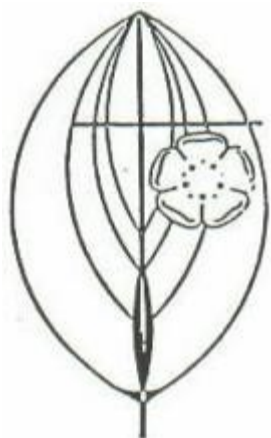


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

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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

VALERIE JOHNSON
OFFICE ASSISTANT

On the Pleasure of Not Having Smallpox

"When did it stop being fun to sit around and enjoy not having smallpox?" It's a question I use to remind myself, in moments of frustration, that I have a great deal for which to be thankful. I find that as a gas expands to the size of its container, our expectations expand to the size of our ideals. Which is a recipe for a lifetime of disappointment. It is good to strive for what is good, and we should expect to receive good gifts from God. But it is mistaken and discouraging to let the world's fallenness discount God's goodness or diminish our gratitude.

Speaking of living in this fallen world, someone told me last month that they were irritated by Christians who perpetually prophesy the imminent collapse of civilization. I was sympathetic because catechized Christians should know that civilization collapsed long ago in Eden. We won't enjoy civilization in its fullness until the new Jerusalem comes down out of heaven from God as described in Revelation 21:2. Even so, we have much for which to be grateful now.



To be content and thankful without being complacent and slothful is not something we can do, or even recognize, ourselves. We need the Holy Spirit who speaks to us in scripture, renewing our minds and forming us in the likeness of Christ (Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18). Reminding me that I can enjoy not having smallpox is one way the Holy Spirit works in my life. Anticipating the day when the old Adam in me will stop thrashing about is another. Between now and then, we have much for which to thank God and much joy we need not forgo. By sending us his Son, God has given hope to us in His fallen world and confidence that fallen is not the way we — or it — will stay.

With joy and gratitude,

Pastor Erhardt

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.

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Celtic Missions to Anglo-Saxon Britain: July 25 - August 2, 2017

From Dublin to Whitby, follow in the footsteps of Irish missionaries to Britain after the Romans left in the 5th century. This tour will include the Book of Kells at Trinity College (Dublin), the site of the 6th century monastery of Glendalough, the Boyne Valley, Armagh, Belfast, Whithorn, Hadrian's Wall, Lindisfarne, Bede's monastery at Wearmouth-Jarrow, Durham, Whitby, and York. We will stay in a total of four hotels, so won't need to pack and move every day.

For a detailed itinerary and cost/registration information, visit tours-international.com/tours-for-individuals/lutheran-church-of-the-messiah-celtic-christianity and use the password **lutheran2017**. The cost does not include trans-Atlantic airfare. The tour begins at the Dublin airport and ends at the Manchester airport. Payment is possible in British pounds (GBP) or US dollars (USD). At current exchange rates, paying in GBP is probably more economical. The tour company is located in the UK, so be aware of foreign transaction fees assessed by your credit card issuer (regardless of currency). Pastor Erhardt plans to accompany the trip, but to make it happen the tour company needs to see sufficient interest by March 7. So register soon! The trip will be publicized in other congregations, so it won't just be people from Messiah. All are welcome - feel free to publicize the trip and to invite other cheerful, flexible, and interested travelers. Questions? Ask Pastor Erhardt.



CHURCH HUMOR

Contribution from Debbie Baer:

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"



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

CHURCH CALENDAR



LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Ash Wednesday, March 1

7:00 PM Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes

Subsequent Wednesdays in Lent

March 8—April 5

6:00 PM Soup and Salad Supper
7:00 PM Evening Prayer (LBW p. 142)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb 7, 6:30pm

LCM Dinner Discussion

Tuesday, Feb 14, 6pm

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb 16, 7pm

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Friday, Feb 17, 6pm

International Student Friendship Dinner

Saturday, Feb 25, 9am

Men's Forum at Wegmans



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN SOUP AND SALAD HOSTS NEEDED

We're planning a 6:00 PM soup & salad supper on each of these Lenten Wednesdays: March 8, 15, 22, 19 and April 5 (no supper on Ash Wednesday). We have volunteers for all dates but April 5. If you are able and willing to host the supper on April 5, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the nave. Feel free to pair up with someone else and split the work. Hosts bring enough soup, salad, and bread to feed 20–30 people. Food costs can be reimbursed (submit receipts). Paper goods, butter, and beverages will be provided. **We can use volunteers to help the hosts set tables before each supper and clean up afterward (mainly washing dishes). If you can help with set up or clean up, please contact the host directly or the church office.**



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY MONTHLY TABLE TALKS

Lutheran Campus Ministry Table Talks will resume on **Tuesday, February 7**

All discussions are scheduled for 6:30 – 8:00 PM in **Room 210** (new location) of Murray-Dodge Hall, Princeton University. Dinner is included. After 5:00 PM on weekdays, free parking is available in the university lot on William St., between Washington Rd. and Charlton St. Please join us and invite friends. You do not need to be a student to participate.

Spring 2017 dates are :

February 7: Justifying Our Existence

March 7: In Praise of Dependence

April 4: Story and Character Formation

May 2: Cheerfulness as Evangelism



EVENTS

FALL WORK DAY, NOVEMBER 12TH



*Many thanks to all of you who
volunteered at our Fall Work Day!*



Top: John Fischer and
Pastor Erhardt are
prepared for the work
day.

Left: Dan Baer helps
clean up leaves.

Right: Renate Giller is
happy to help.



Skye Jerpbak and Karen MacDonald cleaning out debris from the window wells. Debbie Baer and Renate Giller raking up the leaves.

EVENTS CONTINUED

*Special thanks to all who contributed
to the decorating and clean up efforts
to beautify our sanctuary this
Advent season!*

Fearless Herb Gishlick climbs the ladder to affix
the star to the top of the tree.



Karen & Werner Hartl, Herb & Carolyn Gishlick, Gail Sabatura, Nancy Amidon



Elizabeth Majsztrik carefully puts away the ornaments.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: KYLE SORKNESS

Have you ever wanted to get to know the students in our congregation better? Good news! The Student Spotlight is just the place to start. This month's edition features Princeton Seminary student, Kyle Sorkness. Thank you, Kyle!

Where are you from?

I like to say Lake Wobegon, but I'm actually from Fergus Falls, Minnesota. It's an hour southeast of Fargo, in farm and lake country. I then studied at Concordia University, St. Paul.

What program are you in and what year?

I'm in the second (middler) year of the Master of Divinity program.



What made you decide to go to seminary?

For as long as I can remember, theological questions have kept me up at night. I've also always thought that studying and teaching theology was the best way I could make the biggest difference in the lives of others.

What do you like to do for fun? Do you have any hobbies?

As a certain kind of perfectionist, my main—and most dangerous—hobby is finding ways to perfect just about everything I encounter. Since that's an odd hobby to explain, though, I'll also say that I enjoy history, technology, traveling, and late-night walks, especially now with such great architecture to take in!

What's the best place for ice cream in Princeton?

I'm afraid the only places I think I've had ice cream are the seminary's dining hall and Wawa. So if by "best" you mean cheapest and closest to the seminary, I highly recommend those.

What is one of your favorite books and why?

One of them is *Discourse on Method* by Descartes. Although I don't agree with all his philosophy, I relate to the autobiographical portions in which he discusses what kinds of questions he has and how he wants to organize his life around answering them.

(continued on the next page)

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

If you could travel somewhere you've never been, where would you go?

Especially given the Reformation anniversary, I'll have to go with making the Lutheran pilgrimage to Germany.

How did you start attending the Lutheran Church of the Messiah?

In undergrad, some friends and I wanted to visit the seminary and were searching for LCMS churches where we might be able to spend the night. We were pleasantly surprised to find one so nearby and were amazed that the pastor was a graduate of this seminary. Although that trip didn't work out, I connected with Pastor Erhardt, whose input helped me decide to apply. I couldn't have asked for a better resource than having Pastor Erhardt and Messiah right here, and I'm grateful to all of you for being my church home in Princeton.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Do you recognize the people in this photo?

What was the year and occasion?



Photo courtesy of Messiah archives

UPCOMING READINGS IN FEBRUARY

SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY YEAR A	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb. 5, 2017	Isaiah 58:1-12	Psalm 112:1-10	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Matthew 5:13-20
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany Feb. 12, 2017	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany Feb. 19, 2017	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	Psalm 119:33-40	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	Matthew 5:38-48
Transfiguration Sunday Feb. 26, 2017	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Valentines FOR FOOD

January 29–February 14, 2017

Healthy Foods Shopping List:

All cans 12-16 oz.

No glass containers, please!

Canned proteins (tuna, salmon, chicken, chili)

Cereal, hot or cold

Canned fruits (*low-fructose*)

Canned vegetables (*low-sodium*)

1 or 2 lbs. pasta and/or rice

Peanut butter

Boxed macaroni and cheese

Honey

Dried beans (1-lb. bags)

Shelf-stable milk (Parmalat)

Herbs and spices

Olive oil and canola oil

Help fill the pantry shelves at Arm In Arm with nutritious food for our neighbors in need. Here's how:

♥ Donate healthy, non-perishable food at your church, or organize a drive at your school or workplace.

♥ Volunteer at our Valentines for Food table at McCaffrey's Market. Sign up for a shift at signup.com/go/QGkAAY

♥ Purchase a \$4.99 Valentine for Food from January 29th–February 14th at McCaffrey's and feed a household for a full day. *McCaffrey's will generously match all purchases.*

♥ Send Virtual Valentines 1/13–2/13 through www.arminarm.org.

♥ Make a contribution. Look for special envelopes in your pew. Or give online: arminarm.org/donate; or by check: Arm In Arm, with Valentines for Food written in the memo line, 123 E. Hanover St.,

For questions, or to schedule a food donation pick-up, please contact Becca Jensen Compton beccaj@arminarm.org | 609.396.9355 ext. 35.

Arm In Arm partners with our community to achieve stability for our neighbors in need. Valentines for Food is one way we do that. Each month people from more than 1,400 households come to Arm In Arm for help with food and with emergency assistance to help them stay in their homes.

Learn more at www.arminarm.org



Formerly the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County



February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
			7:30pm Choir	7:15pm Catechism		
<i>5</i> 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
		6:30pm LCM Dinner Discussion	7:30pm Choir	7:15pm Catechism		
<i>12</i> 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
		6pm Executive Board Meeting	7:30pm Choir	7pm Prayer Shawl 7:15pm Catechism	6pm International Friendship Dinner	
<i>19</i> 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9am Men's Forum
			7:30pm Choir	7:15pm Catechism		
<i>26</i> 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>(March 1)</i> Ash Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion 8pm Choir	<i>(March 2)</i>		
				7:15pm Catechism		



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RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
