
NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What's the Good of Being Christian?

I can tell when I've walked into a confused church when, on Easter Sunday, the pastor proclaims, "The resurrection of Jesus points us to something greater!" "Like what?", I wonder.

These last two months, the Adult Forum has been reading *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis. First published in England in 1942, during the Second World War, *The Screwtape Letters* is a series of letters Lewis imagines a senior devil, Screwtape, writing to a junior devil, Wormwood, advising him on how to ruin a person's soul. Lewis uses this literary device to reveal the subtle ways in which the devil and his minions tempt, distract, and confuse us.

In one letter, Screwtape writes to Wormwood, "I had not forgotten my promise to consider whether we should make the patient an extreme patriot or an extreme pacifist. ... Whichever he adopts, your main task will be the same. Let him begin by treating the Patriotism or the Pacifism as a part of his religion. Then let him, under the influence of partisan spirit, come to regard it as the most important part. Then quietly and gradually nurse him on to the stage at which the religion becomes merely part of the 'cause', in which Christianity is valued chiefly because of the excellent arguments it can produce in favour of the British war-effort or of Pacifism. ... Once you have made the World an end, and faith a means, you have almost won your man, and it makes very little difference what kind of worldly end he is pursuing. Provided that meetings, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes, and crusades, matter more to him than prayers and sacraments and charity, he is ours – and the more 'religious' (on those terms) the more securely ours. I could show you a pretty cageful down here."

These are the words of a professional tempter. It's easy for us to fall into the trap of treating Christian faith and faithfulness as means to a higher end, when in fact they are the ends that give meaning and value to all others. When we begin thinking of our faith as a stepping stone to higher things – patriotism, pacifism, social justice, happiness, hygge, economic growth, safety, climate control, biodiversity, simplicity, efficiency, literacy, or longevity – we've fallen into that trap. Screwtape would be delighted. None of those things is bad *per se*. Many of them are highly desirable, difficult to attain, and worthy of our effort. But they are goods subordinate to our living in humble, joyful obedience and gratitude to God.

(continued on next page)

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

...continued

If you know people, churchgoing or not, who have been misled about this, invite them to Messiah. We have good, paradigm-shifting news to share with them! And we need constant reminders ourselves. In this season of Lent, we are especially conscious of our fallibility and sin, and therefore even more grateful to God for taking our sin on himself in Jesus Christ. God frees us to live as good gifts to our neighbors. God's sacrificial love for us increases our elation at Easter as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, in which we now share through Baptism. There is no better news or higher end.

Pastor Erhardt

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesdays in Lent

March 4—April 1

6:00 PM Soup and Salad Supper

7:00 PM Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

7:45 PM Choir

Hearty thanks to our Lenten soup & salad supper hosts:

March 4: Debbie Baer

March 11: Carolyn Gishlick
and Pat Hlafter

March 18: Rachel Tabris

March 25: Laura Bennett

April 1: The Boedecker Family

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 5, 6:30 pm

LCM Table Talk



Saturday, March 7, 1:00 pm

Messiah Goes Ice Skating (see pg. 4)



Thursday, March 12, 7 pm

Executive Board Meeting



Thursday, March 19, 7:30 pm

Book Group



Friday, March 27, 6 pm

International Student Dinner



Saturday, March 28, 9 am

Men's Forum at McCaffrey's



Thursday, April 2, 6:30 pm

LCM Table Talk



Thursday, April 9, 8 pm

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion



Friday, April 10, 8 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae



continued on the next page

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

Sunday, April 12

Easter Sunday

9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt

*10:00 am Festival Service of
Holy Communion*

Note the 10 am service time

Friday, April 17, 6 pm

International Student Dinner

Thursday, April 23, 7:30 pm

Book Group

Saturday, April 25, 9 am

Men's Forum at McCaffrey's

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 pm

LCM Table Talk



UPCOMING ADULT FORUM

Join us for Adult Forum on Sunday mornings at 9:00am on the top floor of the parish building! Our current topic is:

March 1-April 5: Thy Will Be Done
(Lenten Bible Study by Carol Geisler)

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY TABLE TALKS

Upcoming
Lutheran Campus Ministry
Monthly Dinner Discussions

Thursday, March 5

What do we mean by 'grace'?

Led by Pastor Erhardt

Thursday, April 2

Facing Our Heroes' Flaws

Thursday, April 30

Jesus' Descent into Hell in the Apostles' Creed



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 lots
on William St., between Washington Rd.
and Charlton St.

All are welcome!

Please join us and invite friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Join us for a monthly book discussion led by Pastor Erhardt!

Thursday, March 19: *Conversion: A Spiritual Journey*, by Malcolm Muggeridge.

Thursday, April 23: *A Judge Dee* mystery by Robert van Gulik

Discussions begin at 7:30 PM at Messiah. Please obtain and read the book before each discussion, and come with your thoughts and questions. Invite friends! This is a way for Messiah to serve our bookish community and for us to introduce people to Messiah who might not come otherwise.

MESSIAH GOES ICE SKATING

When: Saturday, March 7, 1:00-3:30pm

Where: Skating Center in Mercer County Park

Entrance fee: \$6-8; Skate rental: \$4/pair

The Boedeckers have graciously offered to pay the entrance fee for the first 10 people who RSVP! Skate rental will be the responsibility of those who need skates. RSVP to Debbie Baer by email (address in the directory).

Meet at the ticket booth at 12:45pm or join us when you can. Please feel free to come and not skate. Refreshments like hot chocolate, hot pretzels, cold drinks and other snacks are available in the lodge area where there is a large fireplace.

RECYCLING NEWS

The Mercer County Improvement Authority is now strictly enforcing recycling contamination violations, tagging and rejecting recycling bins contaminated with non-recyclable items. Lists of acceptable items are posted on or near Messiah's indoor recycling bins. Please only put an item in recycling if you are sure it meets Mercer County standards – the presence of a recycling symbol on the item is not enough. If in doubt about how to dispose of a non-toxic item, throw it in the trash. It is better to throw away a recyclable item than to contaminate the recycling with trash.

SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE!



Julia Majsztrik's
first birthday!



SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE: THE BAPTISM OF NANCY LU ON TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE: WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ON TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY



Welcome Ben, Cristel,
Barnabas, Drew, Nancy,
Charles, Vanessa, and Tom!



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH

LENT YEAR A	FIRST LESSON	PSALM	SECOND LESSON	GOSPEL LESSON
The First Sunday in Lent March 1, 2020	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalms 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
The Second Sunday in Lent March 8, 2020	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalms 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
The First Sunday in Lent March 15, 2020	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalms 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 22, 2020	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalms 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 29, 2020	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalms 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR APRIL

LENT				
HOLY WEEK				
EASTER	FIRST LESSON	PSALM	SECOND LESSON	GOSPEL LESSON
YEAR A				
Palm Sunday April 5, 2020	Zechariah 9:9-12	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11
Maundy Thursday April 9, 2020	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19, 31b-35	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17
Good Friday April 10, 2020	Tenebrae Readings The Passion According to Matthew			
Easter Sunday April 12, 2020	Jeremiah 31:1-6		Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 28:1-10
The Second Sunday of Easter April 19, 2019	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalms 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
The Third Sunday of Easter April 26, 2019	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35



March 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	5 6:30pm LCM Table Talk	6	7
8 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	9	10	11 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	12 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting	13	14
15 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	16	17	18 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	19 7:30pm Book Group	20	21
22 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	23	24	25 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	26	27 6pm International Student Dinner	28 9am Men's Forum
29 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	30	31				

April 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir	<i>2</i> 6:30pm LCM Table Talk	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> Palm Sunday 9am Christian Ed 10:30am Holy Communion	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7:30pm Choir	<i>9</i> Maundy Thursday 8pm Holy Communion	<i>10</i> Good Friday 8pm Tenebrae	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> Easter Sunday 9:15am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Holy Communion	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 7:30pm Choir	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 6pm International Student Dinner	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 7:30pm Choir	<i>23</i> 7:30pm Book Group	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9am Men's Forum
<i>26</i> 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 7:30pm Choir	<i>30</i> 6:30pm LCM Table Talk		



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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

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

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
