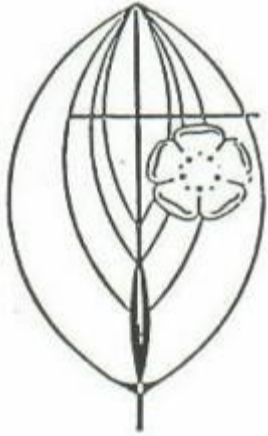

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane
Email: lcmaprinceton@gmail.com
www.princetonlutheranchurch.org
www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

Be still and know that I am God.

Reformation, Halloween, All Saints, time change, general election, Thanksgiving, travel, social events and family reunions, new liturgical year, Advent, Christmas, new calendar year, Epiphany. This is always a busy season, and with Covid added to the mix and frustrating many of our plans, it can seem overwhelming. With all we have to think about, let's take time to remember and heed God's word in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." One possible silver lining of Covid is that, having cut back our travel and social plans, it may provide us with more time to be still and thank God that he is our God and we are his people.

Through change and uncertainty, God remains with us. Knowing that we, clothed in his own righteousness, are in his good and capable hands gives us peace. His love for us is steadfast, and his plans for us are good. We have a lot on our plates at the moment, but not too much for God. "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress" (Psalm 46:11). Thanks be to God!

Pastor Erhardt



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.

CELEBRATING ADVENT TOGETHER: MESSIAH'S JESSE TREE

Because we may not be all gathering together as we are accustomed to during the Advent and Christmas season, we invite you to join us in decorating Jesse Trees at home while we decorate the tree at Messiah. We hope this shared experience will bring us together in celebration, even if we are not all together physically.

Jesse Trees have their roots in Medieval paintings, sculptures, and carvings which portray Jesse, King David's father, sleeping with a tree growing out of his side, bearing images of Christ's ancestors. These images were based on a prophecy in the Book of Isaiah describing a new branch growing from the stump of Jesse, taken to refer to Jesus Christ.

1 A shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what ears hear;
4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

-Isaiah 11:1-5 (NRSV)



This idea has been adapted more recently to tell the story of the Bible from Creation to the Nativity as part of the observance of Advent. For 25 days, beginning on December 1, an ornament representing a Bible story leading up to the advent of Jesus Christ is hung on a special Jesse Tree, on a regular Christmas tree, or even on a drawing or poster of a tree. The corresponding Bible passage is read, along with a devotion that day.

In November, Messiah will send each member household a set of 25 Jesse Tree Ornaments. Starting on December 1, Pastor Erhardt will present a daily devotion which you can access online as you place an ornament on your tree each day. At the same time, Messiah's Christmas tree will be decorated day-by-day with large versions of the same ornaments you receive. The tree decoration will culminate on Christmas Day with the final ornament, showing the birth of Christ.

We hope this will be a meaningful way to celebrate this miraculous season together.

-Miranda

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 1*All Saints Day***Thursday, December 24, 8pm***Candlelight Service***Sunday, November 1, 11:15am***Architecture Tour***Friday, December 25, 10:30am***Holy Communion***Saturday, November 7, 10am***Outdoor Worship***Saturday, January 30, 9 am***Men's Forum***Thursday, November 12, 7:30pm***Community Book Group***Adult Forum** meets online at 4:30pm on Tuesdays.

Current series (Nov. 3 – Dec. 8):

*Living as Mortals: Things We Wonder about
Death and Dying***Tuesday, November 17, 7 pm***Executive Board Meeting***Saturday, November 21, 9 am***Men's Forum*We'll use the September 2020 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* to guide our discussion. Paper copies will be available on the back pew on Nov. 1. You can use the online edition at:<https://cloud.3dissue.com/1757/2638/5633/2020-September/index.html>**Sunday, November 29***First Sunday of Advent***Thursday, December 3, 7:30 pm***Community Book Group*

December 15: Single Session

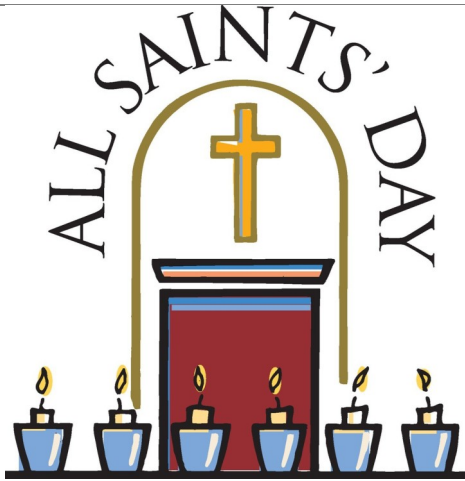
*The Hymns of Martin Franzmann***Saturday, December 19, 9 am***Men's Forum*

Please join us! To participate, contact Pastor for a more detailed schedule and online connection information.

Community Book GroupThursday, Nov. 12: *A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf*, by John MuirThursday, Dec. 3: *Conversations with Flannery O'Connor*, edited by Rosemary Magee

Discussions begin at 7:30pm via Zoom until we can resume meeting in person. Please obtain and read the book before each discussion, and email Pastor Erhardt for a Zoom invitation. Invite friends! This is a way for Messiah to serve our bookish community and for us to introduce people to Messiah who might not participate otherwise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



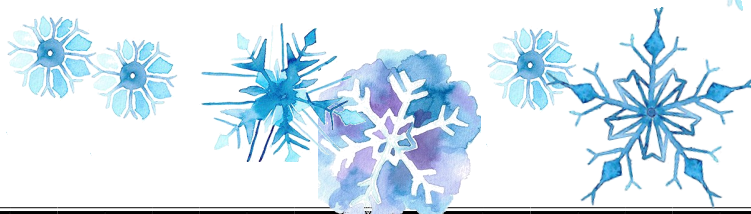
Sunday, Nov. 1 is All Saints Day

An update to the Messiah pictorial directory will be printed in November.

Please check, update, and initial your directory information on the draft on the clipboard in the back of the nave by Sunday, Nov. 15.

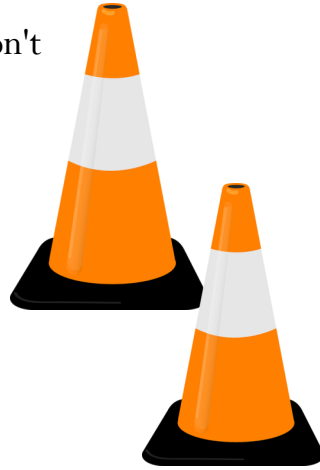
2021 Liturgical Calendars: In November, Messiah will place its annual order for color-coded liturgical wall calendars for the coming year. If you'd like one, please email the church office with the number you'd like and pay Pastor Erhardt \$5.00 per calendar (cash or check) by Sunday, Nov. 15. Checks should be payable to the Lutheran Church of the Messiah.

Advent Calendars: Several designs and sizes are available, good for gifts, greeting cards, and for use at home. Please use the order form on the back pew and give cash or check payment to Miranda Hempel by Sunday, November 8. Checks should be payable to the Lutheran Church of the Messiah. If you can't be at church to order, contact Miranda directly using her contact information in the directory and mail your payment to the church office. Calendars may be picked up at church on Sunday, Nov. 22.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since 2019, the State of New Jersey has penalized 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 2020 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, 2021, learn more at 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.



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 2021. More information about Medicare is available at www.medicare.gov/blog/medicare-open-enrollment-get-ready, and about ACA plans at 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, take a Generosity Plans brochure from the back pew, and contact your lawyer, 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 three 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>

Nominations Sought for English District Convention Delegate

The triennial convention of our English District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod will be held June 17-19, 2021, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Messiah may send one pastoral delegate and one lay delegate to the convention. Accommodation and most meals will be provided at no cost to delegates, and airfare to and from the convention will be covered. To nominate yourself or another member of the congregation for the lay delegate position, please submit the name(s) in writing (email is fine) to Pastor Erhardt by Wednesday, Nov. 18. If you'd like to nominate a member other than yourself, be sure to obtain their approval before submitting their name(s).



OUTDOOR WORSHIP, PICNIC, AND SCAVENGER HUNT: SEPT. 12, 2020



SCAVENGER HUNT & SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PICNICING



MONMOUTH BATTLEFIELD TOUR: OCT. 4, 2020



Peter breaks out of
the hospital.

Welcome home,
Peter!



BLAST FROM THE PAST



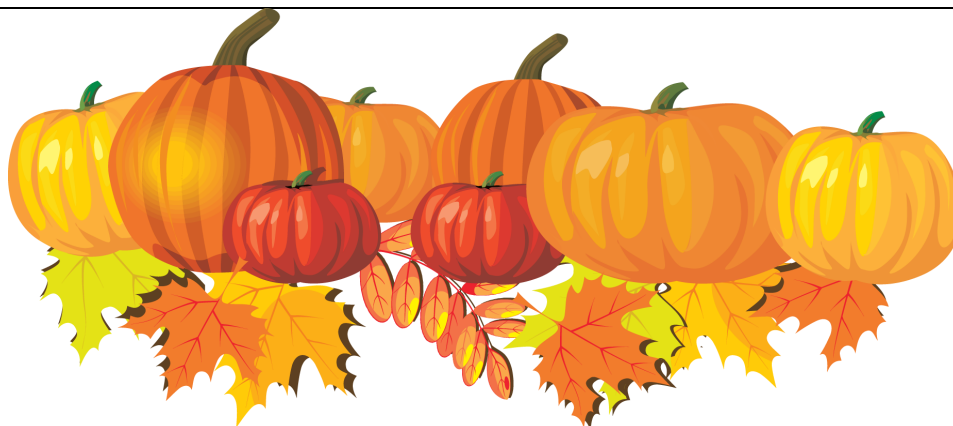
**SEE ANYONE YOU
RECOGNIZE?**



Photos courtesy of Messiah archives

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR NOVEMBER

FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
All Saints November 1, 2020	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17	1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12
The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost November 8, 2020	Joshua 24:1-28	Psalms 78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 15, 2020	Judges 4:1-7	Psalms 123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30
Christ the King November 22, 2020	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalms 100	Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46
Last Sunday of Lectionary Year A			
The First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37
First Sunday of Lectionary Year B			



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER

YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
The Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
The Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2022	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalms 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:46b-55	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Christmas Eve December 24, 2020	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalms 96	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day December 25, 2020	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
The First Sunday after Christmas Day December 27, 2020	Isaiah 61:10—62:3	Psalms 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY

YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday of Christmas January 3, 2021	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:10-18
Baptism of Our Lord January 10, 2021	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalms 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
Second Sunday after Epiphany January 17, 2021	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
Third Sunday after Epiphany January 24, 2021	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalms 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany January 31, 2021	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalms 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28



November 2020

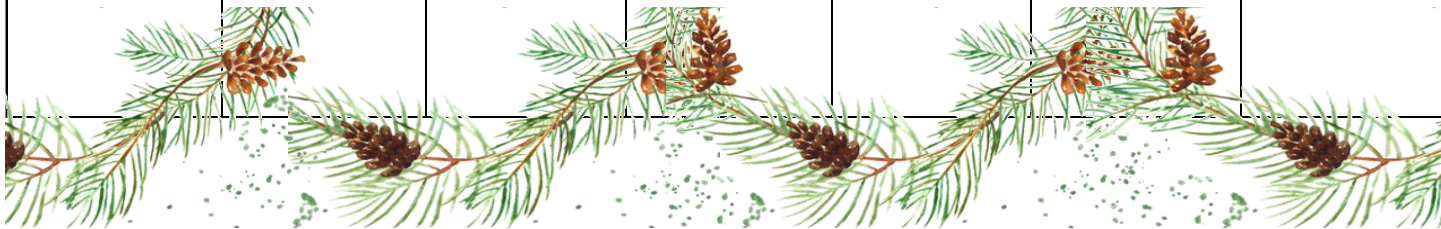


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>All Saints Day</i> 9:30am Holy Communion <i>Architecture Tour</i> 11:15am	2	3 4:30 Adult Forum	4	5	6	7 10am Outdoor Worship
8 9:30am Holy Communion	9	10 4:30 Adult Forum	11	12 7:30 pm Book Group	13	14
15 9:30am Holy Communion	16	17 4:30 Adult Forum 7pm Executive Board Meeting	18	19	20	21 9am Men's Forum
22 9:30am Holy Communion	23	24 4:30 Adult Forum	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 9:30am Holy Communion	30 					

December 2020



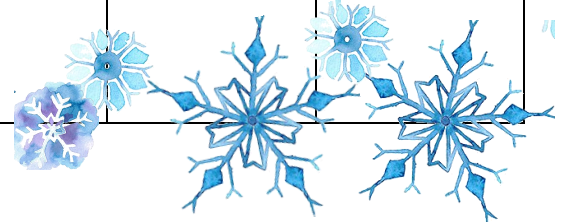
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:30 Adult Forum	4	3 7:30 pm Book Group	4	5
6 9:30am Holy Communion	7	8 4:30 Adult Forum	9	10	11	12
13 9:30am Holy Communion	14	15 4:30 Adult Forum	16	17	18	19 9am Men's Forum
20 9:30am Holy Communion	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 8pm Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day 10:30am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



January 2021



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





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

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lcmprinceton@gmail.com
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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

.HAPPY.
Birthday
★ ★ ★

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
