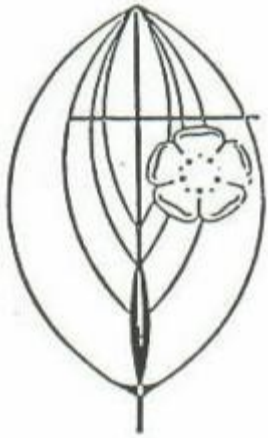


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street Princeton NJ 08540
 Church Email: lcmprinceton@gmail.com
 Website: www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hospitality and Faithfulness

In our First Lesson (Acts 11:1-

18) this past Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Easter (April 28), we heard some early Christians ask the apostle Peter, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" When Peter told them about his vision of the sheet and his meeting with Cornelius, says Acts 11:18, "they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'"



Even to the Gentiles?! For Peter's audience, that was quite a step. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was welcoming people and practices foreign and even abhorrent to the observant Jews of the early Christian church. Mosaic law included provisions for the care of strangers, but to be counted among those who ate unclean foods was something quite different.

Continued on next page

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONT'D)

The magnitude of the issue may be difficult for us at Messiah to comprehend, as few of us consider dietary restrictions an essential part of our religious observance. At the same time, we do things in certain ways because we value them, and we hope that others will learn to value them too. The way we worship, our creeds and confessions, our budget, and the way we treat each other all reflect our priorities, and we don't want people running roughshod over what we cherish. Congregations that don't share common values fall apart because where nothing matters, anything goes. Perhaps that makes it a little easier for us to sympathize with Peter's audience at the beginning of Acts 11.

Being hospitable to others and yet faithful to what (or whom) we value is no easy task. We need God's help. As parents know, loving a child does not mean surrendering to him or her. So too, God our Father loves, values, and welcomes us so much that he opens himself to us in his Word – spoken, heard, written and finally incarnated in Jesus, who came to us with us to dwell. In God's Word, the Holy Spirit teaches us what to value and how to act accordingly, allowing us lots of freedom for working that out in our own context.

We need God's help to discern the essential from the superficial, the central from the peripheral. We won't always agree, but as we see in Acts, disagreement is not new to the body of Christ, nor is it necessarily debilitating or permanent. We are blessed at Messiah to have a delightfully low level of conflict in our congregation, for which we can thank God heartily!

On Pentecost Sunday (May 19), we will have a chance to welcome people different from ourselves to our fellowship hour. Members of the Peace Islands Institute (PII) will be visiting to share food and conversation with us. You can read more about the PII and the event on page 5. Few, if any, of our visitors will be Christians. That is an essential difference, but it need not prevent us from eating and talking together. We can be faithful, incarnational witnesses of God's love for us by welcoming the stranger, talking informally about what we believe and value, sharing our questions, and spending time on one another. I invite you to join me in being one such witness!

Pastor Erhardt

Visit our website to listen to audio recordings of Sunday Sermons.

<http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org/services.html>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

9:00am Sunday Mornings

Sunday School and Adult Education class will meet through the month of May (last meeting May 26).

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30am Sunday mornings in May

9:30am Summer worship June 2nd - September 1 (inclusive)

CHOIR PRACTICE

8:00pm Wednesday evenings through the month of May.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

7:00pm Thursdays once a month at Mildred Coyner's home

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE CURRENT CHURCH DIRECTORY are available to pick up in the back of the nave. The directory is intended to be a handy reference tool for regular attenders. It is not a membership list. Please note that the directories are for personal use only, and should not be reproduced, distributed, or used for solicitation.

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.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Nat and Rachel Tabris welcome daughter, Beatrice born on April 3.

Troy Sabatura and Shellie Vargo will be married August 30 in Dunellen, NJ, at Shellie's church. A beachside ceremony in Bethany Beach, Delaware, will follow in September to celebrate!

Heidi Sabatura will graduate from Villanova University this May with a degree in nursing. She was recently inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society.

Jeff Groves will graduate from New Jersey Institute of Technology on May 20th with a degree in industrial design. He will begin work as an industrial engineer at Quirky in NYC.

Brad Groves will spend the fall semester in Copenhagen, Denmark. He will study at Copenhagen Business School as part of the University of Richmond's study abroad program.

Dana Hall, granddaughter of Mildred Coyner, is in India with a 3-credit travel course with the Princeton Theological Seminary where she is a first year student. After 3 weeks of lectures and church assignments they will return to the states on May 14th.

Matthew Zak is graduating from Millersville University with a degree in Biology on May 18th.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Evening Prayer in the spirit of the Taize Community will continue through May 14th, held at 7:30pm on Tuesday evenings in the Princeton University chapel. All are welcome.

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

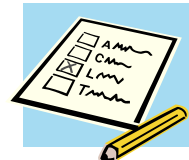


UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Save the Dates

Next Sunday, May 5, following worship

Congregational voters meeting at which we will elect new executive board officers. We will also hear from Carolyn Biondi, executive director of the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, about the work of this ministry which Messiah supports. Please plan to attend.



Friday, May 17

We at Messiah will be culinary missionaries to the International Students, Inc. (ISI) monthly friendship dinner on Friday, May 17, at 6:00pm. That means we have been asked to provide 8-10 casseroles that feed 10-12 people each. Requests are for baked chicken, sliced ham & turkey, meat-loaf, rice, potatoes, vegetables, and fruit salad. *Not needed* are pasta dishes, desserts, salads, and dinner rolls. If you are willing to bring or send a casserole for this event, please sign up in the back of the nave.

ISI exists to share Christ's love with international students and to equip them for effective service in cooperation with the local church and others. The Princeton chapter's monthly dinners have an average attendance of about 90 people from around the world.

Sunday, May 19 (Pentecost)

Our fellowship hour will be hosted by visitors from the Peace Islands Institute, a group of mostly Turkish people working to improve relations between people of different faiths, and especially between Muslims and non-Muslims. More information about the institute is available at www.peaceislands.org. Come prepared to enjoy Turkish food and the company of our guests.

Following fellowship hour on May 19th, which may double as lunch, Herb and Carolyn Gishlick invite you to their home for a Model Railroad Open House. Come to play trains and/or to enjoy good company and their very impressive model railroad. This event is open to people of all ages. Parents are asked to carefully attend young children in the vicinity of the model railroad.









Also on May 19th, you are invited to Rider University's Gill Chapel (Lawrenceville campus) for a concert of compositions by father and son, Hofreiter & Hofreiter. The program begins at 3:00pm and will include works for piano, bass violin, marimba, voice, & guitar.

UPCOMING READINGS

<u>Sunday following the Ascension</u>	* <u>Acts 16:16-34</u>	<u>Psalms 97</u>	<u>Revelation 22:12-14, 16-</u>	<u>John 17:20-26</u>
<u>Day of Pentecost</u> May 19, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	* <u>Acts 2:1-21</u>	<u>Psalms 104:24-34, 35b</u>	<u>Romans 8:14-17</u>	<u>John 14:8-17, 25-27</u>
<u>Trinity Sunday</u> May 26, 2013 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i> <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31</u> <u>Psalms 8</u>	<u>Romans 5:1-5</u>	<u>John 16:12-15</u>	
<u>Proper 4 (9)</u> Second Sunday after Pentecost June 2, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>1 Kings 18:20-39</u> <u>Psalms 96</u>	<u>Galatians 1:1-12</u>	<u>Luke 7:1-10</u>	
<u>Proper 5 (10)</u> Third Sunday after Pentecost June 9, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>1 Kings 17:8-24</u> <u>Psalms 146</u>	<u>Galatians 1:11-24</u>	<u>Luke 7:11-17</u>	
<u>Proper 6 (11)</u> Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 16, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>1 Kings 21:1-21a</u> <u>Psalms 5:1-8</u>	<u>Galatians 2:15-21</u>	<u>Luke 7:36-8:3</u>	
<u>Proper 7 (12)</u> Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 23, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>1 Kings 19:1-15a</u> <u>Psalms 42 and 43</u>	<u>Galatians 3:23-29</u>	<u>Luke 8:26-39</u>	
<u>Proper 8 (13)</u> Sixth Sunday after Pentecost June 30, 2013 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14</u> <u>Psalms 77:1-2,</u>	<u>Galatians 5:1, 13-25</u>	<u>Luke 9:51-62</u>	

RECAP OF MARCH/APRIL EVENTS IN PHOTOS

	Church Clean Up March 23			
			Christian Seder Dinner March 28	
		Easter Sunday March 31		
				
	Diaspora April 12th			

Continued on page 12

GARDENING UPDATE

After months of waiting, the bulbs that Messiah's volunteer gardeners planted last fall finally emerged from their winter hibernation and bloomed, decking the grounds in bright colors. Dozens of daffodils, a splash of red tulips, and scattered other bulbs emerged and are a sight for sore eyes.

There will be more horticultural excitement over the next several weeks. Azaleas and hydrangeas from our Easter celebration will be planted permanently, and the pots which held greens and berries over the winter will be planted with colorful annuals.

The beautiful new landscaping on the side of the church features azaleas and a rhododendron which ought to be coming into bloom soon, along with the azaleas in planters flanking the side walk, which already have healthy-looking flower buds.



The biggest piece of news is that by the summer, the Nassau Street side of the church should be planted with cherry trees which will sport clouds of white and pink flowers next spring, bright green boxwood hedges lining either side of the entrance walk, and dark green columnar boxwoods surrounded by variegated liriopie anchoring the front corners. A variety of annuals will be planted along the path as well, for color all summer.

The fun part of gardening is surveying the beautiful results, but alas, there is a lot of work involved also. Potted plants especially need regular watering during sunny summer days, and weeds poke their annoying heads up just about everywhere and require a firm and pitiless hand. There will also be quite a bit of planting of flowering annuals and perennials to do in the next month or so. If you are willing to help with any of these tasks during the growing season, please contact Miranda Hempel at ballroomania@yahoo.com. A season-long commitment is not necessary! Even coming once for an hour or two is a big help.

Miranda Hempel

MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



Thank you to Mildred Coyner for continuing to host our Prayer Shawl meetings in her home once a month. This month we will meet on May 23rd at 7pm. Please continue to check the website for news and announcements of summer meetings.

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.



On July 13th Thrivent will sponsor a special luncheon at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Somerville, NJ. All local prayer shawl and crafting groups are welcome and will have a chance to get to know each other and share ideas.

COMMUNIVERSITY

Many thanks to our Communiversity volunteers who packed up, transported, set up and manned our Messiah table for Communiversity! Special thanks to Peter Giller for providing the tent cover, and Thomas Wohn, John Fischer and Tom Sabatura who braved the crowds to unload and load our items.



MAY 2013

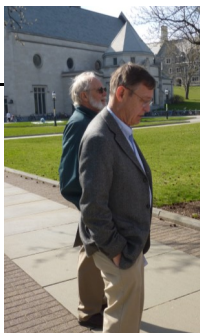
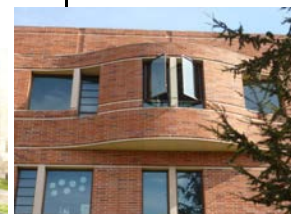
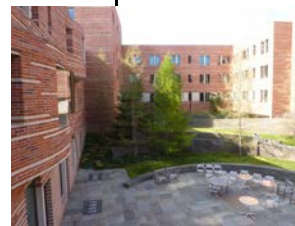
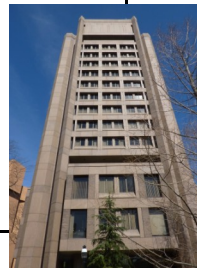
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8pm Choir	2	3	4
5 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 12:15pm Voters Meeting	6	7 7:30pm Taize	8 Pastor at English District Church Workers Conference 8pm Choir	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	13	14 7:30pm Last Taize	15 8pm Choir	16 7pm Executive Bd Board	17 6pm ISI Dinner (hosted by Messiah)	18
19 Pentecost 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion Fellowship Hour with PII 2pm Model Railroad Open House 3pm Hofreiter&Hofreiter Concert	20	21	22 8pm Choir	23 7pm Prayer Shawl	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	27 Memorial Day	28	28 8pm Choir	30	31	

JUNE 2013

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

MARCH APRIL EVENTS IN PHOTOS

Architectural
Slide Show and
Walking Tour
April 13 & 14



Many thanks to Jon Hlafter for the informative tour!

Photography by the Rev. John Mark Goerss