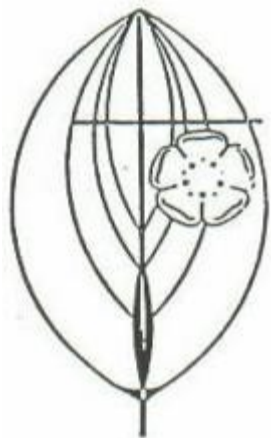


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

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Website: www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE REV. DR.
MARTIN K. ERHARDT
PASTOR

THE REV. DR.
JOHN MARK GOERSS
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER
ORGANIST AND
CHOIR DIRECTOR

AROMA, AMPHORAE, AND AMBASSADORS

Amphorae? It's the plural of amphora, defined by Merriam-Webster as "an ancient Greek jar or vase with a large oval body, narrow cylindrical neck, and two handles that rise almost to the level of the mouth; broadly: such a jar or vase used elsewhere in the ancient world."

This is but one of the educational gems from February's Sunday morning Adult Forum study of visions of the church in 2 Corinthians. In that letter, the apostle Paul refers to himself and fellow bearers of the gospel as the aroma of Christ (2:15), treasure-laden earthen vessels (4:7), and ambassadors for Christ (5:20). Amphorae is not the Greek word Paul uses for "earthen vessels" or "jars of clay" – that was creative license on my part to create an alliterative study title. In 2 Cor. 3:3, Paul describes the Corinthian Christians as "a letter of Christ." This and the other metaphors mentioned earlier evoke rich and lively visions of the church. They help us understand the mission God has given us in terms we understand – aroma, clay pots, ambassadors, and letters.

When Paul was writing, Christianity was widely considered a marginal, minority movement. Christian beliefs, morals, and worship practices were not the norm. Candidates for baptism knew they were embarking on a new way of life, and baptized Christians were acutely conscious of the potential conflicts between their new way of life and what Rome expected from loyal citizens of its empire. That consciousness of being different is something we would do well to receive from our first century sisters and brothers in Christ. When we assume our views should be compatible with the mainstream, that nothing we say or do will bother our neighbors or even strike them as odd, we need to check which gospel we're bearing. A bland gospel in which Christ is not

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)

crucified is not aromatic. A legalistic gospel in which we justify ourselves by following rules contains no treasure. A gospel that simply assimilates into the cultures it encounters needs no embassy. A gospel that proclaims nothing out of the ordinary is nothing to write home about.

The aromatic, treasure-laden, ambassadorial, good-news-bearing church Paul describes in 2 Corinthians is one that has something extra-ordinary to offer. As members of that church, we should expect not to fit in. That doesn't mean we seek to differ with our neighbors at every turn, that we try to be contrarian for its own sake, or that we invent conflicts. God's Word yields an aroma pungent enough to generate objection without our embellishment.

This March and April, we remember several Christians whose gospel-trained consciences refused to be reconciled with cultures prevailing around them, among them Perpetua and Felicity, martyred for their faith in Carthage in 202; the American abolitionists Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman; and pastors Oscar Romero and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, both of whom were killed for their defense of the vulnerable, their demand for justice, and their opposition to state-sponsored theft, lying, and murder. These are but a few of the many Christians who have borne a gospel unpopular, even scandalous, in their society. Bonhoeffer hit the nail on the head when, addressing a youth conference in 1932, he asked his listeners, "Has it not become terrifyingly clear again and again, in everything that we have said to one another, that we are no longer obedient to the Bible? We are more fond of our own thoughts than of the thought of the Bible. We no longer read our Bible seriously, we no longer read it over against ourselves, but for ourselves."

God's Word is as foreign to us and as countercultural in our setting as it was in Bonhoeffer's day. We need to read and hear it against ourselves, to expect it to convict and change us. Whether it is something as simple as making corporate worship a consistent weekly priority, or tithing a tenth or some other sacrificial fraction of our income, or making a conscious effort to interact openly, earnestly, and charitably with people different from ourselves – these are evidence that the aroma of Christ has reached us, that it hasn't lost its pungency, and that the Holy Spirit is accomplishing God's mission to his world through us. God has made us his ambassadors, and "we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies" (2 Cor. 4:7-10).

Pastor Erhardt

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesdays in Lent

February 25—March 25

6:00 PM Soup and Salad Supper

7:00 PM Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

March 29

10:30 AM Palm Sunday

April 2

8:00 PM Maundy Thursday

April 3

8:00 PM Good Friday Tenebrae

April 5

9:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt

All children welcome—feel free to invite friends

10:00 AM Festival Service of
Holy Communion

Please note the 10:00am service time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 12, 7:00 PM

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Friday, March 20, 6:00 PM

ISI Monthly Friendship Dinner

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Friday, April 17, 6:00 PM

ISI Monthly Friendship Dinner

Thursday, April 30, 7:00 PM

Executive Board Meeting

Taize-style Evening Prayer

will resume at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 14, in
the Princeton University Chapel (after Lent).





UPCOMING READINGS IN MARCH

LENT YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday in Lent <i>March 1, 2015</i>	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalms 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
Third Sunday in Lent <i>March 8, 2015</i>	Exodus 20:1-17	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>March 15, 2015</i>	Numbers 21:4-9	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Ephesians 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>March 22, 2015</i>	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 51:1-12	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Palm Sunday <i>March 29, 2015</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Mark 11:1-11

Readings taken from lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/

UPCOMING READINGS IN APRIL

HOLY WEEK, EASTER YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
<div>April 2, 2015</div>				
Good Friday				
<div>Tenebrae Service</div>				
<div>April 3, 2015</div>				
Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34-43	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Romans 6:3-11	Mark 16:1-8
<div>April 5, 2015</div>				
Second Sunday Of Easter	Acts 4:32-35	Psalm 133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31
<div>April 12, 2015</div>				
Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 3:12-19	Psalm 4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48
<div>April 19, 2015</div>				
Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 4:5-12	Psalm 23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
<div>April 26, 2015</div>				

LENTEN SOUP AND SALAD HOSTS, THANK YOU!

Thank you to those who have volunteered to host our Lenten Soup & Salad Suppers: Werner and Karen Hartl, Pat and Jon Hlafter, Doris Schubert-Gerwers, Carolyn and Herb Gishlick, and Laura Bennett.



TEMPLE SERVANTS

The February—May 2015 Temple Servants schedule is posted on the church website at princetonlutheranchurch.org/PDF/temple servants.pdf

Printed copies are available on the back pew. Thank you to those who give so generously of their time and talents. If you should need to make changes, please find your own substitute and let the church office know.

PROGRAM FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE MERCER MISSION CLUSTER

At its annual meeting on February 22, the Mercer Mission Cluster (a group of mostly ELCA Lutheran congregations in Mercer County, of which Messiah is an associate member) approved a budget that includes \$500-1000 for each of the following program types:

- an evangelism or communications initiative
- seed money for leadership events
- youth ministry events
- seed money for a social ministry initiative

The categories are broadly defined, and the ideal program will be one that is publicized to, open to, and beneficial to several member congregations. If you have an idea for a qualifying program and would like to apply for cluster funds, send a brief description, rationale, estimated budget, and funding request to Pastor Erhardt.

MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Group Hostess Schedule

March—May 2015

March 19: Miranda Hempel

April 16: Karen Hartl

May 21: Lottie Coffin

Please check the church website
princetonlutheranchurch.org/shawl.html
for date and time changes.

Contact any one of the knitters if you know of
someone in need or if you would like to request
that a shawl be knit for a loved one.



A NOTE FROM PAMELA W. COOPER

Dear Reverend Erhardt,

My father, Earl, wanted to give \$1000 to Messiah in memory of my mother, E. Julia Whitcraft. They both loved Messiah very much and found it their spiritual home for over 50 years. It was one of my father's final wishes to give a gift to their beloved church.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela W. Cooper

*The gift was given, "From Earl in memory of Judy, who loved
Messiah so very much."*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS, TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY, FEB. 15

On Transfiguration Sunday, Messiah welcomed new members, Paul Rorem and Steve Bauman, into membership of our congregation.



Paul Rorem

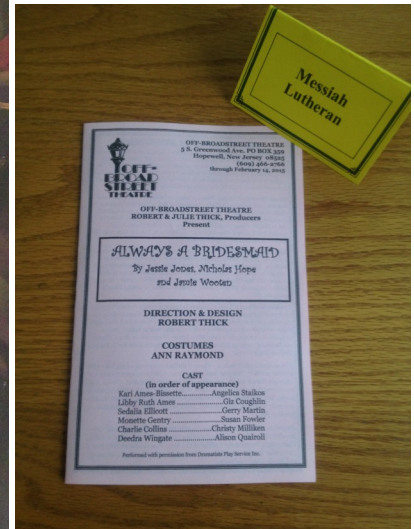


Steve Bauman



Photos courtesy Doris Schubert-Gerwers

ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID AT OFF BROAD STREET THEATRE, FEB. 8



Photos courtesy of Doris Schubert-Gerwers

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Which church member is leading this walk?

Can you name the event? Or the year?

Do you recognize any of the children?



Photo courtesy of Messiah archives

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	2 7:15pm Confirmation	3	4 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Lenten Prayer 7:50pm Choir	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	9 7:15pm Confirmation	10	11 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Lenten Prayer 7:50pm Choir	12 7pm Executive Board Meeting	13	14
15 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	16 7:15 pm Confirmation	17	18 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Lenten Prayer 7:50pm Choir	19 7pm Prayer Shawl Meeting	20 6pm ISI Dinner	21
22 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	23 7:15pm Confirmation	24	25 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Lenten Prayer 7:50pm Choir	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Palm Sunday	30 7:15pm Confirmation	31				

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30pm Choir	2 Maundy Thursday 8pm Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday 8pm Good Friday Tenebrae	4
5 Easter Sunday 9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Festival Service of Holy Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	13 7:15 Confirmation	14 7:30pm Taize	15	16 7pm Prayer Shawl Meeting	17 6pm ISI Dinner	18
19 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	20	21 7:30pm Taize	22 7pm Confirmation Special Event	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Christian Education 10:30 am Holy Communion	27	28 7:30pm Taize	29 7:15 Confirmation	30 7pm Executive Board Meeting		