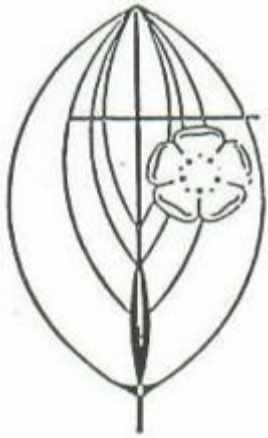


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



# Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street Princeton NJ 08540  
Church Email: [lcmprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmprinceton@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.princetonlutheranchurch.org](http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org)

## MESSIAH WELCOMES NEW PASTOR, MARTIN K. ERHARDT ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

**THE REV. DR.  
MARTIN ERHARDT  
PASTOR**

**THE REV. DR.  
JOHN MARK GOERSS  
PASTOR EMERITUS**

**JANICE HOFREITER  
ORGANIST AND  
CHOIR DIRECTOR**

**EVA GROVES  
CHURCH SECRETARY  
[EVA.M.GROVES@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EVA.M.GROVES@GMAIL.COM)**

The installation of Messiah's new pastor took place on Saturday, September 24 at 3pm. Officiating was the Rev. David Stechholtz, Bishop and President of the LCMS English District. Assisted by the Rev. Paul Sauer who delivered the sermon, entitled "Restless Faith" and the Rev. Peter Bauernfeind, our New York / New Jersey Circuit Visitor.



*Left to right: Rev. Paul Sauer, Pastor Martin, Rev. David Stechholtz and Rev. Peter Bauernfeind.*

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Friday, November 18, 2011

Two score and fifteen days ago, I had the privilege to be installed as Messiah's pastor. I don't mean to liken my installation to what happened at Gettysburg in 1863, but it was historic in its way. Installation brought back to me memories of my first visit to Messiah exactly twelve score and one week

*Continued on page 3*



*Pastor Erhardt and siblings on September 24, 2011. Left to right: Bethany Erhardt, Pastor Erhardt, Christoph Hoashi-Erhardt, and Anneliese (Annie) Reed.*

## INSTALLATION AND CELEBRATION

Saturday,  
September  
Twenty-  
Fourth  
2011



The Rev. David Stechholz, Bishop and President of the LCMS English District, officiates .



Congrats to newly installed  
Pastor Erhardt!



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



ago on March 30, 2007. I was visiting Princeton Seminary and took a walk down Nassau Street to find where the local LCMS congregation met. I knew a little bit, but not much, about you. Gilbert Meilaender, a former assistant pastor here and one of my faculty colleagues and fellow church members in Valparaiso, Indiana, had once spoken of this congregation in a sermon in which he amusingly recalled that as *assistant* pastor, he was invariably assigned to preach on the Sunday *after* Easter.

Having come to Princeton, I wanted to see the church in person. Arriving at #407 that Friday evening, I peered in a front door window and saw the sanctuary for the first time. It was getting dark, so I couldn't see the inside of the sanctuary very well, but spotting the copies of the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) in the pews, I thought to myself, "I think this just might work for me -- this looks like a congregation where I would be at home." Of course at the time, I was thinking about church membership and possibly a field work site, not about becoming the pastor. Recalling that first impression on this side of my installation day, I feel blessed that Messiah turned out not only to be good fit

for me, but that you and the Holy Spirit thought me a good fit for you.

A church building is not a church, but it does reflect a church's character. Looking through that window into Messiah the building, I caught a glimpse of Messiah the congregation. The LBWs in the pews told me Messiah was eager to cooperate with other Christians (even other *Lutherans*!) and that you cherished your relationship with Christians of many times and places by proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ in the context of liturgical worship. With only a pane of glass separating the sanctuary from the street, I saw that Messiah aimed to be transparent -- to open itself to the world beyond its walls.



Our synodical administration in St. Louis has chosen "Witness, Mercy, Life Together" as a three-fold emphasis for our church body. It's an emphasis well worth considering as God guides us forward in faith. Messiah's building was a witness to me as a visiting pre-seminarian. Being among you people of Messiah as a seminarian and now as your pastor, I know we value ministries of mercy, exemplified by the enthusiastic response to the recent Sunday School food drive. The heartening participation in our congregational potluck on November 12 was a great testimony to the health of our congregational relationships. I'm privileged to serve a congregation with such a great start on Witness, Mercy, and Life Together.

*continued on page 8*

## HOLIDAY SERVICES

### THANKSGIVING EVE

Wednesday, November 23

8:00pm Evening Prayer Service



*Harvest Altar on Thanksgiving Eve*

In the spirit of Taizé

### ADVENT MIDWEEK VESPERS

Tuesday nights

November 29,

December 6, 13 and 20

9:15pm

Princeton University

Chapel

Lutheran Campus Ministry



Join us for a contemplative, service of scripture, song, silence and prayers.



### Christmas at Messiah

8:00pm Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT  
COMMUNION SERVICE

10:30am Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY  
HOLY COMMUNION

Please send news, announcements and  
photos for inclusion in the Messenger to [eva.m.groves@gmail.com](mailto:eva.m.groves@gmail.com).

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

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**Cantus Novus**

**Cantus Novus** and new Artistic Director  
Dr. John P. Leonard present

**Rejoice!**

an a cappella musical celebration of the place  
Mary has in the Christmas story.

Performance dates and venues:

8:00 p.m. Friday, December 2, 2011, Trinity  
Episcopal Church, (Solebury, PA)

8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 3, 2011,  
Newtown Presbyterian Church (Newtown, PA)

4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 11, 2011 at  
Christ Congregation, (Princeton, NJ).



Advent Vespers  
Music of Bach

Magnificat and selections from  
Christmas Oratorio

Princeton University Chapel Choir

Penna Rose, Conductor

2:30pm Sunday, December 4, 2011

Princeton University Chapel

Admission free



**Frances Fowler Slade, Artistic Director and Conductor**

**MESSIAH**

George Frideric Handel

3:00 pm Sunday, December 11, 2011

Patriots Theater at the War Memorial

Tickets at \$55, 45, 38 and 25

[www.princetonpromusica.org](http://www.princetonpromusica.org) or (609) 683-5122

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## REFORMATION WEEKEND SNOW!



*Photos submitted by Janice Hofreiter*

## BLAST FROM THE PAST...

Can anyone  
identify the little boy in the photo below?



*Photo of Messiah's first worship service given to Messiah by Martha Peck. c. 1952.*

**Fall Church Clean-up Day: 10am-4pm, Saturday, December 3**

Come contribute to the rejuvenation of Messiah's interior! Clean out rooms you've never seen before, get acquainted with our new recycling buckets, and, Lord willing, spend some quality time with the new copy machine. Lunch and supplies will be provided. If you can't come for the whole time, come when you can and leave when you must! If you have clean-up tasks to suggest, please see Carolyn Gishlick or email them to the church office at

[lcprincceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcprincceton@gmail.com).

## MESSIAH PRESCHOOL UPDATE

“We are making progress with the permitting process with the State of New Jersey. The next step is identifying the professional who can lead the school.”

Peter Giller

## CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

### Can collection for the Crisis Ministry

Over **430** cans were collected by the Sunday School Children—far exceeding their goal of 300! All cans have been delivered to the Crisis Ministry. Collection is ongoing in the baskets in the rear of the church.



Danny, Alex, Katie, Drew and Jonathan.  
(missing from the photo—Megan)



### Cold weather clothing collection for Children’s Home Society in Trenton

Pick up your snowman reminder and remember to bring in your clean, coats, hats and gloves and scarves through the middle of December. See Debbie Baer or Belkys Wackerman for more information

**Children’s Christmas Program** - Sunday School students will sing during church at 10:30 on Sunday, December 18th



## CHILDREN’S SERMON

Fast becoming one of the more popular parts of Sunday Worship is the Children’s Sermon! Pastor Erhardt talks here to Drew and Katarina. The children look forward to a new surprise each Sunday.

*Photos submitted by Debbie Baer*

## UPCOMING READINGS

Advent Year B	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b><u>First Sunday of Advent</u></b> November 27, 2011 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<a href="#">Isaiah 64:1-9</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19</a>	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 1:3-9</a>	<a href="#">Mark 13:24- 37</a>
<b><u>Second Sunday of Advent</u></b> December 4, 2011 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<a href="#">Isaiah 40:1-11</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13</a>	<a href="#">2 Peter 3:8- 15a</a>	<a href="#">Mark 1:1-8</a>
<b><u>Third Sunday of Advent</u></b> December 11, 2011 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<a href="#">Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</a>	<a href="#">Psalm 126</a> or <a href="#">Luke 1:46b-55</a>	<a href="#">1 Thessaloni- ans 5:16-24</a>	<a href="#">John 1:6-8, 19 -28</a>
<b><u>Fourth Sunday of Advent</u></b> December 18, 2011 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<a href="#">2 Samuel 7:1- 11, 16</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:46b-55</a> or <a href="#">Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26</a>	<a href="#">Romans 16:25-27</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:26</a>

Source: <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONTINUED)

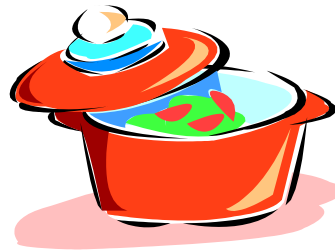
Psalm 22:3 tells us that God inhabits (KJV) or is enthroned upon (ESV, NRSV) the praises of his people. I think both images are helpful here. As our building points to the character of the congregation that inhabits it, so too do the Witness, Mercy, and Life Together of Christian communities reveal, as on a throne, the God who inhabits us and whom we praise. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, the apostle Paul called Christians ambassadors -- God's representatives in his mission to the world. As we consider our identity as ambassadors, let us jointly make our Witness, Mercy, and Life Together a transparent window through which outsiders looking in will catch a glimpse of life in God's kingdom and say not only, "This might just work for me," but eventually and even better, "This is where I belong."

*Pastor Erhardt*

## FALL POTLUCK DINNER



The Fall potluck dinner was a smashing success. Special thanks to Martha Peck and Lottie Coffin and thank you to all who organized, shopped, cooked and baked for this popular event! As usual we dined on only the best homemade dishes. After dessert, Pastor Martin shared a slide show from his summer in Yellowstone National Park. Everyone enjoyed the virtual visit to the wild west, complete with wolves, bears and bison! Many thanks to Pastor Martin for sharing his experience with us.



## FALL SERMONS

Sept 25	Exodus 17:1-7	<u>"Is the Lord Among Us or Not?"</u>
Oct 2	Philippians. 3:13	<u>"Looking Back, Straining Forward"</u>
Oct 9	Philippians. 4:5	<u>"The Lord is Near"</u>
Oct 16	Matthew 22:21	<u>"Render unto Caesar"</u>
Oct 23	Matthew 22:37	<u>"Love is a Many-Splendored Thing"</u>
Oct 30	Romans 3:21-22	<u>"These Clothes Don't Fit"</u>
Nov 6	1 John 3:2, Revelation 7:13-14	<u>"Who We Are and Whose We Are"</u>
Nov 13	Matthew 25:14-30	<u>"Investment as Witness"</u>
Nov 20	Ephesians 1:18	<u>"The Hope to Which He Has Called Us"</u>

Visit our website to listen to audio recordings of Pastor's Sunday Sermons.  
[www.princetonlutheranchurch.org](http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS!



### WEDDING OF NADINE AND SAM RICCO

Congrats to Nadine and Sam Ricco, married on June 11, 2011 by Pastor Goerss at Locktown Stone Church in Delaware Township, NJ.



### BAPTISM OF EMMETT AUBERT MEYER



Congratulations to Erik and Sarah Meyer on the baptism of their son, Emmett Aubert Meyer. Emmett was baptized on Sunday, October 30th. The baptism was witnessed by family, visitors and congregational members in spite of the unseasonal snow which downed trees and cut off power in Princeton and surrounding areas on Saturday.

## MESSIAH'S MANTLES; PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



*Prayer Shawl Blessing November 6, 2011*

A Prayer Shawl Blessing was held on November 6. Blessed shawls were presented to:

- The Meyer family on the occasion of Emmett's baptism.
- The Knight family on the birth of Alexandra
- Lottie Coffin to comfort on the loss of her sister
- Pastor Martin, congrats on installation
- Kristina Reuter for health and recovery
- Ed Wendel for health and recovery
- Esther Fischer for service to Messiah
- Martha Peck's friend, Hazel Staats-Westover from Church Women United
- Eleanora Spainhour for health

Please contact one of the Prayer Shawl Group members (see names below) if you have a request for a shawl.

All are welcome to join our monthly meetings hosted by Mildred Coyner.

Yarn and instructions will be provided. Next meeting is Thursday, December 15. Check our website for updates and more information. <http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org/shawl.html>

If you have any questions please contact Eva Groves at [eva.m.groves@gmail.com](mailto:eva.m.groves@gmail.com) or see one of the Prayer Shawl members during Fellowship Hour. Patricia Wolf, Doris Gerwers, Lottie Coffin, Esther Fischer, Siv Mitt, Mildred Coyner, Renate Giller, or Paula Hartman.



*Special guest at November 10 meeting— Pastor Erhardt!*



# NOVEMBER 2011

		1	2	3	4	5
6 9am Christian Education 9am Children's Ministry 10:30 Service of Holy Communion	7	8	9 7:30pm Ash Wednesday	10	11 6pm ISI Dinner	12 6pm Fall Potluck
13 9am Christian Education 9am Children's Ministry 10:30 Service of Holy Communion	14	15	16 8pm Choir	17 7:30pm Executive Board Meeting	18	19
20 9am Christian Education 9am Children's Ministry 10:30 Service of Holy Communion	21	22	23 8pm Thanksgiv- ing Eve Prayer Service	24	25	26
27 9am Christian Education 9am Children's Ministry 10:30 Service of Holy Communion	28	29 9:15pm Advent Prayer Service	30 8pm Choir			

# DECEMBER 2011

					1	2	3 10am Church Clean-up 6pm ISI Christ- mas Dinner
4 9am Christian Education 9am Children's Ministry 10:30 Service of Holy Communion	5	6 9:15pm Advent Prayer Service	7 8pm Choir	8	9	10	
11 9am Christian Education 9am Children's Ministry 10:30 Service of Holy Communion	12	13 9:15pm Advent Prayer Service	14 8pm Choir	15 7pm Prayer Shawl	16	17	
18 9am Christian Education 9am Children's Ministry 10:30 Service of Holy Communion	19	20 9:15pm Advent Prayer Service	21 8pm Choir	22	23	24 8pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	
25 10:30 Service of Holy Communion Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31	