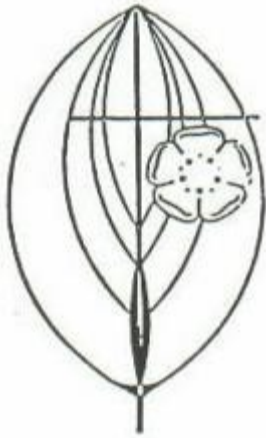

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

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

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THE REV. DR.
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DISCIPLINES OF LENT

With Lent around the corner, these words of Isaiah 58 (NRSV) are ringing in my ears:

58:5 "Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?"

58:6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

58:7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

58:8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

58:9a Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, 'Here I am'."



continued on the next page

The symbol expresses by means of candle and messianic rose the worship of the Messiah and Truth of Christ. The cross signifies His central deed and the five crosses in the rose the sacred wounds.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONT'D)

These verses were part of our First Lesson on February 9, the fifth Sunday after Epiphany, and a fitting prelude to Jesus' challenge to his followers in Matthew 5:21-48 to obey the spirit of the law, rather than merely the letter.

What does this mean for us as we look ahead toward Lent? For one thing, it's taken for granted in the Bible that we will fast – literally. It's difficult to get into the spirit of a practice without some experience of its letter. We know from Isaiah 58 that people were fasting. As it is today, abstaining from food or from certain foods was a practice associated with humility, repentance, and cleansing in ancient Near Eastern cultures.

Fasting is not only an Old Testament expectation. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus expects his disciples to fast, saying:

6:16 “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

6:17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,

6:18 so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

These verses are part of the Gospel Lesson for Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. In that reading (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21), Jesus speaks of three devotional practices Christians have continued to practice as Lenten disciplines: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, each of which involves renunciation and sacrifice, e.g. of money, time, or food.

These practices of renunciation are ways to temporarily cut ties to creation to make sure we're serving God the Creator rather than God's creation. They can act as stress tests to reinforce our dependence on God and as purgatives to cleanse from our relationship with God idolatrous appetites. Renunciation is also a way to remind ourselves that all that we have belongs to God, and that we are but stewards of God's resources.

continued on page 14

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICES

March 5 7:00pm Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

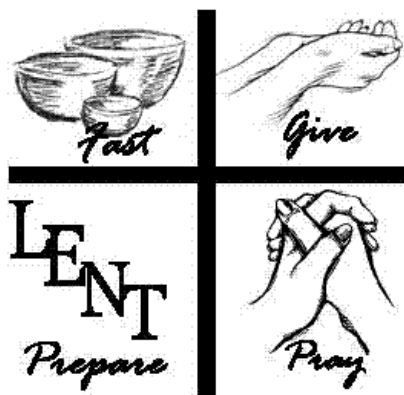
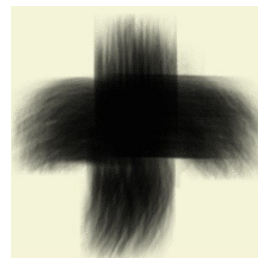
March 12 6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper
7:00pm Evening Prayer

March 19 6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper
7:00pm Evening Prayer

March 26 6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper
7:00pm Evening Prayer

April 2 6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper
7:00pm Evening Prayer

April 9 6:00pm Soup and Salad Supper
7:00pm Evening Prayer



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

APRIL 13 10:30AM PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY ; Time TBA

APRIL 18 8:00PM GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

APRIL 20 10:00AM EASTER SUNDAY

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Congregational Beach Party at Island Beach State Park in year????

Can you name the people?

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Taize evening worship will resume April 22 and will continue weekly on Tuesdays through May 20.



UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Save the Dates

Sunday, March 2, 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Ice Skating at Mercer County Park

0-11 years and Seniors \$6.00

12+ years \$ 8.00

Skate rentals \$3.00

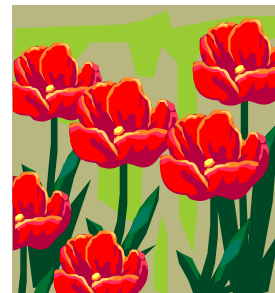
Feel free to bring friends and neighbors!



Saturday,

April 12, 9am—3pm

Spring Work Day at
Messiah



Sunday, April 6, following worship

Hopewell Off Broadstreet Theatre



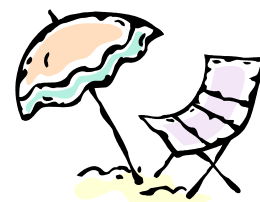
Pygmalion

Dessert at 1:30 and show at 2:30pm.
Tickets \$29.50.

For more information: www.off-broadstreet.com
or speak with Doris Gerwers.

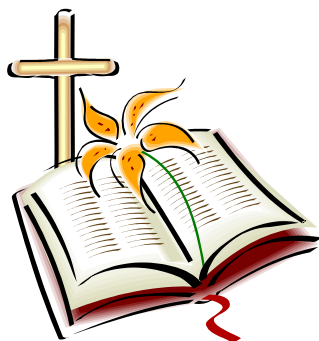
September 6 or 7

Beach Party
at Island Beach State Park



If you have a fellowship idea or opportunity,
please speak with Doris Gerwers or Debbie Baer.

WELCOME TO MESSIAH!



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. The class will meet at 9:00 AM beginning March 9 in the parish building lounge.

All are welcome. If you'd like to attend, please let Pastor Erhardt know by March 2 so he can order materials. Attending the class will not oblige you to become a member.

UPCOMING READINGS

<u>Ash Wednesday</u> March 5, 2014 ART -- PRAYER	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
<u>First Sunday in Lent</u> March 9, 2014 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
<u>Second Sunday in Lent</u> March 16, 2014 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
<u>Third Sunday in Lent</u> March 23, 2014 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
<u>Fourth Sunday in Lent</u> March 30, 2014 ART -- PRAYER	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
<u>Fifth Sunday in Lent</u> April 6, 2014 ART -- PRAYER	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
<u>Liturgy of the Palms</u> April 13, 2014 Sixth Sunday in Lent ART -- PRAYER	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 27:11-54

Continued on page 8

SKATING ON LAKE CARNEGIE

On January 28th, cold weather resulted in Lake Carnegie freezing over and being available for ice skating for the first time since 2009!

Skating was allowed during daylight hours between the bridges on Washington Road and Harrison Street. It is permitted at one's own risk **only when the white flags are flying** from the poles at the boathouse near the Washington Road Bridge and at the Harrison Street bridge. **Red flags** mean that the ice is not safe.

Ice condition reports are available on the Princeton Recreation Department information hotline at 609-688-2054.



Eva Groves could not resist being one of the first to walk across the lake!

WINTER PRAYER

Lord:

In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce

..... remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early
..... remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.

In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak

..... remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul. Amen

Cal Wick

www.GreatPrayers.com

UPCOMING READINGS

<u>Maundy Thursday</u> April 17, 2014 <i>Holy Thursday</i> <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Exodus 12:1-14,</u>	<u>Psalm 116:1-2,</u> <u>12-19</u>	<u>1 Corinthians</u> <u>11:23-26</u>	<u>John 13:1-17,</u> <u>31b-35</u>
<u>Resurrection of the Lord</u> April 20, 2014 <i>Easter Day</i> <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Jeremiah 31:1-6</u>	<u>Psalm 118:1-2,</u> <u>14-24</u>	<u>Acts 10:34-43</u>	<u>Matthew</u> <u>28:1-10</u>
<u>Second Sunday of Easter</u> April 27, 2014 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u>	<u>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</u>	<u>Psalm 16</u>	<u>1 Peter 1:3-9</u>	<u>John 20:19-31</u>

THRIVENT SEMINAR

Lynda Dillman, our Thrivent representative, is hosting a seminar on Long-Term Care planning on March 12 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Elements Community Clubhouse. You will learn:

- What long-term care is and where it's provided
- Strategies to pay for long-term care
- Key features and government incentives for long-term care insurance
- How Medicare and Medicaid factor into long-term care planning

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.

Directions: The Elements Community is located off of Old Trenton Road. Turn into the community at the traffic light at Dantone Blvd. Turn right on San Marco Street. Turn left on Orleans Drive. Continue to the end. Turn left onto Murano Drive. The Clubhouse is on the right.

Notes: Please join us for an Italian buffet dinner at 6:30 PM. Coffee and desserts to follow. The seminar will begin at 7:00 PM. There is no cost to attend.

BRING A FRIEND!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Messiah's Sunday School students have a lot of fun - there are great games, tasty treats to keep their energy up, acting, sculpting, drawing - but of course, there are still rules. And right now, students are learning about the most important rules of all: the ten commandments, and the commandments Jesus talks about.

In the original Hebrew of the bible, the ten commandments are called (עשרת הדברים aseres hadevarim) which literally translated means "ten words" or "ten matters." It was in 1560 that the phrase was first rendered as "the ten commandments" in English, and "the ten commandments" they have remained. In addition to reading original Old Testament and Gospel passages outlining the ten commandments, the students explored how these rules apply to their everyday lives. "Honor your father and mother" in particular came in for a lot of discussion!



Students used their imagination in coming up with their own clay versions of the two tablets of the law.



Students created Advent calendar-style posters featuring fold-open tablets with illustrations of each commandment underneath.

Because it's never "all talk and no play" in Sunday School, the students have also acted each of the commandments out to each other, illustrated them in an Advent calendar style poster, decorated a snazzy folding "ten commandments reminder," and made their own tablets of the law out of clay. Of course, the description of the two tablets is not that detailed in scripture, so the students had a lot of latitude in making their versions, including tablets with a big X across the top for "ten," the numbers in Roman numerals and Hebrew, and decorations consisting of gold glitter glue and rhinestones in a multitude colors.

Next comes learning about the meaning and traditions of Lent. Students will be reading the Gospel accounts of Christ's last days, death, and resurrection, as well as related Old Testament texts to enrich their understanding.

Of course, the Sunday School students will again offer Easter delights for purchase. Chocolate bunnies and Easter eggs and festive baskets will be among the treats; order forms will be available soon.

Miranda Hempel

GARDENING COMMITTEE—LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING

It may be difficult to believe, but Spring is just around the corner, and that means Messiah's Spring Work Day is also coming up. This year, it falls on Saturday, April 12, and we get started bright and early, at 9am.

There will be lots of gardening to do: cleaning up the beds, pruning, fertilizing, and even planting some shrubs and bulbs that can tolerate a late frost or two. (Our area isn't reliably frost-free until early May, so there are also things we will want to plant later on.) We want the grounds to look their best for Holy Week.

This is a great time for anyone with ideas for beautifying Messiah's grounds to share them with the Gardening Committee - and also to join the committee, if you are interested! You can e-mail me at ballroomania@yahoo.com if you'd like to join, or if you have suggestions - go ahead, let your imaginations run wild! Even if your idea isn't completely practical, like building a tree house chapel in one of our larger trees, it may give rise to an idea for something more doable.

(And by the way, who says it couldn't be done? Take a look at the accompanying photo, of a chapel built on different levels in an ancient oak tree in Allouville-Bellefosse, France.)

Miranda Hempel



COMMUNIVERSITY SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 1-6PM



We are awaiting the acceptance of our application for a Communiversity booth! If accepted by the Arts Council, we will need lots of volunteers to staff it. If you are willing to help plan or man our table, please sign up for a shift on the sheet in the back of the nave.

If you have questions about volunteering, please see Eva Groves. More information about Communiversity is available at www.artscouncilofprinceton.org.

MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We were happy to see Mildred Coyner return to church services on February 23rd. She is anxious to return to the normal meeting schedule and plans to host our next meeting in March on Thursday, March 20.

Thank you to Doris Gerwers who hosted the February meeting at her home in Pennington.



If you would like to request a shawl, please see any one of the Messiah's Mantles knitters.



Coffee and homemade cake is our reward!

SYMPATHY



We pray for family and friends mourning the deaths of :

Ruth Harding (Mildred Coyner's sister)

Virginia Huber (Karen Hartl's mother)
and

Reuben Stohs (Pastor Erhardt's grandfather)

We continue to pray for:

Susan Kuhn, Suzanne Manczuk, Irene Wilson, Phillip Spainhour, Mel Bolick, Martha Peck, Mildred Coyner, Gail Sabatura, Jean Levine, Brad Bergmann, Jenny Mills, Jean Zeien, and Nan Dunn.

Prayer requests are generally printed in the Prayer Corner and included in the Sunday intercessory prayers for 4weeks. If you would like us to keep someone there longer, we are happy to do that. Please call the church office or email lcmaprinceton@gmail.com to let us know.

MARCH 2014

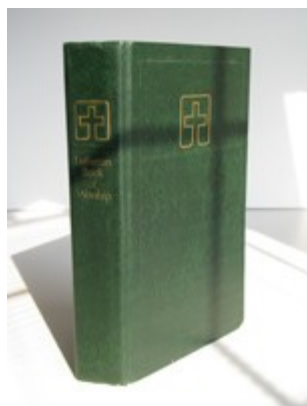
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 1:00pm Ice Skating MCP	3 7:15pm Confirmation	4	5 7pm Ash Wednesday 8:30pm Choir	6 7pm Executive Board Meeting	7	8
9 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	10 7:15pm Confirmation	11	12 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 8pm Choir	13	14	15
16 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	17 7:15pm Confirmation	18	19 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 8pm Choir	20 7pm Prayer Shawl	21 6pm ISI Dinner	22
23 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	24 7:15pm Confirmation	25	26 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 8pm Choir	27	28	29
30 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	31 7:15pm Confirmation					

APRIL 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 8pm Choir	3	4	5
6 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	7 7:15pm Confirmation	8	9 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Evening Prayer 8pm Choir	10	11	12 9am—3pm Spring Work Day
13 PALM SUNDAY 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	14 7:15pm Confirmation	15	16 8pm Choir	17 Maundy Thursday	18 8pm Good Friday	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY NO Christian Education 10:00am Holy Communion	21	22	23 7:15pm Confirmation 8pm Choir	24	25 6pm ISI Dinner	26
27 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 1-6pm Communion	28	29	30 7:15pm Confirmation 8pm Choir			

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2)

For health and other reasons, not everyone should fast, but many of us can. That doesn't mean we must, or, as we hear in Isaiah 58, that observing Lenten disciplines is an excuse for mistreating others. Abstaining from food does not preclude abstaining from sin.



This coming Lent, consider combining all three disciplines in the Ash Wednesday Gospel by using a mealtime each week to pray rather than to eat, and then donating the money you would have spent on the food to a hunger relief organization like Lutheran World Relief. *The Lutheran Book of Worship* (green hymnal) includes prayers you can use on pp. 36-53. This idea is one of many possibilities and may not be the best one for you.¹

Jesus' words in Matthew 6 shape our Lenten observance. Isaiah 58 reminds us that God is more interested in repentance than in its outward form. And through this challenging time of year, we can take comfort knowing that when we call, the LORD will answer; when we cry for help, he will say, "Here I am." In Jesus Christ, the Anointed One of God, our vindicator has gone before us, and the glory of the LORD shall be our rear guard. For, in the words of Hebrews 4:15-16, "we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."



Pastor Erhardt

¹For ideas on fasting as practiced by other Christians, see, for example, brightsadness.org/fast.html and rachelheldevans.com/blog/40-ideas-for-lent-2012



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

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Amidon III, Roger	03/29
Bamgbade, Eunice	03/23
DeVany, Tyler	03/31
Groves, Bradley	03/18
Manczuk, Suzanne	03/01
Mitt, Siv	03/20
Sabatura, Troy	03/10
Spaude, Ryan	03/29
Stys, Raymond	03/07
Tria, Pierce	03/17
Wolf, Nicholas	03/02

Alabert, Kersti	04/17
Baer, Daniel	04/13
Bamgbade, Diane	04/18
Block, Austin	04/19
Coffin, Lottie	04/14
Gerwers, Hank	04/21
Groves, Eva	04/06
Horan, Paul	04/13
Tabris, Beatrice	04/03
Tria, Taylor	04/27
Wackerman, Belkys	04/28
Wackerman, Jonathan	04/20
Wendel, Katherine	04/22

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