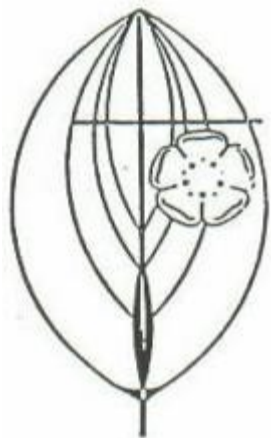


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

September/October 2015

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

UNEXPECTED GIFTS

"... more often than may appear, the orthodox theologian not only gives to, but also receives from, a heterodox teacher some spiritual gift." -F.E.W. Mayer

You may remember that quote from my column in the July/August Messenger. It expresses something important that I think about a lot, namely that we can learn even from people with whose principles and lifestyle we vehemently disagree. None of us agrees on everything, and when our differences are significant, it's easy to forget that we still share common ground on other matters. Simply put, there's good in the worst of us. That "good" is what Lutheran Christians sometimes call "civil righteousness" and Reformed Christians call "common grace". Obeying the Eighth Commandment means searching for the common ground we have with others and not assuming that because we disagree on some important things, we may as well stop listening to them or treating them respectfully. In fact, we may have much more in common than we imagine, and a great deal to learn from each other.

I recently listened to Robin Young interview Robert Redford about his portrayal of Bill Bryson in the recently released movie, *A Walk in the Woods*. You can listen to the interview yourself at <https://hereandnow.wbur.org/2015/09/01/robert-redford-walk-in-the-woods>

I don't know Robert Redford, but the little I know about his theology is enough to convince me that he and I differ on some major issues. Listening to him respond to Robin Young's questions, however, I learned a lot and was reminded that we have more in common than I might have imagined. We share a curiosity about the world and like to explore it, for example.

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)

We share basic human concerns like aging and how to use our time. I was impressed by Redford's unhurried speech, and by his direct, rather than evasive, answers to questions. He was attentive and didn't interrupt. Those habits of conversation are rare – signs of integrity and of respect for your conversation partner.

Despite our differences, I'm glad I took the time to listen to Robert Redford. Whatever his views on the Eighth Commandment or Luther's explanation of it in the Small Catechism, I learned from him how better to apply both Commandment and corollary in conversation, and how to face difficult issues (squarely). Redford reminded me of what it means to be a generous and attentive conversation partner. And he reminded me that a big part of Christian witness is bringing our faith to bear on areas of common ground we have with others.

When a person says religion is irrelevant to their life, sometimes that's because Christians live as if it were irrelevant. We shamle through life as if God doesn't care about how we talk with one another, for example, as if scripture doesn't address it, and as if Christian faith were merely about going to heaven after death and feeding the hungry before then. The afterlife and addressing hunger are important, but they are just the most obvious outside layer of the rich, thick intersection of God's kingdom with our world and our lives. Integrity in evangelism means striving for integrity in every aspect of how we live. Proclaiming the sanctity of human life means learning – even from non-Christians – to treat our neighbors with the respect sanctity demands.

God has blessed us with many good gifts. Some come from unexpected quarters. Let us strive, therefore – steeped in scripture, commended in prayer, fortified by fellowship, and motivated by the Holy Spirit – to:

- a) seek out and recognize God's gifts wherever God makes them available to us,
- b) find common ground with those with whom we differ, and
- c) live lives informed, enriched, and permeated by God's gifts,

that those around us may see our good works and give glory to our Father who is in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

Pastor Erhardt



You'd think they'd have nothing to offer.

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

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

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEMINAR: THE TIMELY MESSAGE OF THE REFORMATION FOR 21ST CENTURY CHRISTIANS!

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Princeton University, McCosh Hall, Room 10

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Paul
Rorem,
Princeton Theo-
logical Seminary



Rev. Dr. Gerhard
Bode,
Concordia Seminary,
St. Louis



The seminar is free but tickets are required
reformation500seminar.brownpapertickets.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 PM

Taize-style Evening Prayer Resumes

Thursday, September 17, 7:00 PM

First Meeting of the Prayer Shawl Group

Wednesday, September 30, 7:15 PM

Confirmation Class Begins

Saturday, October 3, 9:00 AM

Men's Forum Kickoff Breakfast

Sunday, October 11

Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, October 18

2016 Pledge Forms Due

Sunday, October 25, 4:00 PM

Reformation Service at Bethany, Ewing

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING UP AGAIN

Summer is over and it's back to school time, including Sunday School at Messiah.

The teachers have decided to hold a scavenger hunt for the first Sunday back after the summer for a fun way to get back into learning. There will be a list of things for the students to find around the room. Hidden underneath a number of the items will be slips of paper with the names of Biblical characters for the children to identify. Of course, there will be refreshments and lots of sharing of summer vacation tales.

During the next few months, we will continue our travels through the Old and New Testament, leavening the lessons with games, contests, crafts, and skits. This year we are going to make some puppets to assist with theatrical depictions of various episodes. Velcro and stick-on beards, mustaches, and wigs will help turn a small cast of puppets into an impressive array of characters!



After teaching the class to make paper boats while learning about some of the important boats in the Bible (the ark, the boat Jonah took, some of St. Paul's travel vessels, etc.), Mr. Ryan wears his boat like a hat.

We are also hoping to present a brief play during the Advent season again . . . several ideas have already been hatched, but the final decision has not yet been made. If anyone in the congregation would like to help with the production by helping with sets, costumes, rehearsing, or perhaps even a little acting, please let Miranda Hempel or Ryan Spaude know. Children who don't attend Sunday School but would like to be in the play are welcomed and encouraged! Again, just let us know.



A boat, Jonah, and the big fish!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Weekly Catechism classes for those considering Confirmation will begin Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7:15 - 8:30pm in the parish building conference room

Sunday Christian Education classes beginning Sunday, Sept. 13, at 9:00am

Sunday School: Children in grades K-8 are welcome

Fall 2015 Adult Forum Topics (high school and older):

Sept. 13 - Oct. 4: In Christ All Things Hold Together
A four week study of a report published recently by the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) on the intersection of science and Christian theology

Oct. 11 - Nov. 22: An Orderly Account -- Listening to the Gospel of Luke

In this study, we'll prepare to listen to the 2015-2016 (Revised Common Lectionary Year C) Gospel Lessons, largely taken from the Gospel of Luke. The study will include an overview of the Gospel as well as selected highlights from it.

Nov. 29 - Dec. 20: Hark the Glad Sound

A four week study of biblical songs we use at Advent to welcome Christ, including songs of Zechariah, Mary, angels, and the church

The Adult Forum schedule is subject to the interests of participants. If there is a particular topic you want to be sure not to miss, please tell Pastor Erhardt so he can take that into account. If you'd like to suggest study topics for the future, please send them to Pastor Erhardt at lcmaprinceton@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS PASTOR GOERSS



Congratulations to Pastor Goerss on 45 years of ordained pastoral ministry! This certificate of recognition was received by Messiah's delegates at the English District Convention (Herb Gishlick and Pastor Erhardt) and presented to Pastor Goerss at Messiah's July 5 worship service.

The Songs of All God's People *A Concert of Christian Music*

in
Commemoration of the Coming of the
500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation
1517 - 2017



Saturday, October 24, 2015
Princeton University Chapel
Princeton, NJ
3:00 p.m.



Featuring

The Chapel School Select Choir

- Village Lutheran Church, Bronxville, NY

Christ Assembly Lutheran Choir

- Staten Island, NY

Westminster Kantorei

- Westminster Choir College



Chapel opens at 2:15 p.m., Organ Prelude begins at 2:30 p.m., Concert starts at 3:00 p.m.

Concert is free but tickets are required for seating

Available at <https://reformation500concert.brownpapertickets.com/>

The Guild for Early Music Festival at Grounds For Sculpture

Sunday, October 18th from 12:30pm to 5:30pm

Tickets to The Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ admit you to all the concerts.

Ensemble members of the Guild will present short concerts featuring music from the 12th to the 17th centuries with voices and period instruments. Strolling musicians and a petting zoo make this a great day indoors and out.

MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Group (Messiah Mantle) met on July 30, 2015 for a Summer Party in Pennington.

Hank Gerwers served again as 'Grill Master' and the ladies shared stories, rekindled friendships and had lots of food and drinks.

We also honored Siv Mitt on completion of the 100s shawl with a gift card and cheers. (Photo, Siv Mitt in the middle)

Present were: Esther Fisher, Patricia Wolf, Renate Giller, Lot-tie Coffin, Eva Groves, Siv Mitt, Suzanne Manczuk, Karen Hartl, Paula Hartman, Gail Sabatura, Miranda Hempel and Doris Schubert-Gerwers, (Group photo)



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



Not present were: Patty Hlafter, Janice Hofreiter and Debbie Zak.

The monthly meetings (3rd Thursday of the month) will resume in September and be announced in the weekly Bulletin.



UPCOMING READINGS IN SEPTEMBER

PENTECOST YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>September 6, 2015</i>	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Psalms 125	James 2:1-10, (11- 13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>September 13, 2015</i>	Proverbs 1:20-33	Psalms 19	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>September 20, 2015</i>	Proverbs 31:10-31	Psalms 54	James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>September 27, 2015</i>	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Psalms 124	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50

UPCOMING READINGS IN OCTOBER

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>October 4, 2015</i>	Job 1:1, 2:1-10	Psalms 26	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost <i>October 11, 2015</i>	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Psalms 22:1-15	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost <i>October 18, 2015</i>	Job 38:1-7, (34-41)	Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35c	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost <i>October 25, 2015</i>	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	Psalms 34:1-8, (19-22)	Hebrews 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52



AN INVITATION TO MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

I'm new to Messiah but have an idea for the men of Messiah to consider.

Would any of you be interested in getting together on some regular basis (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly) at a local coffee shop or some other public place to discuss themes from the Bible, current topics or personal challenges or other topics of interest? Think of it as a Men's Forum where we can openly discuss things of faith and life in confidence with other men. I believe men often have a hard time expressing questions and feelings and this forum may help.

Here's an outline of what I have in mind:

1. Meet in a public place for about an hour using the first 10 to 15 minutes to check in with each other.

2. Open with prayer to address any expressed concerns and give thanks to God for each other and our blessings. A topic, previously emailed to members, would be presented for discussion by an individual.

3. Discuss the topic as a group for the next 30 minutes, then decide whether to continue with the topic at the next meeting or move on to another one.

4. Close with prayer. Out of respect for one another's time, we'd try to close promptly at the agreed upon ending time. Those who would like to linger for more fellowship would be welcome to do that.



MESSIAH'S MEN'S FORUM

*Brothers seeking to
walk with Christ.*

continued on next page

AN INVITATION TO MEN'S FELLOWSHIP (CONTINUED)

Here are the goals I envision:

- To meet in public with open Bibles. This encourages other Christians and tells people around us that we're not ashamed of the Gospel and that growing in faith is important to us.
- Pray for the local community
- To have everyone participate openly and welcome new members even outside of Messiah
- To vent feelings, ideas and questions without fear of judgment or disclosure since this would be a confidential group
- To develop deeper friendships among us
- To be available to help others in the congregation or those in need

In the past, I met with a similar group at a Panera at 7:30 Tuesday mornings to allow those who worked to participate. Our group ranged from two to seven members and Panera was very accommodating. We called ourselves "Brothers of the Bread" and even planned a banner but never actually got one! It was a good time of growth for all of us. Our place of meeting, frequency and time would be determined by the group.



I'd like to host a Men's Breakfast at Messiah at 9:00am on Saturday, October 3, to discuss the idea. We'll be done by 11. If there is interest, we could agree on a time and place to meet and consider topics for discussion. The motivation for limiting the group to men is not chauvinism, but to offer our men some dedicated time together. This may grow into a co-ed effort down the road or other small groups in the future.

I have presented the idea to Pastor Martin and he is supportive. Let me know what you think and if you'd like to help with the group or breakfast. The Baumans are not in the church directory yet, My home phone is 609 664 2371, cell 732 236 9898, and email fsbauman@gmail.com. My wife Bev and I live at 43 Turret Drive in Monroe Township.

Steve Bauman

AUGUST 29 CHURCH BBQ



A very big thank you to Debbie and Dan Baer for organizing, reminding, preparing, grilling, a terrific Saturday afternoon BBQ on church premises. Everybody helped with set-up, food came rolling in from participants and the weather could not have been better.



Photos courtesy of Debbie Baer

September 2015

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

October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 9am Men's Forum Kickoff Breakfast
4 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	5	6	7 7:15pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	8 7pm Executive Board Meeting	9	10
11 Stewardship Sunday 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	12	13	14 7:15pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	15 7pm Prayer Shawl Meeting	16	17
18 2016 Pledge Forms Due 9:00am Christian Education	19	20	21 7:15pm Confirmation	22	23 6pm ISI Dinner	24
25 9:00am Christian Ed. 10:30am Matins 4pm Reformation Service (at Bethany, Ewing)	26	27	28 7:15pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir	29	30	31



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

If we missed your birthday, we're sorry, but it means it's not on file. Help update our data... Call (609) 924-3642 or email the church office at lcmherald@gmail.com
