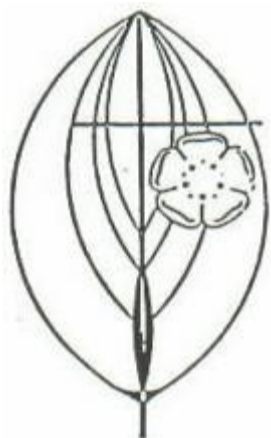


## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



# Messiah Messenger

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### A Pattern for Worship

Christ is risen! It's great to be alive in that confidence! Alleluia (Praise the Lord)!

Every three years on the third Sunday of Easter, we hear the story from Luke 24 of Jesus joining two of his disciples on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. It's a favorite of mine for lots of reasons. One of them is that it is a model of how we, like those early disciples, continue to encounter God today in worship. Pastor Dan Whitener of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church in Ewing pointed this out to me recently: in the Emmaus story, the disciples 1) meet Jesus, 2) wrestle with what they're going through in the light of God's Word, 3) share a meal together, and, having met Jesus, 4) go out from there to tell others what happened to them and figure out what difference it makes.



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

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Meeting, Word, Meal, and Witness – that's a simple way to think of what we do each week in worship. Sunday worship is not private, it's corporate. It requires meeting. We meet on the first day of the week after the pattern of the disciples who, as attested to in every biblical Gospel, encountered Jesus, risen, on that day. We meet to hear God's Word, to see what's going on in our lives in its light, and to have it explained to us in ways that make sense of our experience. We share a meal, the Lord's Supper, instituted and commanded by Jesus. And we go out as witnesses of what we have seen and heard.

We don't have to have it all figured out before we walk out the door. There's plenty of room for us to work out what God's Word means for us outside the service. We have to start somewhere, and we learn as we go. As the apostle Paul wrote to early disciples of Jesus in Corinth, “For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known” (1 Cor. 13:12, ESV). God goes with us, and has poured into us his Holy Spirit to bear witness to Jesus in ways we don't fully understand and of which we're often unaware.

The presence of the Holy Spirit gives us confidence to go out and be witnesses despite our lack of perfect knowledge, rhetoric, or coherence. The Spirit's presence also means we don't have to make our witness more impressive by lacquering it with irresponsible claims. Witness is best when it's honest. God uses that kind of witness. We don't have to invent sensational stories to impress people with God. Neither ought we assume that we should only proclaim what we think we fully understand. Truth is already stranger than fiction; God doesn't need us to gild or redact it. That frees us to trust God to use our witness, despite its imperfection.

Christian witness is not merely *ours*. It has specific content and a well-defined pattern. We witnesses need to keep meeting together, to stay engaged with God's Word, to share the Lord's Supper regularly and frequently, and to demonstrate the difference our encounter with God makes. In Luke's account of what happened on the Emmaus road, we have a pattern for worship that leads to witness. Let's make a habit of it!

*Pastor Erhardt*

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

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

9:00am Sunday Mornings

Sunday School and Adult Education class will meet through the month of May (last meeting May 25)

### WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30am Sunday mornings in May

9:30am Summer worship June 1st - August 31 (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

### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School students spent the last two months immersed in the Gospels, learning about the meaning and practices of Lent and Holy Week. We made paper palms for Palm Sunday, delved into the Seder practices that would have been featured at the Last Supper, and then after the excitement of Easter, read about Jesus visiting his followers after his resurrection.

The students always enjoy science experiments, so there have been several involving water when we are learning about Baptism, and a snazzy trick involving ordinary water, cooking oil, food coloring for a little pizzazz, and an alka-seltzer tablet which together produce bubbling, colorful lava lamp effects. When we studied that stubborn guy,



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## SUNDAY SCHOOL (CONT'D)

Jonah, the students made whales and Jonahs with clay and painted them bright colors. Deep purple and turquoise whales are so much more interesting than just plain gray, after all.

Just three or four sessions remain before the summer break. Some more Gospel passages and an Old Testament story or two will round out the year. It has been a wonderful experience for the teachers, and a privilege - the children are so eager, so imaginative, and so responsive.

The Easter Egg hunt was a huge success! All the children and their parents gathered downstairs in the Fellowship Hall first to decorate colored shopping bags with stickers and crayons. It was inspiring to see the variety of artistic ideas - no two bags were remotely alike!

All this creative energy was fueled by croissants, muffins, danishes, and some very tasty fruit pastries. The teachers were sure beforehand that too much food had been bought, and that we would be feasting on leftovers for weeks to come. Happily, we were wrong. Making art evidently requires lots of food!

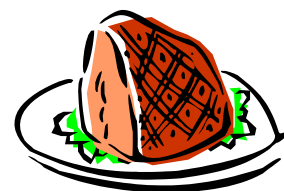
Members of the confirmation class did a brilliant job hiding the chocolate-filled Easter eggs for the younger children to find. Some of the eggs were in easy spots, some in places of medium difficulty, and just a very few in fiendishly difficult locations. All of them were found, although the eggs placed on the window sills high above the ground had to be retrieved with parental assistance! When the dust had settled, each of the children had found plenty of eggs (we had extra on hand just in case some children came up short). Everyone had a good time, children, adults and Sunday School teachers!

*Miranda Hempel*

## MESSIAH TO HOST I.S.I. FRIENDSHIP DINNER

We at Messiah will be culinary missionaries to the International Students, Inc. (I. S. I.) monthly friendship dinner on Friday, May 16, 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, meatloaf, rice, potatoes, vegetables, and fruit salad. **Not needed** are pasta dishes, desserts, salads, and dinner rolls. If you are willing to bring or send food for this event, please sign up in the back of the nave.



I.S.I. 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. Please see Debbie Baer for information about how you can help.

## UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

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### Save the Dates

*Sunday, May 4, following worship*

**Congregational voters meeting** at which we will elect new executive board officers. Please plan to attend.

*Sunday, June 1*

Summer Worship Schedule Begins

No Christian Education Classes—they will resume in September

9:30AM Service of Holy Communion

*Sunday, May 25*

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](http://www.peaceislands.org). Come prepared to enjoy Turkish food and the company of our guests.

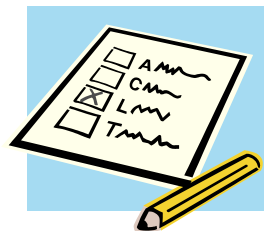
*Sunday, June 8 (Pentecost)*

9:30AM Morning Prayer (Matins)

4:00PM Joint Festival Service of Holy Communion

5:30PM Potluck

At the afternoon service and potluck, we will welcome nearby LCMS congregations to Messiah to feast together on God's Word, the Lord's Supper, and potluck food. Please bring a main dish or a side dish to share.



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## LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

Evening Prayer in the spirit of the Taize Community at 7:30pm on Tuesday evenings in the Princeton University chapel will continue through May 20. All are welcome.

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



## UPCOMING READINGS

<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> May 4, 2014	*Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> May 11, 2014	*Acts 2:42-47	Psalms 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> May 18, 2014	*Acts 7:55-60	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> May 25, 2014	*Acts 17:22-31	Psalms 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> June 1, 2014	*Acts 1:6-14	Psalms 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
<b>Day of Pentecost</b> June 8, 2014	*Acts 2:1-21	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23

<b>Trinity Sunday</b> June 15, 2014 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i> <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<a href="#">Genesis 1:1-2:4a</a>  <a href="#">Psalms 8</a>	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 13:11-13</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 28:16-20</a>
<b>Proper 7 (12)</b> Second Sunday after Pentecost June 22, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<a href="#">Genesis 21:8-21</a>  <a href="#">Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17</a>	<a href="#">Romans 6:1b-11</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 10:24-39</a>
<b>Proper 8 (13)</b> Third Sunday after Pentecost June 29, 2014 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<a href="#">Genesis 22:1-14</a>  <a href="#">Psalms 13</a>	<a href="#">Romans 6:12-23</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 10:40-42</a>

## MARCH/APRIL EVENTS



*continued on page 12*

## SPRING WORK DAY, APRIL 12



## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE - MESSIAH IN SPRINGTIME - AND THE WAR AGAINST WEEDS

Messiah is decked out in blossoms: daffodils, tulips, cherry blossoms, hyacinths, pansies. All the newly-planted shrubs and trees made it through the gruesome winter alive and appear to be thriving.

On Messiah's Work Day, volunteers weeded, pruned, and freshened the beds so that everything would look spiffy for Holy Week.



Wouldn't it be nice if we just had to weed once each season, and the weeds wouldn't come back? Alas, life doesn't work that way, and although the mulch we have worked so hard to put down discourages weeds, nonetheless, several are beginning to pop up again. We need help in the endless battle against weeds. If you are willing to weed, be it regularly or intermittently, please let Miranda know. Even if you can only come briefly once a month, it will help!

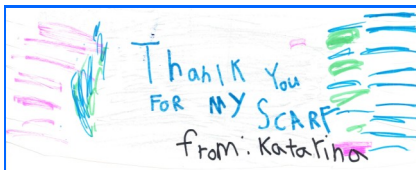
In the meantime, we can all bask in the beauty that is Messiah in springtime! Thanks to all those volunteers over the past several years who did the digging and the planting and the pruning that have resulted in this spring's spectacular show of flowers.

*Miranda Hempel*

## MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



*Surprise birthday celebration!*



Scarfs knit by Mildred and given to the Knight girls were much appreciated!

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 22nd 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](mailto:eva.m.groves@gmail.com).



## COMMUNIVERSITY

Many thanks to our Communiversity volunteers who packed, transported, set up, and manned our Messiah table for Communiversity! (Eva Groves, Doris and Hank Gerwers, Siv Mitt, Miranda Hempel, Eeyan Tan, Nancy Amidon, Gail Sabatura, Debbie and Dan Baer, and Pastor Erhardt.)

Special thanks to Peter Giller for providing the tent cover, Christine Knight for decorating our table with fresh flowers, and John Fischer II who braved the crowds to load and unload our items.

Many thanks to *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* who helped to fund our popular Communiversity wildflower seed give-away.

If you didn't have a chance to attend Communiversity, the SERV items will be on display during fellowship hour on Mother's Day. Help us to support the artisans by purchasing an item!



# MAY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion Welcome new members	5	6 7:30pm Taize	7 7:15pm Confirmation 8pm Choir	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	12	13 7:30pm Taize	14 NO Confirmation 8pm Choir	15	16 6pm ISI Dinner (hosted by Messiah )	17
				Pastor at English District Church Workers Conference		
18 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	19	20 7:30pm Last Taize	21 7:15pm Confirmation 8pm Choir	22 7pm Prayer Shawl	23	24
25 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion Fellowship Hour with Peace Islands Institute	26 Memorial Day	27	28 7:15pm Confirmation 8pm Choir	29 7pm Executive Bd Meeting	30	31

# JUNE 2014

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Holy Communion	2	3	4 7:15pm Confirmation	5	6	7
8 9:30am Holy Communion 4:00pm Joint Pentecost Service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 9:30am Holy Communion	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:30am Holy Communion	23	24	25	7pm Executive Bd Meeting	27	28
29 9:30am Holy Communion	30					

## MARCH APRIL EVENTS IN PHOTOS

