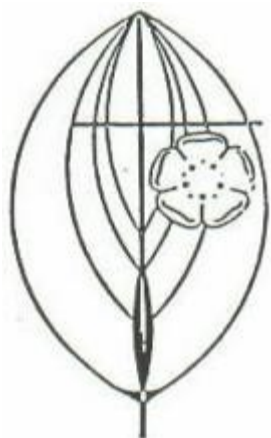


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

ON TREES AND THEIR FRUIT

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I've been thinking about trees. Planning is well underway for re-planting trees on our Nassau St. lawn. On Ash Wednesday, we began hearing tree language in the Eucharistic preface for Lent:

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: Who on the tree of the cross did give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ, our Lord;



The following Wednesday, we heard from Genesis 3 about the serpent tempting Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden. On the third Sunday in Lent, we will sing a hymn, *There in God's Garden*, that uses tree imagery to describe Jesus on the cross. Inspired by a translation of a Hungarian hymn by Pécselyi Király Imre, the English hymn text by Erik Routley is copyrighted, but you can find it in *With One Voice* (#668) or online on page 39 of this article by Emily Brink: <http://www.morningstarmusic.com/pdfs/brink.pdf>

Continued on next page

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONT'D)



Propelled by the progress of a worship service, it's easy to miss much of what we hear, say, and sing. That's why it can help to make time to reflect on, digest, and be nourished by elements of the Sunday service at other times during the week. Here is something to ruminate on this season.

During Lent, we talk a lot about disciplines that detach us from things we're at high-risk of idolizing, and that purge us of bad habits, harmful behaviors, and parasitic distractions that interfere with what we might call our spiritual health. What is sometimes forgotten is that our spiritual health is not purely, or even primarily, an internal matter. "No man," said John Donne, "is an island." We cannot be spiritually healthy in isolation. Loving God and neighbor and receiving love from them requires relationship. It also requires recognizing that we can't make ourselves healthy. We need God's help. We need to be attached to Jesus, the vine, the tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:2).

As verse 5 of the hymn suggests, our spirits are really only healthy when they are committed into the Lord's hands. In verse 4 – one of my favorites – Jesus invites us to do just that, following his example on the cross: "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow; I will give blessing."

Connected to the vine, in God's hands, we have an outlet for our spiritual garbage – the products of whatever our Lenten disciplines help us to purge. In return, God feeds us with blessing, healing, strength, and pardon. Like branches of a healthy tree, may we this Lent take, take freely of that food, that God may produce in us abundant, delicious, and nourishing fruit, against which there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).

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

(may start early in Lent)

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

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

All food costs can be reimbursed, please give receipts to Eva.

February 20 Carolyn Gishlick

February 27 Esther Fischer

March 6 Martha Peck and Eva Groves

March 13 Doris Gerwers and Suki Featherson

March 20 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.

LUTHERANS IN DIASPORA

***RESCHEDULED: Friday, April 12** Lutherans in Diaspora conference and dinner at Messiah



This annual Lutherans in Diaspora conference comes to Princeton every four years. The conference is primarily for Lutheran seminarians studying at non-Lutheran seminaries, but registration is open to all. Advance notice is required to attend the dinner. If you'd like to attend, please notify Pastor Martin by April 9. This year's conference topic is *Hearing the Cries: Faith and Criminal Justice*, a study released by the ELCA in 2011. The key note speaker will be Professor Mark Taylor of Princeton Seminary.

**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 by March 15th.*

35th Annual Lutherans in Diaspora Conference

*Hearing the Cries:
Faith and Criminal Justice*

April 12-13
**Lutheran Church of the Messiah &
Princeton Theological Seminary**

Friday, April 12 events (at Messiah)

4:00-5:30 PM Gathering and Registration

6:00 PM Dinner

6:45 PM Keynote Speaker

8:30 PM Worship

9:30 PM Fellowship time

MAUNDY THURSDAY CHRISTIAN SEDER DINNER

Join us on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, at 6:00pm as we bring back the Messiah tradition of a Christian Seder. This representation of the Last Supper of our Lord with his apostles will teach young and old the Passover story. Please speak to Pastor or Eva if you would like to assist with the preparations for this special evening of ritual, prayers and psalms.

Elements of the Meal - the Ceremonial Foods

Lamb: The word 'pesach' (Passover) applies to the lamb of sacrifice as well as to the deliverance from Egypt and to the feast itself. As we hear in 1 Corinthians 5:7 and Hebrews 10:10, Jesus is our Passover lamb, sacrificed once for all.

Unleavened bread (matzoh): called "bread of affliction" because it recalls the unleavened bread prepared for the hasty flight by night from Egypt.

Bitter herbs (moror): a reminder of the bitterness of slavery and suffering in Egypt.

Green herbs to be dipped in salt water. Salt water represents tears of sorrow shed during the captivity of the Lord's people.

Haroseth, a mixture of chopped apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine, represents the mortar used for building by Jews during their slavery in Egypt.

Wine is dipped from a common bowl. Four cups of wine are consumed remembering God's promises to Israel, culminating in the communion cup of the new covenant in Jesus' blood, shed for us and for all people for the forgiveness of sin (Matthew 26:28, Luke 22:20, 1 Cor. 11:25).

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 at Messiah instead of on Tuesday evenings in the Princeton University chapel. Except on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 13), a 6:00pm soup and salad supper precedes each midweek 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 , 7:30pm and Sunday, April 14, 2:00pm

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 will take about 2 hours and include some brisk walking at times. A sign-up sheet will be available in back of church.



More information about these events and how to sign up will appear in future bulletins.

UPCOMING READINGS

<u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> March 3, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Isaiah 55:1-9</u>	<u>Psalm 63:1-8</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</u>	<u>Luke 13:1-9</u>
<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> March 10, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Joshua 5:9-12</u>	<u>Psalm 32</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</u>	<u>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</u>
<u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> March 17, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Isaiah 43:16-21</u>	<u>Psalm 126</u>	<u>Philippians 3:4b-14</u>	<u>John 12:1-8</u>
<u>Liturgy of the Palms</u> March 24, 2013 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i> <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>		<u>Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29</u>		<u>Luke 19:28-40</u>
<u>Maundy Thursday</u> March 28, 2013 <i>Holy Thursday</i> <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	<u>Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 11:23-26</u>	<u>John 13:1-17, 31b-35</u>
<u>Good Friday</u> March 29, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</u>	<u>Psalm 22</u>	<u>Hebrews 10:16-25</u>	<u>John 18:1-19:42</u>
<u>Resurrection of the Lord</u> March 31, 2013 Easter Day <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	<u>*Acts 10:34-43</u> or <u>Isaiah 65:17-25</u>	<u>Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 15:19-26</u> or <u>Acts 10:34-43</u>	<u>John 20:1-18</u> or <u>Luke 24:1-1</u>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We are growing! The Welcome to Messiah class was well attended, and we welcomed several new members during our Transfiguration Sunday worship service on February 10.



Congratulations and warm welcome to new Messiah members!

Ryan Spaude

Kersti Alabert

Erik Meyer and Sarah Aubert

Paul Majsztirik and Laura Bennett

Nat, Rachel, and Roger Tabris



The green blade has now bloomed into a fragrant Paperwhite plant.

A special champagne coffee hour followed the new member ceremony. Each member was given a sprouting plant to encourage us to nurture them and to encourage them to sprout and grow at Messiah.

GARDENING UPDATE

Even though there was snow and ice on the ground in early February, Messiah's plants were convinced that spring was around the corner. Several pansies sported colorful blooms and buds, and narcissus foliage is beginning to push up through the earth, getting ready for its spring display.



Messiah's Work Day is scheduled early this year, for Saturday, March 23, 10am to 4pm, but there will be plenty for intrepid gardeners to do. We can plant annuals along the front walkway again, extending the border further, and it should receive a fresh topcoat of mulch to keep it looking neat and repel weeds. There is an area for a cutting garden near the back door which is waiting for some soil improvements to be mixed in, and to be planted with an assortment of bright flowers which can be used for cutting and bouquets. With a big enough crop, we can use some to decorate Messiah, and also have flowers for bouquets for people who need them for one reason or another.

There are azaleas to plant near the lower set of steps at the side of the church; their blooms will brighten the pathway during the spring. And one or two hydrangeas are available for planting in semi-shady spots for summer color and great fluffy balls of flowers for decorating and bouquets.

If we have time and people enough on March 23, the planters can be divested of their winter greenery and planted with colorful flowers for Easter.

Of course, the need for weeding is always with us, along with the need for judicious pruning. These are not glamorous tasks, but they make such an improvement in the appearance of the grounds, that they can be extremely rewarding nonetheless.

Please keep in mind that weeding and pruning can be done any day, any time you like, so if you are suddenly overwhelmed by an urge to pull weeds on a day other than Saturday, March 23, go right ahead! We need as many people as possible helping with this never-ending job.

If you want to get into the swing of spring and help beautify Messiah's exterior, please join us on March 23, or call or e-mail Miranda Hempel at ballroomania@yahoo.com with any ideas, suggestions, or interests.

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: March 21 and April 19.

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 .

February 21 Early Spring Prayer Shawl Meeting



Mildred's Lemon Pound Cake *

2 c flour
1 tsp baking powder
2 sticks (1/2 lb) butter unsalted
1/2 tsp salt
2 c granulated sugar
1/4 c finely grated lemon peel
6 large eggs
1 1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract
1/4 c whole milk
1/4 c fresh lemon juice

Bake at 325 degrees for 45-55 minutes. When cool, drizzle with glaze.

Glaze: 1 c + 1 tbs powdered sugar
2 tbs fresh lemon juice



*Complete recipe available from the church office.

MARCH 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	4	5	6 6pm Supper 7pm Vespers 8pm Choir	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	11	12	13 6pm Supper 7pm Vespers 8pm Choir	14 7pm Executive Board Meeting	15 6pm ISI Dinner	16
17 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	18	19	20 6pm Supper 7pm Vespers 8pm Choir	21 7pm Prayer Shawl	22	23 10-4pm Spring Clean Up
24 Palm Sunday 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	25	26	27 8pm Choir	28 Maundy Thursday 6pm Christian Seder	29 8pm Good Friday Tenebrae	30
31 Easter Sunday Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am Holy Communion						

APRIL 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30pm Taize	3 8pm Choir	4	5	6
3 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	8	9 7:30pm Taize	10 8pm Choir	11	12 6pm Diaspora Dinner	13 7:30pm Dessert and Slide Show
14 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 2pm Architecture Tour	15	16 7:30pm Taize	17 8pm Choir	18 7pm Prayer Shawl	19 6pm ISI Dinner	20
21 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	22	23 7:30pm Taize	24 8pm Choir	25	26	27
28 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 1-6pm Communioniversity	29	30 7:30pm Taize				

BE SURE TO GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY, AND MAYBE

You will hear one of these hymns!

The Dentist's Hymn—Crown Him With Many Crowns

The Weatherman's Hymn—There Shall be Showers of Blessings

The Contractor's Hymn—The Church's One Foundation

The Tailor's Hymn—Holy, Holy, Holy

The Golfer's Hymn—There Is a Green Hill Far Away

The Politician's Hymn—Standing On the Promises

The Optometrist's Hymn—Open My Eyes That I May See

The IRS Agent's Hymn—I Surrender All

The Gossip's Hymn—Pass It On

The Electrician's Hymn—Send the Light

The Shopper's Hymn—Sweet By and By

The Realtor's Hymn—I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop

The Massage Therapist's Hymn—He Touched Me

The Doctor's Hymn—The Great Physician



AND for those drivers to sing as they speed on the highway...



45 mph—GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

55 mph—GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH

65 mph—NEARER MY GOD, TO THEE

75mph—NEARER, STILL NEARER

85mph— THIS WORLD IS NOT MY HOME

95mph—LORD, I'M COMING HOME

Over 100 mph—PRECIOUS MEMORIES

**Give me a sense of humor, Lord, give me the grace to see a joke,
to get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folk.**



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

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Mailing Address Line 1

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Amidon III, Roger	03/29	Alabert, Kersti	04/17
Bamgbade, Eunice	03/23	Baer, Daniel	04/13
DeVany, Tyler	03/31	Bamgbade, Diane	04/18
Groves, Bradley	03/18	Block, Austin	04/19
Manczuk, Suzanne	03/01	Coffin, Lottie	04/14
Mitt, Siv	03/20	Gerwers, Hank	04/21
Sabatura, Troy	03/10	Groves, Eva	04/06
Spaude, Ryan	03/29	Horan, Paul	04/13
Stys, Raymond	03/07	Tria, Taylor	04/27
Tria, Pierce	03/17	Wackerman, Belkys	04/28
Wolf, Nicholas	03/02	Wackerman, Jonathan	04/20
		Wendel, Katherine	04/22

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those celebrating
March and April 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