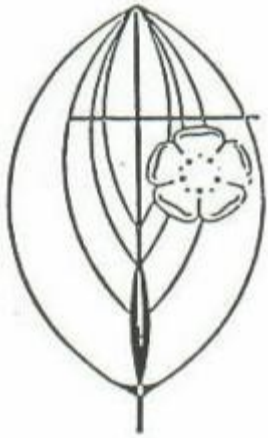


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

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PASTOR

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Giving Thanks in a Fallen World

"O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil." (Joel 2:23-24)

These words of promise from Joel 2 – part of the First Lesson at our Reformation Sunday Matins service on October 27 – remind me of how much we have to be thankful for. The 10 foot ornamental grasses on the perimeter of the church parking lot are but one indicator that we've had nearly ideal weather for plant growth this year. Though the grasses were recently reduced to about 3 inches at our Fall Work Day, crop yields are at record levels around the country, with farmers hurting for workers to harvest their abundant crop.

We have much for which to be thankful: recovery from Hurricane Sandy a year ago, and the heat, light, refrigeration, transportation, shelter, and other blessings we no longer take for granted as a result; for a safe Fall Work Day on Oct. 26; for the good news of salvation by grace through faith preached by Martin Luther and other reformers that we celebrated with several other LCMS congregations in a Chorale Service of Holy Communion the afternoon of Reformation Sunday (Oct. 27);



Continued on next page

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONTINUED)

for all saints, known and unknown to us, through whom the good news of salvation has reached us, and whom we will celebrate on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 3); for confidence that our future is in God's hands, and that nothing can separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38-39). This is a time for thanksgiving.

Yet many of us suffer amid abundance. It's easy to convince ourselves that giving thanks is only for those who have no troubles. In fact, many hymns of thanks were written in the midst of hardship. You may remember that the favorite thanksgiving hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God" was written by Martin Rinkhart in the terrible circumstances of the Thirty Years War in Europe. "O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come," wrote Isaac Watts, despite his poor health and persecution for his nonconformist religious views.

Though we don't receive it in equal measure, no one is exempt from trouble, and no one is without basis for thanksgiving. Though we live in a fallen world, we at Messiah have much for which to thank God – not least for God coming to live among us, as one of us, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Once again this Advent we will anticipate and give thanks for the coming of Jesus, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). Therefore, in whatever circumstances we find ourselves this Thanksgiving, let us join with saints of every time and every place to say with the prophet Habakkuk:

¹⁷ Though the fig tree should not blossom,

nor fruit be on the vines,

the produce of the olive fail

and the fields yield no food,

the flock be cut off from the fold

and there be no herd in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord;

I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

¹⁹ God, the Lord, is my strength;

he makes my feet like the deer's;

he makes me tread on my high places." (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Pastor Erhardt

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS START THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

The new Sunday School year began with a team of new Sunday School teachers - Eeyan Tan, Ryan Spaude, and Miranda Hempel. Our wonderful former teachers, Debbie Baer and Belkys Wackerman, retired after many years of service, and they are both missed and appreciated!



We have already learned several great Bible stories, including Ruth and Naomi, Elijah and the widow at Zarephath, Jesus healing the centurion's servant, the four friends lowering their paralyzed friend from the roof, Zacchaeus climbing the tree to see Jesus, and the Good Samaritan. The students created their own

Coming up: gathering manna in the desert, which we are studying to tie in with the newly-launched Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, which the Sunday School students are heading up for Messiah. They have set a goal of collecting 300 cans/packages by November 24. The most-needed foods are those high in nutritional value:

- Canned low-fructose fruit
- Canned proteins (tuna, salmon, chicken, chili)
- Shelf-stable milk (like Parmalat)
- Peanut butter
- Canned potatoes
- Hot cereal (oatmeal, grits, cream of wheat)
- Small/medium box of cold cereal
- 1-2 lbs. pasta
- Boxed macaroni and cheese
- 2 lbs. rice
- 1 lb. dried beans
- Honey (plastic container)



Help fill the basket!

The students are very excited about the project and have already started designing posters to inform the congregation of the importance of the drive and of donating food to those who are in need. We hope you will contribute early and often!

SAVE THE DATES

Saturday, November 16

Congregational Potluck , 6:00pm at Messiah
Please bring your favorite main dish and a side dish to share.

Sunday, December 8, following worship
Congregational Voters Meeting

Friday, December 13

Christmas Caroling, time to be announced



POT LUCK AND SLIDE SHOW



Pastor Erhardt shared his summer travels with the congregation during the fall potluck dinner at Messiah. We dined on seafood prepared by congregants inspired by Pastor's travels to the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

WE COMMEMORATE ALL THE SAINTS – those whose names light up the pages of the history of the faithful, and those whose faith is known to God alone. On this day we give thanks to God for all His saints and their witness to us. We remember the faithful departed who continue with us in the communion of saints, especially those who have died in the past year:

Dolores Bergmann	Sunny Onish
Guido Sammelselg	Joann Yount
Uno Vipper	Sylvia Chavez
Judy Whitcraft	Betty Dellinger
Milton J. Nauss	Eino Alabert
Vernon Kieffer	Jeanne Miller

OUR SYMPATHY

Rev. Milton J. Nauss, founding pastor of Messiah, died on Oct. 19 in Sarasota, Florida. A service was held at Island Lutheran Church, Hilton Head, South Carolina, on Friday, October 25. In lieu of flowers, donations or memorials may be made to Island Lutheran Church, PO Box 22297, Hilton Head, SC, 29925–2297. An obituary is available at www.legacy.com/obituaries/stltoday/obituary.aspx?n=milton-j-nauss&pid=167664979.

E. Julia “Judy” Yoos Whitcraft died on September 1, 2013, in Brooke Grove Nursing Home in Sandy Spring, MD. She is survived by her loving husband of 75 years, Earl, her daughter Pamela Cooper and husband, Jim, her son, Gary and his wife, Elizabeth, and her granddaughter Sarah Bowers and husband Brent. Judy was born in Hainesport, NJ, on June 26, 1915. She graduated from Mount Holly High School in 1933. Her first job was as a teller at Farmer’s Trust in Mount Holly, and later she was a supervisor at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, NJ. She was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Princeton, NJ, and St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, MD. Contributions may be made to either or both of these churches. She will be interred at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Hainesport, NJ.



UPCOMING READINGS

All Saints Day November 3, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149	Ephesians 1:11-23	Luke 6:20-31
Proper 27 (32) Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 10, 2013 ART -- PRAYER	Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17	Luke 20:27-38
Proper 28 (33) Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost November 17, 2013 ART -- PRAYER	Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 **	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
Reign of Christ - Proper 29 (34) Twenty-Seventh Sunday after Pentecost November 24, 2013 ART -- PRAYER	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-79 **	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
Thanksgiving Eve, November 28, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 100	Philippians 4:4-9	John 6:25-35

First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2013 ART -- PRAYER	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2013 ART -- PRAYER	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2013 ART -- PRAYER	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2013 ART -- PRAYER	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25

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REFORMATION SUNDAY



Carolyn Gishlick prepares the chancel flowers



Choir of Bethany Lutheran Church, Ewing

Messiah celebrated Reformation Sunday with members of nearby LCMS congregations: Bethany (Ewing), Grace (Palisades Park), Hope (Levittown, PA), and St. Peter (Lambertville).



Bethany Lutheran Church members from Liberia led us in African worship music.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS SEMINAR

Will You Need Long-Term Care? November 5 at 6:30 to 8:30 PM. For more information please contact Lynda Dillman at lynda.dillman@thrivent.com.

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Thrivent will match (1:1) *Thrivent Choice* contributions to Messiah and other congregations in October and November—an opportunity to make your *Thrivent Choice* dollars go twice as far.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Can you name the couple and location of this event?



Ladies of Messiah-can you name them?

MESSIAH PHOTO DIRECTORY COMING SOON!

Thank you to Doris Gerwers who took beautiful photos of our Messiah families! Look for a new bulletin board in the back of the nave and coming soon, our new photo directory.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Saturday, November 16, 6:00pm Potluck dinner at Messiah

Bring a main dish and a dessert or salad to share. Pastor Goerss will treat us to pictures from his recent visit to Ravenna, Italy.



Friday, December 13, Christmas caroling (time to be announced)
Everyone is invited to join us for Christmas caroling around town.

ADVENT CALENDARS

Order Advent calendars on the order form in the back of the nave by Sunday, November 10. Several choices are available, good for gifts and for use at home. Please pay Miranda Hempel by cash or check when ordering. Checks should be payable to the Lutheran Church of the Messiah. If you can't be at church to order, contact Miranda directly using her contact information in the directory. Calendars can be picked up at church on Sunday, Dec. 1, the first Sunday in Advent.

MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

There is an old German proverb, *"Begin to weave and God will provide the thread."* Messiah's Prayer Shawl group has been together since 2006, busily weaving prayers into the many completed shawls that are given away each year. Doris Gerwers has just completed her 77th prayer shawl (see photo below) and Siv Mitt is working on her 85th! Join us once a month when we meet at Mildred Coyner's home for fellowship and prayer. Next meeting: December 12 at 7:00pm.



Mildred spoils us with her delicious apple cake.

PRAYER SHAWL LADIES DO MORE THAN KNIT !



Doris Schubert Gerwers

Doris Gerwers ran a 5K!
(And received 1st place in her age group) at the Parkinson Alliance 13th Annual 5K run on September 28, 2013 at Carnegie Center.



On September 29th, Eva Groves completed the 75 mile Twin Lights bike ride: Sandy Hook to Manasquan and back.

And on October 20th, finished the Bucks County Covered Bridge bike ride- 33 miles of Pennsylvania hills!



Eva Groves and brother Peter Mitt

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENTS

Concerts at Princeton University Chapel

Sunday, December 8, 2:30pm

ADVENT CONCERT

Selections from Christmas Oratorio by J.S. Bach
Chapel Choir and orchestra
Penna Rose, conductor
Admission free

Monday, December 9, 7:30pm

COMMUNITY MESSIAH SING

With strings, trumpet and organ
Bring a score or borrow one at the door
Penna Rose, conductor
General admission \$5, students free

American Boychoir Concerts

VOICES OF ANGELS

Saturday, December 14, 2013, 7:30pm

Princeton University Chapel

What sounds make you think of the holidays? A boychoir and a brass band, right?

Well you're in luck because

The American Boychoir and Canadian Brass join forces this holiday to bring you all your seasonal favorites.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Sunday, December 15, 2013, 4:00pm

Richardson Auditorium in

Alexander Hall, Princeton University

Ring in the season with the American Boychoir and the Canadian Brass for our annual family program of much-loved holiday classics, including Christmas Medley.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES AT MESSIAH

Wednesday November 27th, 8PM Thanksgiving Eve Service of Evening Prayer

Tuesday, December 24th, 8PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 25th, 10:30am Christmas Day Service of Holy Communion

GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The Gardening Committee met in September to discuss plans for Messiah's Fall Work Day. Esther Fischer, Renate Giller, Eva Groves, Kersti Alabert, Gail Sabatura, Lottie Coffin, Doris Schubert-Gerwers, and Miranda Hempel were able to attend. Among the topics under discussion was what to plant to add to our spring display around the front entrance of the church.

Daffodils and grape hyacinths were the most popular suggestions, and so the borders along the front walk have been enhanced with additional daffodils. There is a new planting around our sign rimmed by a border of re-blooming day lilies, daffodils, and grape hyacinth which will give our front grounds color and flowers throughout the spring, summer, and early fall.

The new border around the sign includes white-blooming azaleas, boxwoods, a variety of yellow daylily which re-blooms, blue creeping junipers, and spring bulbs. Like much of the new landscaping brightening Messiah, the new border was made possible through the generosity of Messiah members.

Being big believers in the old adage "Waste not, want not," on Work Day our hardy band of volunteers weeded the front border in front of our yew hedge to prepare it for recycled chrysanthemum plants brought in by several members, and recycled lily bulblets which sprouted from lilies from last Easter. The chrysanthemums we planted at our previous Fall Work Day have bloomed so spectacularly in the small plot next to the back door that we have high hopes for the display this coming year. The lily bulblets may take two years to bloom, but good things are worth waiting for, and in the meantime let them be an inspiration to "consider the lilies of the field, they toil not . . ."

Our gardening volunteers, on the other hand, toiled plenty on Fall Work Day (as did the stalwart workers who cleaned the church inside and out.) They spent the day not only weeding, pruning, shearing, digging, and planting, but also spreading eight cubic yards of mulch to deter weeds. Almost everyone got in on the act distributing the mulch, which was a Sisyphean task; it had to be shoveled into wheelbarrows and any other receptacles that could be found, and then toted over to the designated area. The result, though, is worth it. Our grounds look groomed and cared for.

The Gardening Committee has also been considering the thorny issue of maintenance, a.k.a. weeding. In order to battle these persistent intruders, we are dividing the planted borders around the church into defined areas, which are up for "adoption." We hope people will adopt one of these areas and take care of it, weeding it when necessary, and during dry spells in the summer, occasionally watering it as well. Look for diagrams and a sign-up sheet at the front of the church. Please "Adopt-a-Plot" and help Messiah keep looking beautiful and well-cared for. Adopted plots will bear your name.

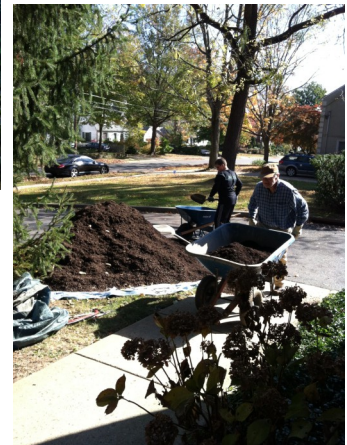
We welcome ideas and suggestions! Please share your thoughts with us. You can contact me at ballroomania@yahoo.com and [609-865-8117](tel:609-865-8117). There is still a lot that can be done, so give your imaginations free rein.

~Miranda Hempel

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY AND LANDSCAPING, SATURDAY, OCT.26



**THANK YOU
EVERYONE!**



Photos by Debbie Baer and Eva Groves

CONGRATS!



Troy Sabatura and Michelle Vargo on September 14



Sam and Terry Flores and Heidi Sabatura



Wedding on Bethany Beach, DE

CHRISTMAS READINGS

Christmas Eve December 24	Isaiah 9:2-7	(no Psalm)	Titus 3: 4-7	Luke 2: 1-20
Nativity of the Lord - Proper III December 24 & 25, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)	John 1:1-14
First Sunday after Christmas Day December 29, 2013 <i>ART -- PRAYER</i>	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23

November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	4	5 7:30pm Taize	6 7:15 Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	7	8	9
10 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	11	12 7:30pm Taize	13 7:15 Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	14 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting	15	16 6:00pm Potluck Dinner
17 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	18	19 7:30pm Taize	20 7:15 Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	21	22	23
24 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	25	26 7:30pm Taize	27 No Confirmation 8pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	28	29	30

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 7:30pm Taize	4 7:15 Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	5	6	7
8 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion Congregational Meeting	9	10 7:30pm Taize	11 7:15 Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	12 7pm Executive Board Meeting	13 Christmas Caroling	14
15 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	16	17 7:30pm Taize	18 7:15 Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	19	20	21
22 9:00 Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	23	24 Christmas Eve 8:00pm	25 Christmas Day 10:30am	26	27	28
29 No Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	30	31				