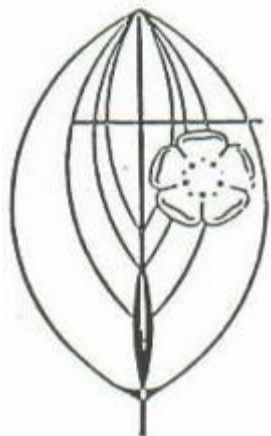


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

Email: lcmaprinceton@gmail.com

www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christ is Risen!

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

It felt like we would never get there, but it's Easter at last! And spring! And while Covid remains a concern, we're much better off now than we have been since the epidemic started. And each day, we have a little more daylight. We have much for which to thank God.

There has never been a time without trouble, and our time is no exception. But Jesus' resurrection changes our perspective on trouble from despair to hope, from frustration to perseverance, and from fear to confidence in God's care and victory. In the words of Henry Hart Milman that we sang on Palm Sunday, "O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin o'er captive death and conquered sin." Baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, we share in his victory.

Emboldened by the signs of life around us, Messiah is getting together outdoors to frolic among them. Check out our outdoor fellowship events scheduled for May 8 (sheep shearing and herding demonstrations at Howell Living History Farm) and June 19 (wildlife watching kayak tour of the Meadowlands) on the following pages of this newsletter. Outdoor worship services continue monthly on Saturdays at 10am on May 8, June 19, July 10, and August 7. Sunday morning worship indoors begins at 10am through the end of May, and at 9:30am in June, July, and August. Gradually, things are moving in the direction of normal! And as they do, whatever bumps or craters we may encounter on the way, we take comfort and courage in our fellowship in the body of Christ, and in our Good Shepherd's constant care for us.

In Him who, even at the tomb of Lazarus, is the resurrection and the life
(John 11:17-27),

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

AN ENCOURAGING WORD ABOUT POST-VACCINATION CASES OF COVID

Thank you for being so diligent and conscientious in getting vaccinated against Covid! All New Jersey residents aged 16 and over are now eligible for vaccination. No environment is entirely risk-free, and some people will get Covid in spite of being vaccinated. To put that risk in perspective, as of April 20, of the more than 87 million people in the US who had been vaccinated against Covid, the CDC had received 7,157 reports of cases of breakthrough (post-vaccination) infection (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/health-departments/breakthrough-cases.html>). That's 0.008% (eight thousandths of one percent) of the vaccinated population. Of those infections, nearly a third (31%) produced no symptoms. Among the vaccinated people with breakthrough cases, there were 88 deaths, which translates into a roughly one in a million likelihood of dying from Covid after being vaccinated. The likelihood of being hospitalized for Covid after vaccination was similarly low -- about four in a million.

So even though those cases are real, the news for vaccinated people is overwhelmingly good: in addition to being at dramatically lower risk of getting and transmitting Covid, we are also at dramatically lower risk of getting seriously ill even if we do test positive for the Covid-causing virus. Like measles, Covid is probably going to be with us for awhile, but we're blessed with highly effective vaccines and high vaccination rates that minimize the threat. Fortunately, the risk to children is relatively low. Please pray that a safe and effective vaccine for people under 16 will be made available soon, and be sure to get vaccinated yourself. If you have questions about Covid vaccines, feel free to ask me.

Confident in God's care for us,

Pastor Erhardt

ADULT FORUM



Adult Forum meets on Tuesdays at 4:30pm.

Current series (May 4-18): *How We Speak of Human Sexuality in Church, State, and Society*

This will be the last Adult Forum series until we resume in September.

CHURCH CALENDAR & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHEEP SHEARING & HERDING DEMONSTRATION

Where: Howell Living History Farm, 70 Woodens Lane, Hopewell Twp, NJ 08530

When: Saturday, May 8 -- we'll go over together after the 10am outdoor worship service at Messiah, weather permitting, or you can meet us there

Cost: None. There is an optional children's craft program, for which there is a \$3 materials fee.

For more information: howellfarm.org/sheep-shearing

Sign up on the sheet on the back pew or email Pastor to let him know you'd like to attend.

MEADOWLANDS KAYAK TRIP

Where: The Paddling Center at Laurel Hill Park, 1005 New County Road, Secaucus, NJ 07094

When: Saturday, June 19, 1-3pm -- we'll go up to Secaucus after the 10am outdoor worship service at Messiah, weather permitting, or you can meet us there.

Cost: \$30 per person; \$15 if you bring your own kayak; Pay on the day, but **don't be a no-show -- if you can't come, notify Pastor ASAP so someone else can go instead.**

Sign up on the sheet on the back pew or email Pastor to let him know you'd like to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 8, 10 am

Outdoor Worship

Calendar



Saturday, May 8, after worship

Sheep Shearing

Calendar



Thursday, May 13, 7:30 pm

Community Book Group

Calendar



Sunday, May 16, 11:30 am

Voter's Meeting

Calendar



Thursday, May 20, 7 pm

Executive Board

Calendar



Saturday, May 22, 9 am

Men's Forum

Calendar



Thursday, June 17, 7:30 pm

Community Book Group

Calendar



Saturday, June 19, 10 am

Outdoor Worship Service

Calendar



Saturday, June 19, 1 pm

Meadowlands Kayak Trip

Calendar



Saturday, June 26, 9 am

Men's Forum

Calendar



COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP

Pastor Erhardt leads a monthly community book discussion:

May 13: *Peace Like A River*, by Leif Enger

June 17: *Food Politics*, by Robert Paarlberg

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Messiah's May voters meeting will be after worship on Sunday, May 16. We'll aim to get started by 11:30am. The meeting will include a financial update and the election of officers to serve this coming year (June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022). If you are a member of the congregation who is able and willing to serve in one of the following positions, or would like to nominate someone for an officer position (after verifying that they are able and willing), please inform congregational president Miranda Hempel ASAP: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Trustee (building and grounds), or Fellowship and Social Ministry Officer. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the voters meeting. If the weather cooperates, we'll meet outside in the gravel area of the parking lot.

Tax News: The deadline for filing 2020 federal and New Jersey tax returns has been extended to May 17, 2021. This extension applies to individual taxpayers, including individuals who pay self-employment tax. However, unlike last year, first quarter 2021 individual estimated tax payments are not being extended and will still be due on April 15. No additional forms are required to qualify for this extension.

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.

REAL ID (or an acceptable alternative) will be required at airport security beginning May 3, 2023. This date is a second extension of the original October 1, 2020 deadline, due to Covid. If you'd like to be able to use your NJ driver's license as ID at the airport, learn how to obtain a REAL ID compliant license at realidnj.com



EVERYONE IS CELEBRATING RESURRECTION!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Come bloom with us at Messiah!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Blast from the past

This pandemic give Doris Schubert-Gerwers plenty time to sort thru old photos. She found this one from the Sunday School Christmas play in 1992.

See anyone you recognize?



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY

EASTER YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 2, 2021	Acts 8:26-40	Psalms 22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 9, 2021	Acts 10:44-48	Psalms 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
Ascension Sunday May 16, 2021	Acts 1:1-11	Psalms 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Day of Pentecost May 23, 2021	Acts 2:1-21	Psalms 104:24-34	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
Trinity Sunday May 30, 2021	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalms 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JUNE

PENTECOST YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday after Pentecost June 6, 2021	1 Samuel 8:4-20	Psalms 138	2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	Mark 3:20-35
Third Sunday after Pentecost June 13, 2021	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	Psalms 20	2 Corinthians 5:6-17	Mark 4:26-34
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 20, 2021	1 Samuel 17:32-49	Psalms 9:9-20	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Mark 4:35-41
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 27, 2021	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27	Psalms 130	2 Corinthians 8:7-15	Mark 5:21-43



May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i>
<i>2</i> 10:00am Holy Communion	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 4:30pm Adult Forum	<i>5</i> 7:30pm Choir	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 10:00am Outdoor Worship After Worship: Sheep Shearing and Herding Demo
<i>9</i> 10:00am Holy Communion Mother's Day	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> 4:30pm Adult Forum	<i>12</i> 7:30pm Choir	<i>13</i> 7:30pm Community Book Group	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i> 10:00am Holy Communion 11:30am Voters Meeting	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 4:30pm Adult Forum	<i>19</i> 7:30pm Choir	<i>20</i> Ascension Day 7pm Executive Board	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 9am Men's Forum
<i>23</i> Pentecost 10:00am Holy Communion	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i> Trinity 10:00am Holy Communion	<i>31</i> Memorial Day					

June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June - August: Sunday worship begins at 9:30am.		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 (not 10am) Holy Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30am Holy Communion	14	15	16	17 7:30pm Community Book Group	18	19 10:00am Outdoor Worship 1:00pm Meadowlands Kayak Trip
20 9:30am Holy Communion	21	22	23	24	25	26 9am Men's Forum
27 9:30am Holy Communion	28	29	30	A large watermelon slice and two red hearts, similar to the header decoration, positioned at the bottom right of the calendar grid.		



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: 609-924-3642
lcmprinceton@gmail.com
www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
