it is to be able to tell people that because God has justified our existence, we don't have to. What a gift it is to be able to say, "It's good to see you" as a matter of fact rather than based on our fickle emotions or on how well they've behaved. As churches in our region become increasingly confused about their mission, their priorities, and the truth, we at Messiah are committed to offering our community a steady and nourishing diet of Word and Sacrament, of Law and Gospel, of conviction and community. Refreshed by God's grace, brimming with God's love, and confident that God's gift of life is a good gift even in hard times, we can change people's midwinter from bleak to joyful, from lonely to convivial, from cynical to hopeful. Rejoice with me! Emmanuel has come to us as one of us, and we are His!

Pastor Erhardt



Visit our website to listen to audio recordings of Sunday Sermons.

<http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org/services.html>

CHURCH CALENDAR

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, February 26

7:00 PM Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes

Subsequent Wednesdays in Lent

March 4 - April 1:

6:00 PM Soup and Salad Supper
7:00 PM Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY TABLE TALKS

February 6: Loving Our Neighbors:
Navigating Gender Identities and
Language

**Upcoming Table Talks: Mar. 5,
Apr. 2, & Apr. 30**

All discussions are scheduled for
Thursdays 6:30 - 8 :00 pm in Room
210 of Murray-Dodge Hall,
Princeton University.

Dinner is included.

After 5:00 pm on weekdays, free
parking is available in the university
lot on William St., between
Washington Rd. and Charlton St.
All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 6, 6:30 pm

*LCM Table Talk: Loving Our
Neighbors: Navigating Gender
Identities and Language*



Saturday, February 15, 10 am

Museum visits in Trenton (see p. 4)



Friday, February 21, 6pm

International Student Dinner



Sunday, February 23, in worship

*Receive and celebrate new members
with a festive fellowship hour*



Wednesday, February 26, 7 pm

*Ash Wednesday
Service of Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes*



Thursday, February 27, 7:30 pm

*Book Group: The Book of Lights,
by Chaim Potok*



Saturday, February 29, 9 am

Men's Forum at Wegmans



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN SOUP AND SALAD HOSTS NEEDED

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (this year, February 26) and we're planning a 6:00 PM soup & salad supper on each of these Lenten Wednesdays: March 4, 11, 18, & 25 and April 1 (no supper on Ash Wednesday). If you are able to host a Wednesday supper, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the nave. Hosts bring enough soup, salad, and bread to feed 20–30 people. We encourage



volunteers to team up and work together. Food costs can be reimbursed (submit receipts). Paper goods, butter, and beverages will be provided. We could also use volunteers to help the hosts set tables before each supper and clean up afterward (mainly washing dishes). If you can help with set up or clean up, please contact the church office.

Do you bake bread?

Do you bake bread? It's a long-standing tradition at Messiah that the Communion bread is baked by members of the congregation. That's one of the reasons it's brought up as part of the offering in our worship services. If you'd like to help, take a small piece of dough from your whole bowl and form it into a little loaf for the congregation. If you'd like to volunteer, call Carolyn Gishlick (phone number in the church directory). Thanks for considering this!



February Fellowship Event

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 Visit museums with Messiah! On Saturday, Feb. 15, we will visit two museums in Trenton, with an optional brewery tour to follow. Feel free to participate in some or all of the day's events. We will meet at 10am at the Old Barracks Museum at 101 Barrack St. in Trenton. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and children age 6 or older, and free for kids under 6. We'll take a tour and be there until about 11:15, then head over to the New Jersey State Museum to see a photo exhibit on the New Jersey Pinelands. Around noon, anyone who wants to may proceed to the River Horse brewery at 2 Graphics Drive in Ewing Township for lunch (they don't sell food, but we can bring our own) before taking a 1pm brewery tour (\$6). Children are allowed in the brewery and on the tour. If you plan to attend, please tell Pastor Erhardt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEARING FRUIT BEYOND OUR LIFETIME

Would you like the work you do to bear fruit beyond your lifetime? I would, and in Messiah I have some examples to imitate. Over the past two years, Messiah has been blessed with generous gifts from the estates of Martha Peck and Kristina Reuter. The work and saving Martha and Kristina did in their lifetimes are furthering the cause of the Gospel in central New Jersey well beyond their lifetimes.

We can be good stewards of our resources by designating that they be used for God's glory and our neighbors' good once we have joined the Church Triumphant and no longer need them. But they will still be of value to those who continue their labors on earth. Careful estate planning is a great way to do great good well beyond our lifetime. If you don't have a will or an estate plan, speak with Pastor Erhardt about how to get started. If you do have an estate plan, consider including Messiah in it. We are a vital source of spiritual nourishment, faithful teaching, compassion, forgiveness, encouragement, and fellowship in our increasingly secular, confused, and anxious age.

One great way to benefit Messiah is to designate it as the beneficiary of a bank account, life insurance policy, or brokerage account. Do this – while you are alive! – 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 and its ministry, contact your lawyer or financial advisor, or the LCMS English District's Gift Planning Counselor, Ron Grimm, at 412.584.7039.

If you'd like to set up a recurring payment for your contributions to Messiah, most banks allow you to do that through their online bill payment service, either electronically via ACH transfer or by automatically sending a paper check. Check with your bank for details.

Messiah's Executive Board is considering increasing the number of ways people can make contributions, e.g. via text message, phone app, or the church website. If you would prefer to use these rather than existing methods, please tell our Financial Secretary, Nat Tabris, or Pastor Erhardt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**TAX TIP: QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM AN IRA**

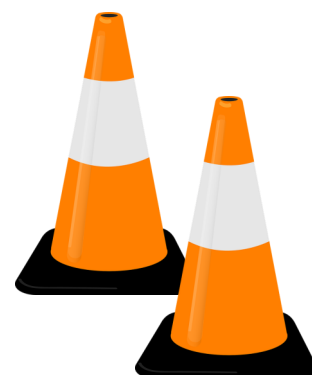
Federal law allows taxpayers who are at least age 70 ½ and owners of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to distribute money from an IRA directly to a charity of the owner's choice. This is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) and has the advantage of not counting as federally taxable income, 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.irahelp.com/slottreport/5-qcd-rules-you-must-know>

Beginning in 2019, the State of New Jersey began penalizing residents without health insurance. If you don't have health insurance but are exempt from the State's mandate, claim your exemption at <https://nj.gov/treasury/njhealthinsurancemandate/index.shtml> before completing your 2019 NJ tax return.

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.



FALL WORK DAY: NOV. 9, 2019



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED!

FALL WORK DAY: NOV. 9, 2019



PASTOR ERHARDT'S BIRTHDAY



ON NOVEMBER 17TH, LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH
CELEBRATED PASTOR ERHARDT'S BIRTHDAY!



MOVIE NIGHT

Thank you to all who
joined us to see
Mr. Rogers!

Keep your eye out for
details about the next
movie night.



ADVENT POTLUCK 2019



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 2019



CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



EPIPHANY 2020



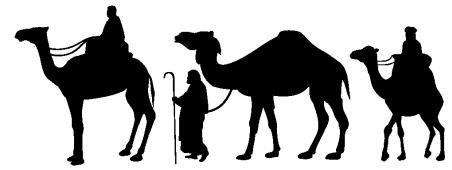
THANK YOU TO
PASTOR
ERHARDT AND
THE CHILDREN

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
The Presentation of Our Lord Feb. 2, 2020	Malachi 3:1-4	Psalms 24:7-10	Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Feb. 9, 2020	Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalms 112:1-10	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Feb. 16, 2020	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalms 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Transfiguration Sunday Feb. 23, 2020	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalms 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9



February 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	3	4	5 7:30pm Choir	6 6:30pm LCM Table Talk	7	8
9 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	10	11	12 7:30pm Choir	13	14	15 10 am Trenton Museum Visit
16 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	17	18	19 7:30pm Choir	20	21 6pm International Student Dinner	22
23 Welcome New Members 9am Education 10:30am Holy Communion	24	25	26 7pm Holy Communion with Ashes Ash Wednesday	27 7:30pm Book Group	28	29 9am Men's Forum



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OF THE MESSIAH

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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
