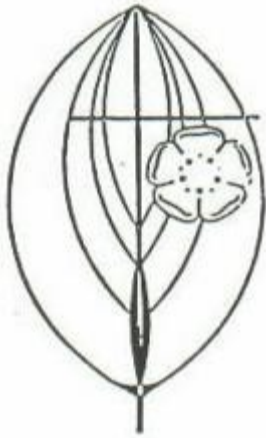


## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



# Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

Email: [lcmaprinceton@gmail.com](mailto:lcmaprinceton@gmail.com)

Website: [www.princetonlutheranchurch.org](http://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

ANDREW BUCKWALTER  
FAIRFIELD  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

### EASIER SAID THAN DONE

I have a four year old niece who will tell you she likes to go to the dentist. In fact, according to her, she *loves* to go. She just doesn't like to *be at* the dentist. When it comes time to open her mouth, she does so grudgingly, if at all, extorting free samples of dental floss and toothpaste for each concession she makes to the hygienist. For her, going to the dentist – in the full sense of the term – is easier said than done.

And so it often is with us. Many of us like the idea of belonging to a church. We may even enjoy attending worship services and other congregational events. But when submitting ourselves to God's Word and loving our neighbor means change, it takes more than free toothpaste to overcome our inertia. When it means staying the course rather than downing tools to seek greener pastures elsewhere, that can be just as hard.

Discernment can be difficult. It's not always easy to tell whether God is calling us to persevere or to change. While that can be frustrating, God has good news for us:

- 1) God is at work in us. Our lack of clarity doesn't impede God. The Holy Spirit helps us see our lives as part of God's unfolding story of salvation and shapes us "to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). As God's works in progress, we can strive to make wise decisions without being paralyzed by the fear that God has left us to see how we perform or that our mistakes are going to spin the world out of God's control and care.

*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)

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- 2) In many cases, God gives us a variety of good choices without secretly willing that we choose one of them. God's will is bigger than that. God doesn't necessarily want us to make a certain choice any more than parent taking a child to the ice cream store wants them to choose a certain flavor.
- 3) Freed from agonizing over choices about matters in which God hasn't given us specific guidance, we can focus on the things that are clearer. As Mark Twain said, "It ain't the parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it's the parts that I do understand."

Even when we hear God's Word clearly and understand its implications for us, it's much easier said than done. Lent helps us with that. It's a time to focus on a few – not many, just one or two – areas of our lives where God is clearly calling us to persevere or to change. It's a time to get down to brass tacks, renounce specific habits or pleasures temporarily or permanently, and adopt concrete disciplines that reflect the Holy Spirit's work in us. We can begin with the prayer, almsgiving, and fasting Jesus assumes of his disciples in Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (our Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday). From there, God gives us choices.

Thanks be to God for this season dedicated to cleansing and renewal and especially for the Holy Spirit's continuing work in us.

Pastor Erhardt



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

## NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Wednesdays in Lent

**February 17—March 16**

6:00 PM Soup and Salad Supper

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

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

**March 20, Palm Sunday**

10:30 AM Holy Communion

**March 24, Maundy Thursday**

8:00 PM Holy Communion

**March 25, Good Friday**

8:00 PM Tenebrae

**March 27, Easter Sunday**

9:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 AM Festival Service

of Holy Communion

(note the 10:00am service time)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

***Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 PM***

*Executive Board Meeting*

***Thursday, March 17, 7:00 PM***

*Prayer Shawl Meeting*

***Friday, March 18, 6:00 PM***

*ISI Dinner*

***Sunday, April 10, 12:15 PM***

*Executive Board Meeting*

***Saturday, April 16, 9:00 AM***

*Church Work Day*

***Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM***

*Prayer Shawl Meeting*

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### Taize-style Evening Prayer

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the Princeton University Chapel weekly March 29—May 17. Please join us for a ~30 minute service of contemplative prayer, scripture, and song. All are welcome. Sponsored by Lutheran Campus Ministry. For more information about the Taize community, see [www.taize.fr](http://www.taize.fr)



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**LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT**

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**Save These Dates**

**June 3, 4 and 5, 2016**

**for the LLL Men's Weekend Retreat**

**at Camp Pioneer, Angola, NY**

**20 miles south of Buffalo on Lake Erie**

**Our Presenter will be Dr. Pete Larsen**

**Speaking on The Seasons of a Man's Life**

**Watch for a full description and registration coming soon**

**Registrar: Herbert Loewlein**

**[h.loewlein@gmail.com](mailto:h.loewlein@gmail.com)**

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER EGG HUNT

### And Other Hijinks!

Messiah's Sunday School is gearing up for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Every year, Messiah hosts a gala Easter Egg Hunt/Breakfast/Craft Extravaganza for the congregation, neighborhood, and anyone else who cares to drop in, even adults unaccompanied by children!

There are Easter baskets filled with nifty non-candy doodads like toys and games, breakfast treats and beverages for all (including coffee for those needing a caffeine pick-me-up) and crafts. Last year we decorated hats for Easter (yes, the boys, too!) as well as totes to carry home all the candy loot gathered in the egg hunt.



All are welcome, and it's a wonderful event to bring friends to—every year some new people come by to join in the fun. If you want information, please call Miranda Hempel at 609-844-1140 or email [mirandahempel@gmail.com](mailto:mirandahempel@gmail.com)

Of course, the Sunday School is continuing its studies as well! We have been focusing on Abraham and Sarah and also Jesus' life. In February, we even looked into zombies when we learned about Lazarus, who was most decidedly NOT a zombie. Katy von Barga gamely allowed herself to be made up as a partially-decomposed corpse, with a formerly white curtain as a shroud, and Roger Tabris as Jesus

commanded her to come out of the tomb.

The students made miniature water jars when we learned about the miracle at Cana, and we made water turn red seemingly by magic, although disappointingly it still tasted like water.

Our motley crew of puppets, made at the beginning of the year, has been called into service to enact several stories from the Old and New Testaments, often with considerable compensation.

Suggestions are gratefully welcomed and considered—just let either Miranda Hempel or Ryan Spaude know your ideas.





## A COMMUNITY OF OPPORTUNITIES: CARING CARD COMMITTEE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

### CARING CARD COMMITTEE

A new committee has formed to send birthday congratulations, get well, and condolence cards to members of the congregation and those they care about.

Please make sure the church office has your birthday information (just the month will do!) if you would like to receive a card. If you would like friends or adult children to receive cards, for birthdays or illness, please let Trish Oelrich, Elda Alslev, or Miranda Hempel know. We will need the names and addresses of anyone you wish to have included.

The committee meets after fellowship on the last Sunday of each month to send out cards. Anyone is welcome to join!

### HOSTING STUDENTS

Dear Church Friends,

Want to host visiting international students in July? If you're interested, message me and I'll give you more detail.

And provide your kids a free summer program at our camp, Art & Crafts, Sports, Lego Robotic, Team Activities, pool party , field trip...

Date : [7/11-7/30/2016 Monday to Friday 9:00am-3:00pm](#)

Location: [99 Clarksville Rd, Princeton Junction, NJ](#) ( The Wilberforce School )

God bless , Jean Yu

[609-737-6849](tel:609-737-6849)

4 Avalon Rd.

Pennington , NJ08534

## MESSIAH'S MANTLES: PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

### The Prayer Shawl Group Hostess Schedule

March -- May 2016

March 17: Lottie Coffin

April 21: Eva Groves

May 19: Doris Schubert-Gerwers

Please check the church website

[princetonlutheranchurch.org/shawl.html](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.

Please join our group of knitters/crocheters. We provide yarn, needles and a good spirit. If you haven't knit or crocheted for a while, don't get discouraged, we all will help you to get started.



Some of our finished and 'in-the-making'  
shawls and scarves.

We also reward  
our hard work  
with  
delicious dessert.



### MILDRED'S PRAYER

We praise you Lord for giving us these hands  
To knit these shawls  
To comfort the sick, the weary,  
The many friends and neighbors  
Who do not have loved ones to be by their side.  
May they find comfort in the work that we do  
and the love we send.

Amen



## UPCOMING READINGS IN MARCH

LENT, HOLY WEEK YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>March 6, 2016</i>	Joshua 5:9-12	Psalms 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>March 13, 2016</i>	Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalms 126	Philippians 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
Palm Sunday <i>March 20, 2016</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 19:28-40
Maundy Thursday <i>March 24, 2016</i>	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday <i>Tenebrae Service</i> <i>March 25, 2016</i>	Tenebrae Responsive Readings			
Easter Sunday <i>March 27, 2016</i>	Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12



## UPCOMING READINGS IN APRIL

EASTER YEAR C	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday Of Easter April 3, 2016	Acts 5:27-32	Psalms 150	Revelation 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
Third Sunday Of Easter April 10, 2016	Acts 9:1-20	Psalms 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Fourth Sunday Of Easter April 17, 2016	Acts 9:36-43	Psalms 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Fifth Sunday Of Easter April 24, 2016	Acts 11:1-18	Psalms 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35



Readings taken from [lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu](http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu)

# Men's Forum Update



Our monthly Men's Forum started in November with two groups: one meeting at 7:30 AM Wednesdays at McCaffrey's and another at 9:00 AM

Saturdays at Wegman's. We knew this would be a work in progress and here is where we are now.

For the foreseeable future, meetings will normally be held the last Saturday of the month from 9 AM to 10 AM at Wegman's at 240 Nassau Park Blvd. in Princeton. Our starting point for discussion will be Pastor Erhardt's sermon of two Sundays prior, or as the Holy Spirit leads. For example, the February meeting is on February 27<sup>th</sup> and the sermon discussed will be from February 14<sup>th</sup>.

The goals of this group are to grow in the Lord as we grow in our fellowship with each other, and to provide a witness of men with Bibles meeting in public. It is an open group to all men of Messiah and their friends. Seven men attended the last meeting and there is room for more. If you are not on our email list and would like to be, let me know ([fsbauman@gmail.com](mailto:fsbauman@gmail.com)). The week prior to the meeting I send a copy of the subject sermon and a few questions for discussion starters. It also serves as a reminder for the meeting.

We start promptly at 9:00 and end at 10:00, though men can stay for additional fellowship and discussion. Refreshments are available downstairs so pick them up beforehand and come upstairs to the dining area for the meeting. Coffee, a bagel, and good Christian fellowship are a great way to start your Saturday! Hope to see you soon and God bless.

Respectfully submitted: Steve Bauman 609 664 2371 or [fsbauman@gmail.com](mailto:fsbauman@gmail.com)

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

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**Do you know any of these lovely people?**

**What are they wearing, and why?**

**What time of year do you think this photo was taken?**



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*Photo courtesy of Messiah archives*

## MONEY MATTERS

### PARISH BUILDING AND FELLOWSHIP HALL AVAILABLE JULY 1 FOR WEEKDAY RENTAL

The Newgrange School will end its lease of the parish building on June 30, so we're looking for a new weekday tenant for the parish building and the fellowship hall. The available space, which includes five offices, classroom/conference space, and a reception lounge, has been leased in the past by small schools and a counseling center, and would also be well-suited to use by a small business. Rental income is a major portion of our annual budget and therefore has a significant impact on Messiah's ministry. If you know of someone who may want to lease any or all of this space, please spread the word and have them contact Miranda Hempel at 609-865-0120 or [mirandahempel@gmail.com](mailto:mirandahempel@gmail.com).

### HAVE YOU INCLUDED MESSIAH IN YOUR WILL?

If you haven't but would like to, here's how:

1. Call your lawyer.
2. Tell him/her what you'd like to leave to Messiah (an amount or a percentage).
3. When the new will is ready to sign, visit your lawyer's office and sign it.

It's not difficult to do, but it's easy to put off. Thanks for making Messiah's ministry an important part of your life and legacy.

### 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

We ended 2015 with a surplus of approximately \$28,000, given a budget of \$212,000. Approximately \$16,900 of the surplus came from offerings in excess of budget, \$11,700 from extra rental income, and we spent about \$600 more than we budgeted. Thank you for your generous giving! With the impending loss of our parish building tenant in June, it was decided at the December 2015 voters meeting to apply the entire 2015 surplus to our 2016 budgeted income.

### UTILITY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Have you and your family been impacted by tough economic times? The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) may be able to help you pay your winter heating bills. Applications will be accepted **only until April 30th, 2016**. For those falling behind on their electric and gas bill who are not eligible for low income programs, moderate income programs, such as the TRUE Grant, PAGE Grant and/or New Jersey SHARES programs, may provide the help you need. For more information, or to find out how to apply, call 1-800-519-3102, visit [pseg.com/help](http://pseg.com/help) or [pseg.com/ayuda](http://pseg.com/ayuda) (Spanish).

# March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Lenten Prayer 7:50pm Choir	3 7:15pm Catechism	4	5
6 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	7	8	9 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Lenten Prayer 7:50pm Choir	10 7:15pm Catechism	11	12
13 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	14	15 7pm Executive Board Meeting	16 6pm Soup and Salad 7pm Lenten Prayer 7:50pm Choir	17 7pm Prayer Shawl 7:15pm Catechism	18 6pm ISI Dinner	19
20 Palm Sunday 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	21	22	23 7:30pm Choir	24 Maundy Thursday 8pm Holy Com- munion	25 Good Friday 8pm Tenebrae	26
27 Easter Sunday 9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Festival Service of Holy Communion	28	29 7:30pm Taize	30 7:30pm Choir	31		



# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30pm Taize	<b>6</b> 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 12:15 Executive Board Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:30pm Taize	<b>13</b> 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00am Church Work Day
<b>17</b> 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:30pm Taize	<b>20</b> 7:15pm Catechism 7:30pm Choir	<b>21</b> 7pm Prayer Shawl	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:30pm Taize	<b>27</b> 7:30pm Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE MESSIAH

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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