

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

November-January 2015

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE REV. DR.
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AUTUMN AND ANGER

I love the autumn – what the poet John Keats called “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”. But autumn can be a stressful time, and sometimes we find ourselves less mellow than the season would suggest. Stress makes it easier for us to get angry, to lose control of our tongues, and to hurt others.

In a recent article in *Concordia Theology*, Professor Jeffrey Gibbs of Concordia Seminary writes on *The Myth of “Righteous Anger”: What the Bible Says about Human Anger*. The article is available online at concordiatheology.org/2015/10/the-myth-of-righteous-anger-what-the-bible-says-about-human-anger, and I commend it to you.

In his article, Professor Gibbs talks about how anger is sometimes spun as a desirable quality. For example, in this election season, we're pitched the idea that if a candidate is not angry about an issue, then they must not care about it. Anger is sold as an acceptable, even a desirable, way to motivate voters. Outrage becomes conflated with commitment, and invective with argument.

It's easy to blame politics and politicians for catering to our baser passions, but the fact is that they are ours. It's easier to get angry with someone with whom we disagree than to obey the Eighth Commandment and put the best construction on their words. It's less difficult and often more entertaining to caricature someone than to portray them in realistic detail and nuance. It's simpler to ignore, to shout, or to refuse to communicate than it is to listen, to speak considerately, to examine ourselves, and especially to repent and to reconcile with our neighbor. Anger requires much less of us than does compassion.

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)

Anger can give us the illusion of having the moral high ground, insulating us from susceptibility to reason. That doesn't mean we can't get angry about injustice, sin, and death. The solution to anger is not to reconcile ourselves to evil, to extinguish our desire for good, or to excuse wrong. But being angry about something doesn't make us right about it. Anger is no substitute for the engagement and vulnerability we need to love our neighbors as mature and charitable conversation partners, open to the love of God permeating our thoughts, words, and deeds.

It's okay not to have all the answers or the last word. Just because a knowledgeable, popular, or powerful person says something doesn't make it true. But disagreeing doesn't require us to get angry. In fact, as Professor Gibbs shows in his article, scripture teaches us that anger, far from making us righteous, puts us in danger of grievous sin. God invites us be countercultural – instead of indulging our anger, to let God be the angry one. It's easier said than done, of course, but it's worth working on. In the words of G.K. Chesterton, “if a thing is worth doing, it's worth doing badly.” We won't always succeed in dealing with our anger righteously, and for that we can seek forgiveness, remembering that in baptism, God has clothed us in his own righteousness.

This autumn and in the coming year, there are going to be times when it will be easier and more fashionable to clutch, justify, and cultivate our anger than it will be to entrust our situation and our feelings to God. At times like these, let's keep in mind that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). And furthermore, God has given us a job to do, namely, to reflect his love for us through the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Neither anger, nor insults, nor power is a prerequisite for greatness. Jesus' words about greatness are as applicable to us, his disciples today, as they were when he spoke them to those who were angry at James and John:

“^{42b} You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 11:42-45)

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Erhardt

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

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are preparing to update the Messiah pictorial directory. Please check, update, and initial your directory information on the draft on the clipboard in the back of the nave, by November 15.

This year's Adult Forum Advent study, *Hark the Glad Sound*, will explore the biblical background of four songs of Advent. Over four weeks (Sundays, Nov. 29 - Dec. 20), we will study biblical songs sung by Zechariah, Mary, the Angels, and the Church to welcome Christ. If you would like to participate, please email or tell Pastor Erhardt by Nov. 15 so he can order a study guide for you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 14, 9:00 AM

Fall Work Day at Messiah

Sunday, November 15, 1:30 PM

Walking Tour of Princeton University

Wednesday, November 25, 8:00 PM

Thanksgiving Evening Prayer

Saturday, December 5, 6:00 PM

Church Potluck

Sunday December 13, 12:15 PM

Voters Meeting

Thursday, December 24, 8:00 PM

Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

Friday, December 25, 10:30 AM

Holy Communion

RESCUE MISSION CLOTHING DRIVE

Friends & Family,

As you may know, I work for the Rescue Mission of Trenton –one of the oldest and most respected non-profits in New Jersey! The Rescue Mission of Trenton is celebrating its' 100th anniversary and in honor of 100 years of service, the Mission will be attempting to break the **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS®** achievement for Largest collection of clothing for recycle/donation. The current record is 153,240 items – that's a lot of clothing!

I am seeking your help to put the Mission in the record books, collect tens of thousands of pounds of clothing for re-sale in our Trenton store and generate substantial revenue for the Mission's wide range of programs including emergency services, addiction services, education, job training and development, and housing programs.

The official attempt will take place on November 13-15, 2015, which coincides with the National "America Recycles Day," and this event is a perfect way to celebrate!

-Nancy Amidon

SAVE THE DATE

YOU can help the **Rescue Mission** in the **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS®** attempt for Largest collection of clothing for recycle/donation!



How Can You Help? DONATE YOUR USED CLOTHING

Donate at any of our collection sites!

– view the map on our website www.rmtrenton.org/100

Schedule a pick up!

contact Chandler Mumolie:

chandlerm@rmtrenton.org or (609) 964-0414 x 100

Drop off any donations at the main event!

November 13th & November 14th 9:00AM – 8:30PM

New Jersey National Guard Armory

15 Eggert Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



Items you can donate:

- Men's, Women's and Children's Clothing
- Shirts
- Shorts and Pants
- Skirts and Dresses
- Coats and Jackets
- Business suits and professional attire
- Pajamas

**BE A PART OF A
GUINNESS
WORLD
RECORDS®
ATTEMPT AND
HELP THOSE IN
NEED!**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has gotten off to a great start, with some fun lessons during which we made sock puppets so that later on, we could act out some of the Bible stories that we study during the year. We had different colored google eye, yarn, lots of fabrics, rhinestones, ribbons, pompoms, and lace to adorn our creations, which quickly took on distinct personalities. Roger made a dragon and two knights, one fierce-looking, and one who looked much more approachable. Katie made a beautiful bejeweled woman, and a whale-like fish, so that we could act out one of our very favorite tales, that of Jonah and the Big Fish.



Roger Tabris with his dragon sock puppet with google eyes and a fetching snarl.



Roger Tabris is modeling our Sunday school version of the Armor of God.

Ryan made some appealing looking people, one of

whom is destined to be Jonah at some point, and Miranda made a woman with elegant robes. We are looking forward to putting on a lot of Bible skits with them! While we were making the puppets, we also played games testing our memory for Bible facts and names. Katie wowed us by reciting the Apostle's Creed by heart!

One of our other early lessons was about Ephesians 6: 11-17, concerning "the Armor of God," a nod to Roger's fascination with knights. We were able to get Roger a spiffy outfit including a helmet (salvation), shield (faith), belt (truth), breastplate (righteousness), sword (spirit), and shoes (preparation of the gospel of peace).

Right now, we have decided to go back to the very beginning, Genesis 1 and the creation of the world, and of Adam and Eve. One of our crafts was a spinner with a wedge cut out of the top layer. The bottom layer had six pie-shaped wedges, one for each day of creation, and the children made illustrations showing what was created on each day. When it was assembled, only one day showed through at a time, and the children had to remember which day it was. The drawings were all very imaginative and really represented what God had created that day.

Mr. Ryan with one of his amiable creations.



Soon, we will go on to Noah, at Roger's special request, since he is eager to try to sail an ark on water

in a pail or bucket. We are going to learn about a lot of different journeys by boat, ark, and ship on water by the end of the year!

Advent is just around the corner, always a special time in Sunday School, full of excitement and anticipation. We will spend a lot of time adding to our knowledge of Jesus's time here on earth and his love for us, and doing some nifty seasonal crafts.

Dear Fellow Church Members,

It is with great hope for interest and success that I am introducing Operation Christmas Child to our church. This program is run by Samaritans Purse, a relief group run by Franklin Graham, son of evangelist Billy Graham. This group goes anywhere there is a natural disaster or need and brings volunteers and supplies. During the Christmas season they go to foreign countries where children have no Christmas, because of circumstances, and bring gifts to them. These are in the form of shoeboxes packed by people like us, with necessities they rarely or never have. Samaritans Purse also includes a small religious booklet and provides religious instruction to those who express interest.

If you are willing to pack a shoebox to send, a pamphlet is on the back pew with ideas-such as a little toy, toothbrush or soap-to name a few. These shoeboxes will be collected here at the church on November 22nd so that I may take them to a collection center, where they will be packed and taken down to North Carolina and shipped. Anyone interested in learning more may go to the Operation Christmas Child website and have all your questions answered. It is my hope that each family here will contribute one or two shoeboxes, perhaps in place of a polyanna or Christmas cards. If you have a neighbor or friend whom you think would be interested, pass this on. Students could tell others-particularly college students in dorms who have access to lots of others. In the past, we had a plumber in the church who asked all his customers to participate. What a blessing-we ended up with 100 shoe boxes.

Thanks for your help!

-Lois Sulla

215-788-9464

Email: LAATMSE14@yahoo.com



MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Group Hostess Schedule 2015-2016

September 17: Doris Schubert-Gerwers

October 15: Patty Hlafter

November 19: Patricia Wolf

December 17: Renate Giller

January 21: Esther Fischer

February 18: Karen Hartl

March 17: Lottie Coffin

April 21: Eva Groves

May 22: Doris Schubert-Gerwers

Please check the church website

<http://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.



FUNNY BUT TRUE:

Out of habit, I take my knitting to places wherever I have to wait, (doctor's office, airport, hair salon, etc.). One day at the hair salon, my beautician admired my work and asked me about the pattern. I told her about the 3 knit and 3 purl stitches. Then she looked at me and asked why I was talking to myself while knitting? I told her that I was praying while knitting (in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit). I will never forget the amazed look on her face.

-Doris

UPCOMING READINGS IN NOVEMBER

PENTECOST YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
All Saints Day <i>November 1, 2015</i>	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalms 24	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost <i>November 8, 2015</i>	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	Psalms 127	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost <i>November 15, 2015</i>	1 Samuel 1:4-20	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Hebrews 10:11-25	Mark 13:1-8
Christ the King <i>November 22, 2015</i>	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Psalms 132:1-18	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
Thanksgiving Eve <i>November 25, 2015</i>	Joel 2:21-27	Psalms 126	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Matthew 6:25-33
First Sunday of Advent <i>November 29, 2015</i>	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalms 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36

UPCOMING READINGS IN DECEMBER

ADVENT YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday of Advent <i>December 6, 2015</i>	Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1:68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
Third Sunday of Advent <i>December 13, 2015</i>	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>December 20, 2015</i>	Micah 5:2-5a	Psalms 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-55

UPCOMING READINGS IN DECEMBER (CONTINUED)

ADVENT YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Christmas Eve <i>December 24, 2015</i>	Isaiah 9:2-7		Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day <i>December 25, 2015</i>	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
First Sunday After Christmas Day <i>December 27, 2015</i>	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26	Psalms 148	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:41-52

UPCOMING READINGS IN JANUARY

EPIPHANY YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday after Christmas Day <i>January 3, 2015</i>	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
Baptism of the Lord <i>January 10, 2015</i>	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalms 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Second Sunday after the Epiphany <i>January 17, 2015</i>	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalms 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Third Sunday after the Epiphany <i>January 24, 2015</i>	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 12:12- 31a	Luke 4:14-21
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany <i>January 31, 2015</i>	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalms 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

Men's Forum Update



Kick-Off Breakfast

On Saturday, October 3rd, ten men got together to talk about starting a Men's Forum to promote fellowship, spiritual growth and public witness.

Three other men expressed interest but could not attend. **THIS IS NOT A CLOSED GROUP AND REMAINS OPEN TO ALL MEN –MESSIAH MEMBERS OR NOT!** Feel free to join us and at least “kick the tires”!

We determined a men's group would be a good thing and agreed to meet monthly. To accommodate various schedules, there will be two group meetings a month. One will meet at 7:30 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at McCaffrey's Princeton on the 2nd floor. The other group will meet at 9:00 AM on the 3rd Saturday of the month at Wegmans Princeton on the 2nd floor. Meeting times are subject to change– check the online church calendar for current information.

Both will discuss the same pre-announced subject for the month so men can come to either or both.

Nuts and Bolts of the Meetings

The sessions will start and end promptly, lasting one hour. Men can purchase breakfast or refreshment to enjoy during the session and bring their Bibles for reference. Besides the personal benefits of fellowship and spiritual growth, we hope to provide a Christian witness by men meeting in public with open Bibles.

The initial sessions will use an Inductive Bible study model and we'll start with the Book of Acts. (*If you want to know more about Inductive Bible studies, call me!*) Sessions will start with an opening prayer and a time to check in with each other. The topic for discussion will be introduced along with some starter questions and for the next half hour we'll have an open, non-judgmental discussion about the Scripture and what it may mean to us today. At the conclusion, we'll pick a subject for next month and have a closing prayer.

Pastor Martin will attend sessions as he is able, but this is a lay-led group. We are relying on the Holy Spirit to be our guide and leader. I'll be the coordinator in the beginning so any questions can be direct to me.

Respectfully submitted: Steve Bauman 609 664 2371 or fsbauman@gmail.com

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Do you recognize this handsome gentleman?
What style of music would you guess he's playing?
Can you hum any music he has written?



Photo courtesy of Messiah archives

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	2	3 No Evening Prayer	4 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	5	6	7
8 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	9	10 7:30pm Taize-style Evening Prayer	11 7:30am Men's Forum (McCaffrey's Group) 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	12 7pm Executive Board	13	14 9:00am Fall Work Day 9:00am Men's Forum (Wegmans Group)
15 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 1:30pm Princeton Univ. Architecture Tour	16	17 7:30pm Taize-style Evening Prayer	18 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	19 7pm Prayer Shawl	20	21
22 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	23	24 No Evening Prayer	25 Choir Rehearsal No Catechism 8:00pm Thanksgiving Evening Prayer	26	27	28
29 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	30					

December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30pm Taize-style Evening Prayer	2 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	3	4	5 6:00pm Church Potluck
6 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	7	8 7:30pm Taize-style Evening Prayer	9 7:30am Men's Forum (McCaffrey's Group) 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	10 7pm Executive Board	11	12
13 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 12:15pm Voters Meeting	14	15 7:30pm Taize-style Evening Prayer	16 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	17 7pm Prayer Shawl	18	19 9:00am Men's Forum (Wegnans Group)
20 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	21	22	23 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	24 8:00pm Candlelight Service of Holy Communion	25 10:30am Holy Communion	26
27 No Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	28	29	30			

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 No Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	4	5	6 7:30am Men's Forum (McCaffrey's Group)	7	8	9
10 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	11	12	13	14	15 6:00 pm ISI Dinner	16
17 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	18	19	20	21 7pm Prayer Shawl	22	23
24 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	25	26	27	28	29	30 9:00am Men's Forum (Wegmans Group)
31 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion						



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
