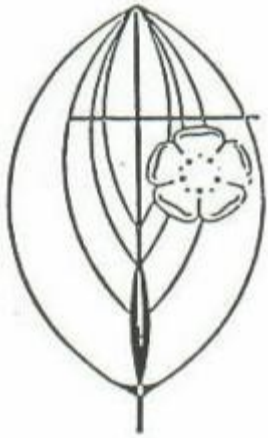


## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



# Messiah Messenger

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 CHURCH EMAIL: LCMPRINCETON@GMAIL.COM  
 WEBSITE: WWW.PRINCETONLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### PARTNERS IN MISSION

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

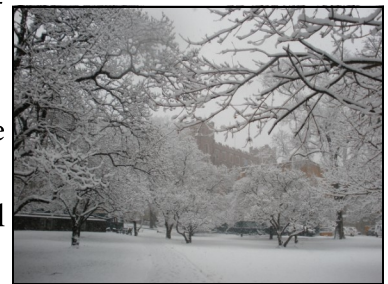
**THE REV. DR.  
 JOHN MARK GOERSS  
 PASTOR EMERITUS**

**JANICE HOFREITER  
 ORGANIST AND  
 CHOIR DIRECTOR**

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

February is just around the corner — season of the Superbowl, Valentine's Day, and tax returns. It's also a season of beginnings at many colleges and universities as they begin the spring semester. Since the congregation's inception, Messiah has been actively involved in ministry with students at Princeton University, Princeton Seminary, and Westminster Choir College. This happens in a variety of ways, including the Lutheran chaplaincy at the university, Lutherans in Diaspora conferences for Lutheran seminarians, supporting the local mission work of ISI (International Students, Inc.) to international students, and welcoming students to worship at Messiah and other congregational events. The benefits don't flow in just one direction. Messiah benefits from the presence of students and from the gifts they generously offer.

The advent of a new academic term is a good time to reflect on the past one, and it's good for us as a congregation to be aware of what's going on in the campus ministry we help to support. This past semester has been an eventful one for Lutheran Campus Ministry. Here are some highlights:



*continued on the next page*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONT'D)

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- 1) The academic year kicked off with ISI's Garage Give-Away at Messiah on September 7, at which many international students and scholars found household items and furniture to furnish their new living quarters in America. ISI sponsors Bible studies and English conversation practice for international students, as well as monthly friendship dinners at Messiah, which include songs of worship and a talk by an academic faculty or staff member about their Christian faith.
- 2) The following day, Christian Education classes began at Messiah. Princeton University sophomore Ryan Spaude, Princeton Seminary student Ee-yan Tan, and Miranda Hempel began teaching Sunday School this year, following the dedicated service of Debbie Baer and Belkys Wackerman.
- 3) Weekly Taize-style Evening Prayer services began September 10 in the Princeton University Chapel. Please join us at 7:30pm on Tuesdays for these ~30 minute services of song, scripture, and contemplative prayer when they resume on February 4.
- 4) Ryan Spaude, Pastor Erhardt, and Martin Luther (in spirit and in plasticine replica) greeted new students and spread the word about Lutheran Campus Ministry at the university activities fair on September 13.
- 5) The Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) of Pittsburgh, led by Pastor Eric Andrae, joined local Lutheran students at Princeton University Nov. 8-9 for a conference entitled, "Sexuality, Integrity, and the University." Conference presenters encouraged students to develop relationships in which they honor and uphold the virtues of chastity and marital fidelity. It's such an important message for us who live in a society that treats sex casually and our bodies like toys we own, instead of as temples of the Holy Spirit. We were blessed to have LSF students and Pastor Andrae join us for Bible class and worship on November 10 before heading home.

*continued on page 7*

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Messiah!** If you attend Messiah but are not a rostered member of the congregation, we encourage you to consider joining officially. Pastor Erhardt is planning a *Welcome to Messiah* class for those considering membership. If you're interested, please let him know. Attending the class will not obligate you to become a member.

### Ash Wednesday (March 5)

No Soup and Salad Supper  
7:00pm Holy Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes



### Subsequent Wednesdays in Lent (March 12-April 9)

6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper  
7:00-7:45pm Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



The Sunday School class is continuing its exploration of the Old and New Testament with unabated enthusiasm. During Advent, the class studied and compared the nativity stories in Matthew and Luke. The students composed an Advent ABC in honor of the season, and created imaginative pop-up cards to send to someone special in their lives. They also learned an origami technique for folding delicate "gift boxes" out of plain paper.

In the coming year, the class will continue to study the Gospels, with some excursions into the Old Testament for some relevant and just plain fun stories. The ornery Jonah with his adventures inside and outside of the fish is sure to be a big hit.

In addition the important topics of the many kinds of charity and the importance of developing a giving spirit are being introduced. Study started with the story of the widow, who in donating only two small copper coins to the Temple, gave more than the wealthy people who offered large sums. Each student has been given a plain plaster "piggy bank" to paint and decorate; each week they will put in offerings of their own.



~Miranda Hempel

And from Ryan Spaude:

In the upcoming weeks, a special emphasis will be placed on the life of Jesus. The students have already studied the Bible passage where Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple, as well as a few passages focusing on the works of John the Baptist. Some future topics as we progress through the church liturgical calendar will likely include Jesus' baptism, ministry, and temptation. Stay tuned for more exciting news from Sunday School!



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING



*Decorating the beautiful white fir Christmas tree given by the Sabatura Family*



### CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE LIGHT SHINES  
IN THE DARKNESS



## LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY



Evening Prayer in the spirit of the Taizé Community will resume on February 4th. Services are every Tuesday at 7:30pm at the Princeton University Chapel, Feb. 4-25 and April 22-May 20.

During Lent, midweek Evening Prayer services are held at 7:00pm on Wednesdays at Messiah. Except for Ash Wednesday (March 5), a 6:00pm soup and salad supper precedes each midweek service, March 12-April 9. All are welcome.

For schedule updates see: [www.princetonlutheranchurch.org/lcm/calendar.html](http://www.princetonlutheranchurch.org/lcm/calendar.html).  
For more information on the Taizé Community, see [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr).

## POTLUCK AND SLIDESHOW: GERMAN FOSSILS AND CHURCHES

At our potluck dinner on Saturday, January 25, 2014, Alan Gishlick showed slides from his research in Germany.

In spite of the three inches of freshly fallen snow, the German-themed potluck was well attended.

Alan talked about fossil sites in Holzmaden, Solnhofen and Grube Messel and shared his amazing slides of German fossils. He spent most of his time in the ancient university town of Tübingen, working with Adolf "Dolf" Seilacher on a collaborative book that will soon be published.

In addition to fossils, we were treated to slides of the many architectural styles of churches in both small and large towns of Germany.

Thank you Alan!



*Alana and Alan Gishlick in Regensburg*



*Jon Hlafter, Doris Gerwers, Renate Giller and Pastor Erhardt all sported German colors!*



## UPCOMING READINGS

<a href="#"><u>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</u></a> February 2, 2014 <a href="#"><u>ART</u></a> -- <a href="#"><u>PRAYER</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Micah 6:1-8</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalm 15</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1 Corinthians 1:18-31</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 5:1-12</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</u></a> February 9, 2014 <a href="#"><u>ART</u></a> -- <a href="#"><u>PRAYER</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Isaiah 58:1-12)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalm 112:1-10</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1 Corinthians 2:1-16</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 5:13-20</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</u></a> February 16, 2014 <a href="#"><u>ART</u></a> -- <a href="#"><u>PRAYER</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalm 119:1-8</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1 Corinthians 3:1-9</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 5:21-37</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</u></a> February 23, 2014 <a href="#"><u>ART</u></a> -- <a href="#"><u>PRAYER</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Psalm 119:33-40</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Matthew 5:38-48</u></a>

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Preserving and promoting human dignity takes effort. From Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, last month provided several opportunities to reflect on current issues of human dignity and to participate in related events. When taking these opportunities, keep in mind that one important way to value human dignity is to respect the dignity of people with whom we disagree. Remember that a diversity of opinions exists even among those on the same side of an issue. Neither of these considerations need deter us from participating.

On Wednesday, January 22, Pastor Erhardt joined the March for Life on the National Mall in Washington, DC, in spite of freezing temperatures and the most snow the city had seen in 3 years! Tens of thousands of people braved the bitter cold to speak out for life.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONT'D)

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- 6) On November 18, Lutheran Campus Ministry, with several other Christian student fellowships, co-sponsored a lecture and extended Q&A session on Jesus' resurrection with New Testament theologian N. T. Wright. Moderated by Princeton religion professor and Augustine scholar Eric Gregory, the event packed the McCosh Hall auditorium at Princeton University and addressed important questions of the Christian faith from Christian and non-Christian students.
- 7) On January 22, Pastor Erhardt joined Lutheran and non-Lutheran students of Princeton Pro-Life for some communal solidarity and frugidity at the March for Life on the National Mall in Washington, DC. In addition to marching in support of the dignity and freedom of humans in all circumstances and stages of life, students met with congressional staff and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.
- 8) This past week, in preparation for the increased demand for labor (some of it involuntary and exploitative) that comes with the Superbowl, students Ryan Spaude and Stephen Timmel joined Pastor Erhardt, Peter Giller, and Nicholas Wolf in putting up posters to raise awareness about and prevent human trafficking. The poster campaign is part of a multifaceted effort by the New Jersey Attorney General's office to prevent human trafficking, free its victims, and prosecute its perpetrators.

It's a great and humbling feeling to realize we're a part of ministry of which we're often unaware. God is at work among us at Messiah, and it's a privilege to participate in God's mission to the world with so many and such diverse partners. From ISI to the Lutheran Student Fellowship of Pittsburgh, and from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, our ELCA partner congregation in Lutheran Campus Ministry, to Princeton Pro-Life, God uses Messiah in partnership with others to bring good news, justice, reconciliation, and hope to a hurting world.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, 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 12:1-2)

Pastor Erhardt

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## CHRISTMAS PRAYER SHAWL MEETING



Singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" to Mildred's sister, Ruth, in hospice care at the Christmas Prayer Shawl Meeting.



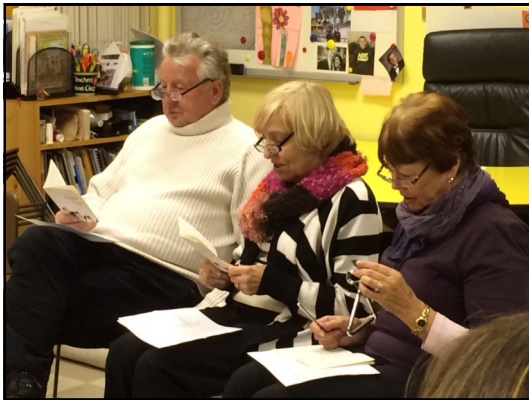
Knitting, chatting, praying and enjoying one another's company while feasting on homemade cake. It doesn't get much better than this!



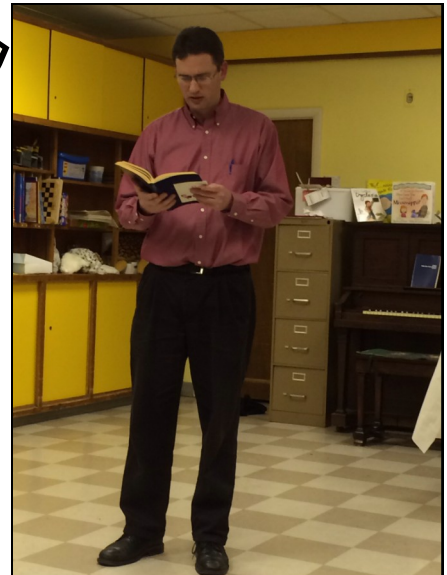
Miranda Hempel and Mildred Coyner



# CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-ALONG AT MESSIAH



ON FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 13TH,  
PASTOR  
ERHARDT  
LED US IN  
CHRISTMAS  
CAROLS.



## MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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Many thanks to Mildred Coyner for hosting our Prayer Shawl meetings in her home once a month. While Mildred is recuperating from illness, we may hold this month's meeting at church. Date to be announced. Please check the website for updates.

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](mailto:eva.m.groves@gmail.com).



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

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## OUR SYMPATHY

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Our sympathy to family and friends mourning the deaths of Ruth Harding (Mildred Coyner's sister) and Erna Bettum (the mother of Carolyn Gishlick's sister-in-law).

We remember in our prayers this month Reuben Stohs, John Fischer Sr., Martha Peck, Gail Sabatura, Virginia Huber, Jean Levine, Brad Bergmann, Jenny Mills, Jean Zeien, and Nan Dunn.

Prayer requests are printed in the weekly bulletins and included in the Sunday intercessory prayers. Please call the church office or email [lcmprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmprinceton@gmail.com) with prayer requests.

This Prayer Shawl was knit  
by the women of the  
Lutheran Church of the Messiah  
in Princeton.

As it was being knit,  
the creator prayed that it would be a  
comfort to the person who would receive  
it. Once finished, the pastor has also  
prayed a prayer of blessing for the shawl  
and its recipient.

When you use this shawl,  
may its presence provide you with warmth,  
with peace, with the knowledge that you  
are not alone, that God is with you, and  
that you are supported by many people,  
known and unknown to you.  
We wish you blessings in your journey to  
wholeness.

*Written by Elizabeth Roberts to accompany  
prayer shawls that are given away.*

# FEBRUARY 2014

							<b>1</b>		
<b>2</b> 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:15PM CONFIRMATION 8PM CHOIR	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>			
<b>9</b> 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:15PM CONFIRMATION 8PM CHOIR	<b>13</b> 7:00PM EXECUTIVE BOARD	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>			
<b>16</b> 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:15PM CONFIRMATION 8PM CHOIR	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:00 PM LSI DINNER	<b>22</b>			
<b>23</b> 9:00 AM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 10:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:15PM CONFIRMATION 8PM CHOIR	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>				



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### LENTEN SOUP AND SALAD HOSTS NEEDED

There will be five *Soup and Salad* suppers on Wednesday evenings at 6pm during Lent.

If you are able to host a Wednesday supper, please contact Eva or sign up on the sheet in the back of church. Feel free to recruit a partner to host with you. Plan to make enough soup to feed 20-30 people, and bring a salad and bread. All receipts for food costs will be reimbursed. Paper goods and drinks will be provided.

**March 12** : Eva Groves, Pea Soup; **March 19**: Esther Fischer, Lentil Soup; **March 26**: Doris Gerwers and Elizabeth Roberts, Zucchini Soup. We still need hosts for **April 2 and April 9**.

(Menus subject to change).

### THRIVENT FINANCIAL SEMINAR

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In this seminar on Women and Money, you'll learn:

Reasons why women's economic clout is growing

The unique financial challenges women face, such as longer life expectancies and more career breaks for caregiving, and how they impact long-term financial security

Six steps women can take to help them achieve financial security, including taking control of their money, becoming more knowledgeable investors, advocating for themselves in the workplace, planning for retirement, protecting their income and assets, and creating an estate plan

You'll also receive a free workbook created just for this presentation. The workbook contains key information, worksheets, and questions to help you remember important points from the seminar.

R.S.V.P.

To reserve your spot, please contact me at:

- 609-357-0497  
lynda.dillman@thrivent.com  
4365 US Highway 1  
Suite 211  
Princeton, NJ 08540

When & Where

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Elements Community Clubhouse 20 Murano Drive West Windsor, NJ

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## LETTER OF THANKS FROM JOHN AND ARUNA DESAI, ISI CAMPUS STAFF

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December 2013

“....Rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death”. (Luke 1:78, 79)

To Dearest chosen servants of the Lord in His vineyard at Lutheran Church of the Messiah,

We greet you in the Lord who was praised by the shepherds. (Luke 2:20)

We thank the Lord for you who glorify Him as the angels did. (Luke 2:14)

We thank you for your very faithful partnership through generous giving, hosting of the annual garage give-away and monthly friendship dinners as well as prayers which enable us to exalt before internationally our Lord Jesus Christ who was raised up as a horn of salvation to rescue them so they will serve Him. (Luke 1:69, 74, 75)

We pray for the Pastor, leaders and members of the church that you will continue to proclaim the good news of great joy that the Savior is born for all people. (Luke 2:10-12)

Serving with you the Son of the Most High, (Luke 1:32)

John and Aruna Desai

Campus Directors

International Students (ISI)

45 Oakland Street, Princeton, NJ 08540-3440

Phone: (609) 924-0763; Email: jdesai45@verizon.net

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## COLD WEATHER TIPS

<http://aging.sc.gov/seniors/HealthAndSafety/Pages/ColdWeatherTips.aspx>

Be a good neighbor — telephone or knock on the door to check on the elderly and people with disabilities during harsh weather conditions.

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