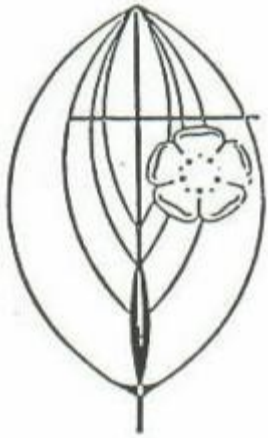


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

407 NASSAU STREET PRINCETON NJ 08540
 CHURCH EMAIL: LCMPRINCETON@GMAIL.COM
 WEBSITE: WWW.PRINCETONLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

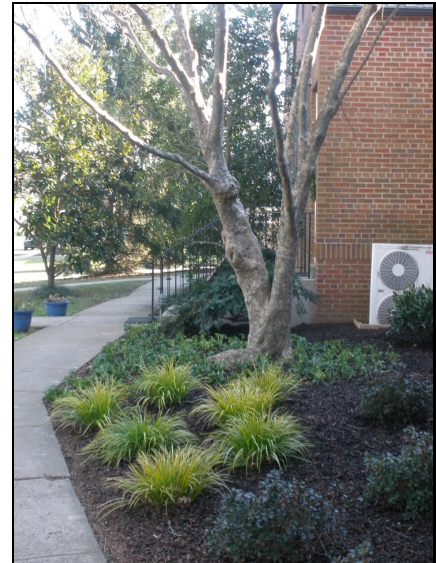
**THE REV. DR.
 JOHN MARK GOERSS
 PASTOR EMERITUS**

**JANICE HOFREITER
 ORGANIST AND
 CHOIR DIRECTOR**

**EVA GROVES
 CHURCH SECRETARY
 EVA.M.GROVES@GMAIL.COM**

NOW A GREEN BLADE RISES

If last week's cold snap put you in hibernation mode and made the eventual coming of spring seem like wishful thinking, jump in to our burgeoning congregational life at Messiah! Despite the frost, there's lots going on here that may be just the tonic you require. Especially on gray winter days, I like to think of our life together as a green blade of grass rising to herald the promise of spring in a world frozen in despondency, apathy, and alienation. As we hear in the New Testament epistles to the Corinthians and the Ephesians, God is at work through us, the body of Christ, breaking down walls of hostility and reconciling the world to himself. God is even now using us with our diverse gifts to thaw out, revive, and heal relationships that seemed locked in permafrost. No one is superfluous -- we each have a part to play.



It's easy to lose that perspective on our congregational life. We often forget or discount the ways in which God is at work among us, so here are some highlights since the Nov/Dec Messenger was published, with glimpses of future opportunities to get involved.

A. We've recovered from Hurricane Sandy. Through donations

Continued on next page

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONT'D)



of time, talent, treasure, and tree-trimming equipment, and in partnership with the Eastern District of the LCMS and the Central NJ chapter of Thrivent, we helped Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Point Pleasant and their neighbors recover from the storm.

B. Through the generous contributions of many parishioners at the Nov. 10 and Dec. 1 work days, through Advent and Christmas decorating, and with a lovely Christmas gift of landscaping from members of the congregation in partnership with Baumley Nurseries, we've

made our property more welcoming and our congregation more hospitable to members, tenants, and visitors, and especially to parents and children who use the nursery.

C. We are growing! The Welcome to Messiah class on Sunday mornings has been well attended, and we will be welcoming several new members during our Transfiguration Sunday worship service on February 10. Please plan to be there to welcome our sisters and brothers in Christ and to honor the commitment they will be making to Messiah by joining us as rostered members.

D. We look forward to hosting the Lutherans in Diaspora conference of Lutheran seminarians on February 8. More information about the conference can be found in this newsletter.

E. Lent will soon be here, and with it Wednesday evening services at 7:00pm preceded by soup & salad suppers at 6:00pm (no supper on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13). During this time of self-examination, repentance, and solidarity with those who suffer -- especially with fellow members of the body of Christ who are persecuted for their faith -- let us, in the words of Hebrews 10:24-25, "... consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Please join us for suppers and services, and while you're there, consider trying out your voice in the choir -- rehearsal starts at 8:00pm right after the service.

As Lent approaches, consider a penitential practice to adopt during Lent and/or beyond. In the Welcome to Messiah class I mentioned above (item C), we are asking ourselves, "What do Christians do? What should be our way of life, our common habits?"

continued on page 12

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian Education

9:00am Sunday Mornings

Worship Service

10:30am Sunday Mornings

Choir Practice

8:00pm Wednesday Evenings

Ash Wednesday (February 13)

No Soup and Salad Supper

7:00pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes



Subsequent Wednesdays in Lent (February 20 – March 20)

6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper

7:00-7:45pm Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

SOUP AND SALAD HOSTS NEEDED

There will be six Soup and Salad Dinners Wednesday Evenings at 6pm during Lent.

Recipes are provided, and all costs will be reimbursed. Please contact Eva if you are willing to volunteer for any of the March dates.

February 20 , Vegetable soup and salad, hosted by Carolyn Gishlick

February 27 , Lentil soup and salad hosted by Esther Fischer

March 6, Chicken soup and salad hosted by Eva Groves

March 13, Potato soup and salad

March 20, Beef Barley soup and salad hosted by Renate Giller



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED for next (2013-2014) school year. Sunday School is an important part of God's mission in this congregation, so we're starting to look for teachers early. Our current Sunday School teachers, Debbie Baer and Belkys Wackerman, have served long and faithfully and will be concluding their service at the end of this academic year. If you are willing to help with Sunday School next year or would try it out alongside the current teachers, please speak with Debbie, Belkys, or Pastor Martin about what it would involve.

WELCOME TO MESSIAH!

We are growing! The Welcome to Messiah class on Sunday mornings has been well attended, and we will be welcoming several new members during our Transfiguration Sunday worship service on February 10. Please plan to be there to welcome our sisters and brothers in Christ and to honor the commitment they will be making to Messiah by joining us as rostered members.

LUTHERANS IN DIASPORA

Friday, February 8 -- Lutherans in Diaspora conference and dinner at Messiah.

This annual Lutherans in Diaspora conference comes to Princeton every four years. The conference is geared toward Lutheran seminarians studying at non-Lutheran seminaries, but registration is open to all. This year's conference topic is *Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice*, a study released by the ELCA in 2011. Registration and schedule information are available at <http://www.certain.com/system/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x1413563233a>

**35th Annual
Lutherans in Diaspora Conference**

Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice

**February 8-9, 2013
Lutheran Church of the Messiah &
Princeton Theological Seminary**



Friday, February 8 events (at Messiah)

4:00-5:30 PM Gathering and Registration

6:00 PM Dinner

6:45 PM Keynote speaker

8:30 PM Worship

NOTICE:

**DIASPORA DINNER HAS BEEN
RESCHEDULED DUE TO BAD WEATHER.**

**Our new date for this conference is
April 12-13 .**

The Friday events including the dinner will be at Messiah on April 12, at the same times as the original schedule (above).

If you are a volunteer, please notify the church office if this new date does not work with your schedule, so we can make alternate arrangements.



Beautiful Christmas Tree given by the Sabatura Family

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Evening Prayer in the spirit of the Taize Community will resume on April 2nd. During Lent, midweek Evening Prayer services are held at 7:00pm on Wednesdays instead of on Tuesday evenings in the Princeton University chapel. Except for Ash Wednesday, (Feb. 13), a 6:00pm soup and salad supper precedes each mid-week service, February 20 - March 20. All are welcome.

For schedule updates and more information on the Taize Community, see <http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org/lcm/>



UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Saturday, March 23, 10am - 4pm -- Messiah Spring Work Day

Come when you can and leave when you must. We'll have plenty of work to go around for people of all ages and abilities. Gardening volunteers, please bring gloves and tools. It's fun, lunch is provided, and your help is greatly appreciated!



Saturday, April 13 (evening) and Sunday, April 14 (afternoon)

Talk and Walk: Modern Architecture of Princeton University

Presented by Jon Hlafter, in two parts:

1. Dessert and slideshow at Messiah on Saturday evening
2. Walking tour of the university campus on Sunday afternoon

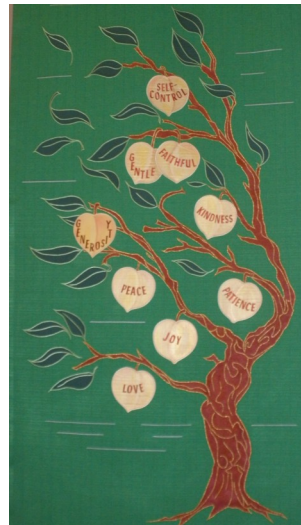
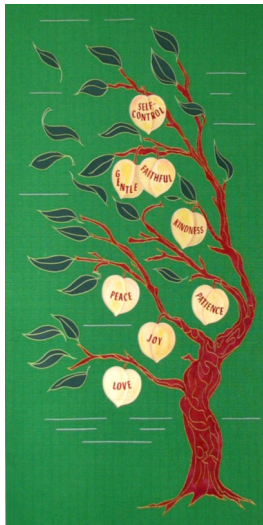


More information about these events and how to sign up will appear in future bulletins and in the March/April *Messenger*.

UPCOMING READINGS

<u>Presentation of the Lord</u> February 2, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Malachi 3:1-4</u>	<u>Psalm 84</u> or <u>Psalm 24:7-10</u>	<u>Hebrews 2:14-18</u>	<u>Luke 2:22-40</u>
<u>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</u> February 3, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Jeremiah 1:4-10</u>	<u>Psalm 71:1-6</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 13:1-13</u>	<u>Luke 4:21-30</u>
<u>Transfiguration Sunday</u> February 10, 2013 <i>(Last Sunday before Lent)</i> <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Exodus 34:29-35</u>	<u>Psalm 99</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2</u>	<u>Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)</u>
<u>Ash Wednesday</u> February 13, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Joel 2:1-2, 12-17</u> or <u>Isaiah 58:1-12</u>	<u>Psalm 51:1-17</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10</u>	<u>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</u>
<u>First Sunday in Lent</u> February 17, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</u>	<u>Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16</u>	<u>Romans 10:8b-13</u>	<u>Luke 4:1-13</u>
<u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> February 24, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</u>	<u>Psalm 27</u>	<u>Philippians 3:17-4:1</u>	<u>Luke 13:31-35</u> or <u>Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)</u>

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT BANNER



*Did you notice?
Fruit of the Spirit
is growing
at Messiah!*

Galatians 5:22-25

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

PASTOR'S NEW CHASUBLES



You may have noticed the beautiful new liturgical vestments worn by Pastor Martin. They are called *chasubles*, and are typically worn by the celebrant during the liturgy of the Lord's Supper. Encouraged by a gift from a donor with a love for worship at Messiah, the congregation purchased four wool chasubles in seasonal

colors. The fabric was supplied by CM Almy of Greenwich, Connecticut, and the vestments sewn by the Robert Gaspard company of Brookfield, Wisconsin. Three chasubles, pictured above, arrived in time for Advent. We expect the last (green) one in March.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER SHAWL MEETING



MILDRED'S FAMOUS RUM CAKE

BACARDI® rum cake

Now make it with regular or pudding cake mix.

Cake:

1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
1 18½ oz. pkg. yellow cake mix*
1 3¾ oz. pkg. Jell-O® Vanilla
Instant Pudding and Pie Filling

4 eggs

½ cup cold water
½ cup Wesson® oil
½ cup Bacardi dark rum (80 proof)

*If using yellow cake mix with pudding
already in the mix: omit instant pudding,
use 3 eggs instead of 4, ½ cup oil
instead of ½.

Glaze:

¼ lb. butter
¼ cup water
1 cup granulated sugar
½ cup Bacardi dark rum (80 proof)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Grease and flour
10" tube or 12-cup Bundt® pan. Sprinkle
nuts over bottom of pan. Mix all cake ingre-
dients together. Pour batter over nuts.
Bake 1 hour. Cool. Invert on serving plate.
Prick top. Spoon and brush glaze evenly
over top and sides. Allow cake to absorb
glaze. Repeat till glaze is used up.
Glaze: Melt butter in saucepan. Stir in
water and sugar. Boil 5 minutes, stirring
constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in rum.
Optional: Decorate with border of sugar
frosting or whipped cream.

For free booklet of recipes for entrées,
desserts, snacks, hors d'oeuvres, drinks
and punches, write: Bacardi L. ports, Inc.,
2100 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33137.
Offer void where prohibited by law.



BACARDI AND THE BAT DEVICE ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF BACARDI & COMPANY LIMITED.
WESSON IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF HUNT-WESSON FOODS, INC. JELL-O IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK
OF GENERAL FOODS CORPORATION. BUNDT IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF NORTHLAND ALUMINUM PRODUCTS.
© 1980 BACARDI IMPORTS, INC., MIAMI, FL. 80 PROOF.

DECEMBER 1 WORK DAY



Miranda Hempel and Lottie Coffin



*Paul Majsztrik, Pastor Martin, Lottie Coffin,
John Fischer II, Esther and John Fischer*



*Pastor Martin and Ryan Spaude
build a new path.*



*Blue bows decorate the wreaths for
Advent and are replaced with red for
Christmas Eve.*



GARDENING UPDATE



*Christmas gift of new landscaping from members of the congregation, designed and planted by
Baumley Nurseries.*

MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Many thanks to Mildred Coyner for continuing to host our Prayer Shawl meetings in her home once a month. Please note the dates of upcoming meetings: February 21, March 21 and April 19.

We were glad to bring some comfort to a stranger recently (see email request below).

Thank you to all who knit and all who support the Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you would like to request a shawl, please contact any one of the knitters or contact Eva Groves at eva.m.groves@gmail.com.



We begin each meeting by lighting a candle and sharing a prayer .

Almighty God,
Remove the chill from my bones,
And melt the ice from my heart.
Warm your servant through and through.
My heart has become jaded against others;
I question their intentions,
When I ought to simply love them as your people.
It is as if the coldness of my body is indicative of something greater:
My disdain for the choices of other.
I should just leave them to you.
I should not sit in judgment.
I should not condemn in my heart.
When I do, my heart becomes a glacial heart of stone.
Help me to set aside all prejudice and preconceived notions.
Help me to, instead, love with all that I am.
I want to love as I have been loved by you.
May my way of knowing, loving, and serving,
Melt the hearts of others, too.
With the cold partitions gone,
Perhaps then we can all be open to loving our God a little more.
Let the Son's warmth penetrate our beings,
And be reflected back to the world.
For your honor and glory,
For all time.
Amen

Email received on December 12, 2012

Hello -

I found your church's information through the Prayer Shawl Ministry website. I am looking for a prayer shawl for my Mother-in-law who is in the last stages of Alzheimer's and is now on hospice. When I asked my Father-in-law what she could use for Christmas his response was, "There is nothing she can possibly need or want. For the first time I'm not going to buy her gifts. I think the family might consider a donation for a novena of prayers for God to grant Mom comfort for her body, mind and soul during these difficulty times."

Needless to say this brought tears to my eyes and my husband's eyes. She is already in all our prayers but then I remembered the Prayer Shawl Ministry and I thought this was a perfect embodiment of the wishes of my father in law and our wish to give her something tangible. What better way to give her comfort and literally wrap her in prayers.

I do not know if it is too late to make a request or if you even provide shawls upon request and we would be happy to make a donation in addition to paying for materials.

If you are unable to provide a shawl, I ask that you please keep my Mother-in-law in your prayers - Irene is in need of them and so is her family.

God Bless you this Christmas and always,

Jill

FEBRUARY 2013

						1	2
3 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	4	5	6 8PM CHOIR PRACTICE	7	8	9	
10 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	11	12	13 7PM ASH WEDNESDAY 8PM CHOIR PRACTICE	14	15 600 PM LSD DINNER	16	
17 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	18	19	20 6PM SOUP & SALAD 7PM LENTEN SERVICE 8PM CHOIR	21	22	23	
24 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	25	26	27 6PM SOUP & SALAD 7PM LENTEN SERVICE 8PM CHOIR	28			

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

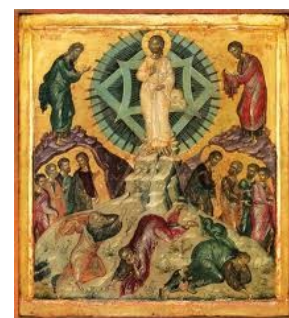
Here is a list of six basics suggested by Pastor Michael Foss of St. Mark Lutheran Church, West Des Moines, Iowa:

1. pray daily;
2. worship weekly;
3. read the Bible;
4. serve in the congregation and beyond;
5. build relationships in the congregation to foster spiritual development;
6. give generously of time, talents, money, and other resources.

Not rocket science, perhaps, but certainly more easily said than done. And a good start on making our vision statement a reality.¹ For Lent, consider making these habits your own and sticking with them. Start small -- with one or two that are new to you or that you'd like to develop. In the words of G. K. Chesterton, "if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly." That is, you don't have to be good at these things to begin doing them. No one size fits all, and I invite you ask me or trusted friends for help and guidance. Or just let me know you're giving it a try. This wishful thinker would like nothing better.

Grateful for your partnership in the gospel,
Pastor Martin

¹ Did you know we have one? You can find it at <http://princetonlutheranchurch.org/mission.html>



A PRIEST, A RABBI AND A LUTHERAN PASTOR

When I turned to the fellow from Kansas, he responded with a story about a priest, a rabbi and a Lutheran pastor. No, they were not entering a bar!



He said, “All three clergy were good friends in a small town whose houses of worship were right next to one another. One day during a fierce storm, a bolt of lightning set all three houses of worship on fire. At great personal risk Father O’Malley ran into St. Mary’s. Dodging flames and falling debris he emerged clutching the tabernacle containing the reserved Corpus Christi. At the same time Rabbi Abramovitz, also at great personal risk, ran into Temple Shalom. After what felt like forever the Rabbi emerged from the synagogue clutching the Torah scroll he had rescued from the Aron ha-Kodesh, the Torah Ark.

The rabbi and the priest were consoling one another when their colleague Pr. Will (my friend used my name) from St. John’s Lutheran Church stumbled over to them sweat-streaked, smoke-stained and gasping for breath. Pr. Will sat down on the curb. When his concerned colleagues asked if was OK, Pr. Will looked up and blurted, “Do you guys have any idea how much a copy machine weighs?”

—November 2012 *Forum Letter*

© 2012 by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau

Does this story remind you of anyone we know?

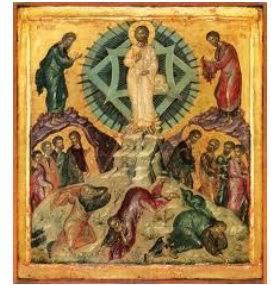




THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: 609-924-3642
E-mail: lcmaprinceton@gmail.com
www.princetonlutheranchurch.org



Mailing Address Line 1

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Amidon, David	02/22
Bamgbade, Emmanuel	02/24
Giller, Peter	02/17
Giller, Oliver	02/17
Hartl, Werner	02/22
Hartl, Katherine	02/01
Horan, Beau	02/18
Spainhour, Philip	02/13
Spainhour, Daniel	02/17
Stys, Jeffrey	02/28
Tria, Jeanne	02/26

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those celebrating
February birthdays!**

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry, but it means it's
not on file.

Help to update our data... Call 609-924-3642