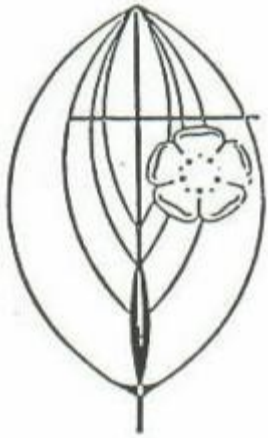


NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

Email: lcmprinceton@gmail.com

www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

THE REV. DR.
MARTIN K. ERHARDT
PASTOR

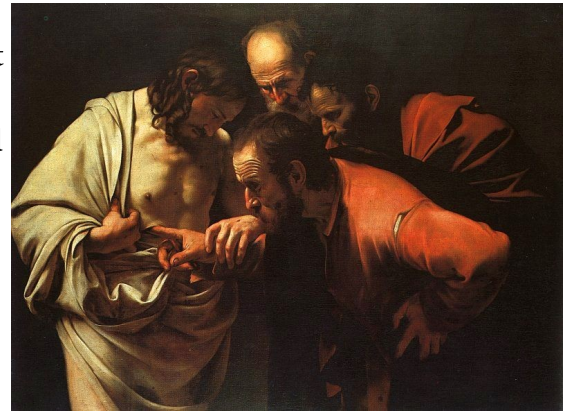
THE REV. DR.
JOHN MARK GOERSS
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER
ORGANIST AND
CHOIR DIRECTOR

VALERIE JOHNSON
OFFICE ASSISTANT

Christ is Risen!

It's hard to imagine better, more consequential news. Christ being risen means we can live hopefully, even cheerfully, in our fallen world. With Thomas, we can touch Jesus' healed wounds and derive hope from that healing without shrinking from wounds and their pain. With Jesus' disciples on the road to Emmaus, we can grieve loss and still, with hearts aglow, be surprised by joy.



Christ being risen means that despite the coldness, apathy, and paranoid pursuit of self-interest that infest our society, we can risk being honest and vulnerable, and loving sacrificially. Christ being risen emboldens us to take risks that don't make sense to those who haven't received or believed the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

Christ being risen means changed priorities. It's no more possible to die and rise with Jesus in Holy Baptism and expect our priorities to remain undisturbed than it is to live through an earthquake and expect the landscape to remain undisturbed. God loves us as we are, and too much to leave us that way. The tremors of Jesus' resurrection are, thank God, still rippling through our world, forming mountains of hope, springs of refreshment, valleys of rest, and rushing rivers of good will and well being.

continued on the 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

Christ being risen isn't delusion, but reality – seeing beyond a merely mechanical universe, merely worldly kingdoms, and merely selfish understandings of success. It casts our world and our lives in a new and hopeful light that the darkness of sin, guilt, and despair cannot overcome. As ambassadors of Christ, we carry that light and spread it as we go, mourning with those who mourn and rejoicing with those who rejoice. Thanks be to God for Jesus' resurrection!

Pastor Erhardt

OFFICE ASSISTANT UPDATE

Dear People of Messiah,

It has been a pleasure working for the church as the Office Assistant. Even though I do not attend Messiah, I have had a glimpse of the beautiful and servant-hearted fellowship you share here. After graduation my husband, Nathanael, will be starting a new job at a church in Souderton, Pennsylvania working primarily with youth. We will be transitioning to Souderton in June, so after May 26 I will no longer be serving as Office Assistant. I truly hope and pray for the best for this congregation!

With much gratitude,

Valerie Johnson



Hello!

My name is Katherine Ellis and I'm excited to work as the new Office Assistant at the Lutheran Church of the Messiah. I moved from Livingston, Scotland to Princeton this past fall to attend Princeton Theological Seminary where I am currently pursuing an MDiv. I grew up in Abilene, Texas and attended Baylor University prior to moving to Scotland to work. I am greatly enjoying my time in Princeton and am honored to help contribute to the life and ministry of the Lutheran Church of the Messiah. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside you and I look forward to getting to know you more throughout the year!

Warmly,
Katherine Ellis

Visit our website to listen to audio recordings of Sunday Sermons.
<http://new.princetonlutheranchurch.org/worship/service-and-sermon-audios/>

CHURCH CALENDAR

PASTOR ERHARDT'S VISIT WITH THE KAARIAINEN FAMILY IN CHICAGO ON APRIL 3RD



Pastor Erhardt with Pastor Jukka & Laura
and their daughters Jemina and Aliina



Jemina and Aliina have hatched!



Seeing the tiger up close at Lincoln Park Zoo

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, May 2, 6:30pm

LCM Table Talk: Cheerfulness as Evangelism

Tuesday, May 9, 7pm

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 7pm

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Sunday, May 21, 12:15pm

Voters Meeting

Saturday, May 27, 9am

Men's Forum at Wegmans

Sunday, May 28

Last day of Christian Education classes

Last day of 10:30am worship

Sunday, June 4

Pentecost Sunday

9:30am Worship with Confirmation

Tuesday, June 20, 7pm

Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, June 24, 9am

Men's Forum at Wegmans

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Beginning Pentecost Sunday, June 4, worship will begin at 9:30am. At this service, our catechism students will affirm their baptism in the Rite of Confirmation. There will be no Adult Forum or Sunday School June through August.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Do you have flowers in your garden you'd like to share with Messiah? If so anytime between now and the fall, call Carolyn Gishlick to arrange for their use at Messiah.



EVENTS

LUTHERANS IN DIASPORA CONFERENCE, MARCH 10

On March 10th, Messiah hosted the Lutherans in Diaspora Conference which is held every four years for Lutherans studying at non-Lutheran seminaries. Special thanks to Debbie Baer and all of the volunteers who helped prepare food for the conference dinner!



EVENTS CONTINUED

LENTEN SOUP AND SALAD



We had a great time of fellowship during the Lenten Soup & Salad Suppers! Thank you to all of our wonderful hosts who cooked up the delicious meals for us.

EVENTS CONTINUED

SPRING WORK DAY, APRIL 22



Elizabeth Majsztrik helps Kyle Sorkness and Miranda Hempel plant flowers at the Spring Work Day.



Kyle Sorkness, Miranda Hempel, Paul Rorem, Skye Jerpbak, Karen MacDonald, Laura Bennett and Elizabeth Majsztrik



Renate Giller helps with the planters.



SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School for Lent and Holy Week; Support for Feed My Starving Children

Lessons for Lent

During Lent, our Sunday School lessons focused on the meaning of the season, Jesus' last days and his sacrifice for us, augmented by related Bible stories.

This year, we all had special calendars for Lent with Bible passages, ideas, crafts, and activities for different days. We also had different colorful booklets about Lent, with quotes from Scripture and Bible stories. Some materials featured stickers to place in designated places on the illustrations. Stickers are always fun, and as we discovered, sometimes end up in surprising places! (Noses and foreheads are big favorites, but fingernails, clothing, and other body parts are popular, too.)



When Holy Week began, we traced Christ's footsteps (actually, on Palm Sunday, the donkey's steps!) from Jesus' exciting entry into Jerusalem through to his triumphant resurrection.

For Palm Sunday, we made pretend palm branches with dowels, sticks, pipe cleaners, and lots and lots of different-colored construction and tissue papers, culminating in a festive procession (punctuated by much palm-waving) down the center of the Sanctuary to the altar. There was a brief pause in front of the Palm Sunday banner for a photo-op, and then we all trooped back down the aisle and down to the Fellowship Hall.

continued on the next page

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE CONTINUED

The Feed My Starving Children Project

Because of the emphasis on charitable giving during Lent, the Sunday School picked a charity they wanted to help. We settled on *Feed My Starving Children*, a Christian charity founded in 1987. It is the original and largest supplier of nutritionally complete, packaged dry meals specifically formulated for people who are malnourished and starving. These meals are sent free of charge to partners in more than 70 countries who use the food to prevent starvation and curb malnourishment in children and families. Through working on this endeavor, the children gained insight into the bounty we enjoy through the grace of God, and how many children and families in this and other countries there are who are suffering and need help desperately.

Messiah's congregation responded to the Sunday School's campaign with incredible generosity, joined by others, as well. The initial goal was to raise \$400, which would sustain a family for a year. Instead, nearly \$1200 was donated, triple that amount. The children were involved throughout, and eagerly made thank you cards for the donors whose names we had. Many people generously put anonymous donations in the "charity box" which was placed in the church (exuberantly decorated by Katie Von Bergen).

The Sunday School wants to extend thanks to all, first for the good wishes and warmth shown by the congregation, and second, for the donations offered. This project was the result of a suggestion from a member of the congregation, who also kick-started the donations. We greatly appreciate this input.

— Miranda Hempel



SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUED

Easter at Messiah's Sunday School

Easter Sunday is a double-pleasure for Messiah's Sunday School. Every year, we host a gala Easter Egg Hunt for the children and grandchildren of our congregants, children from the neighborhood, and anyone else who wants to join the fun. It is so rewarding to see children overflowing with happiness and excitement as they dive almost head-first into the tables of craft projects and decorating supplies set out for them. (It need not be said, but nevertheless, here goes: the greatest pleasure, the most wonderful experience and opportunity on this blessed day, is the Easter service itself.)



With Easter come Peeps and chocolate bunnies!

This year we had that Easter craft favorite, hats, as well as glittery bags, and foam crowns and crosses to decorate with rhinestones, stickers, flowers, ribbons, other oddments, and just plain crayons. Even some of the adults opted to decorate a hat for themselves, which restored our faith in the ability of grown-ups to succumb to the less sophisticated pleasures in life. In addition to the mandatory lavender, pink, pale blue, beige, and red straw hats and plastic bowlers in bright colors we have each year, we offered a more manly choice for the boys in our group - straw men's hats with a herringbone pattern. These were a big hit with the girls, too - and with the adults, as well! One mother, who arrived stylishly clad in black and white, left with a decorated herringbone hat to top her outfit off.

There was a record turn-out, with many new families who heard about the Hunt from neighborhood friends, saw our signs on Nassau Street, or who read about the event in area newspapers or on our fabulous Facebook page. The event was called for 9:15, but people just couldn't wait, and started arriving from about 9:00 on. Luckily, thanks to our helpful volunteers, we were ready for the onslaught. Plates of croissants, rugelach, and blueberry muffins were ready and waiting to sustain everyone's creative energy, along with grapes, clementines, juice, and caffeine. As usual, we purposely over-bought, so that enough would be left over for an unofficial Fellowship Hour after the services, which is always fun.

continued on the next page

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE CONTINUED

At 9:30 am, the youngest children and associated siblings and parents ventured forth to start the great Easter egg hunt. A few minutes later, the older the children raced out. Waiting for them outside were 250 chocolate-stuffed plastic eggs artfully hidden by older children and teens at the church. By 9:45, the grounds were picked clean, with no egg left unturned. Like chocolate-seeking missiles, children and their helpful parents scoured the area, and returned to the Fellowship Hall with baskets bulging with Easter booty.



Usually, the returning conquerors just grab one of the gift baskets filled with little toys and treats waiting for them, and head out to celebrate the rest of the day. This Easter Sunday, people hung out, snacking, chatting, and working on some more crafts, until the last possible moment.

Messiah's Sunday School was delighted to welcome children and grandchildren of congregants, neighborhood friends, and newcomers who heard about the Easter Egg Hunt through Messiah's outreach efforts.

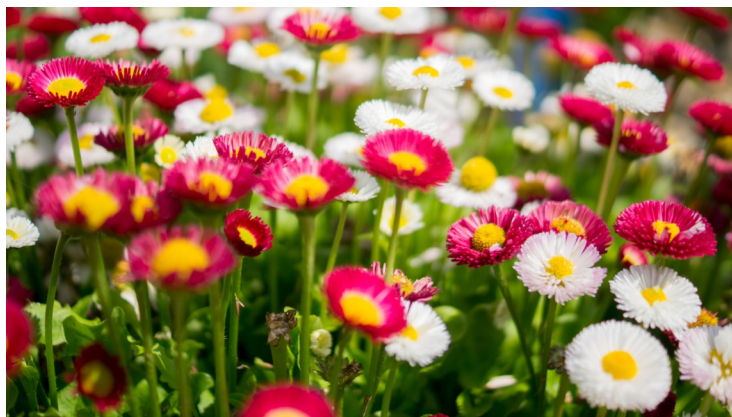
Many Messiah stalwarts offered their time and resources to make the Easter Egg Hunt such a success. Mark Von Barga and his children Katie and Drew arrived more than an hour beforehand to help set up; Herb and Carolyn Gishlick came to assist and make coffee; Debbie and Dan Baer came early to lend a hand; Trish Oelrich made the gift baskets possible and came to the event. Sunday School teachers Rachel Tabris (and Nat) and Skye Jerpbak supervised during the event and offered help or artistic advice where needed, as did Karen MacDonald. A whole article could be written about all the help and inspiration they provided. Many non-official volunteers lent a hand as needed; if any names have been left out, I apologize, and also ask you to let me know.



— Miranda Hempel
(phone: 609-865-8117, email mirandahempel@gmail.com)

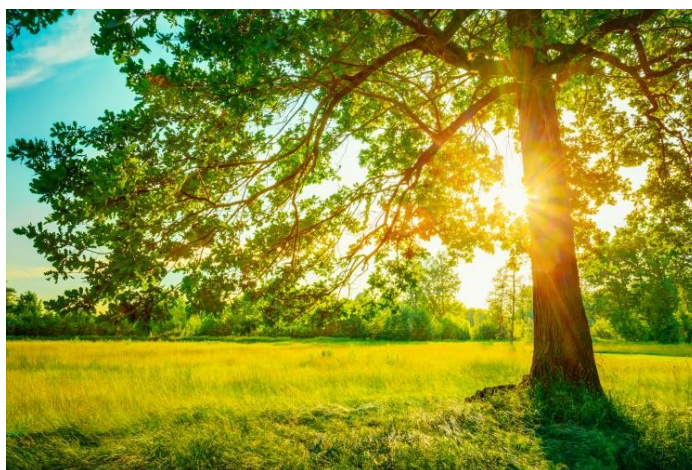
UPCOMING READINGS IN MAY

SEASON OF EASTER YEAR A	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>May 7, 2017</i>	Acts 2:42-47	Psalms 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
Fifth Sunday of Easter <i>May 14, 2017</i>	Acts 7:55-60	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
Sixth Sunday of Easter <i>May 21, 2017</i>	Acts 17:22-31	Psalms 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
Ascension Sunday <i>May 28, 2017</i>	Acts 1:1-11	Psalms 47	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53



UPCOMING READINGS IN JUNE

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
YEAR A				
Day of Pentecost <i>June 4, 2017</i>	Acts 2:1-21	Psalms 104:24-34	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
Trinity Sunday <i>June 11, 2017</i>	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalms 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Second Sunday after Pentecost <i>June 18, 2017</i>	Genesis 18:1-15	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8
Third Sunday after Pentecost <i>June 25, 2017</i>	Genesis 21:8-21	Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Can you name the young gentlemen pictured here?

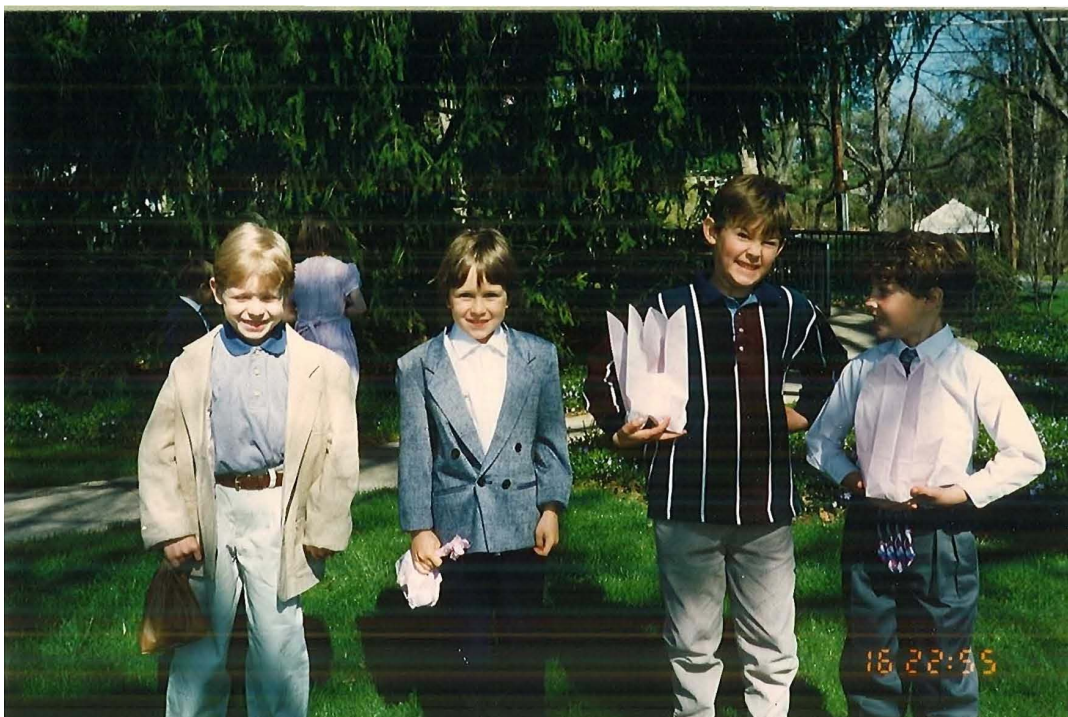


Photo courtesy of Messiah archives

CHURCH HUMOR



**"Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!"**



May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 7:30pm Luther Movie 7:30pm Choir	4 7:15pm Catechism	5	6
7 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	8	9 7pm Executive Board Meeting	10 7:30pm Choir	11 7:15pm Catechism	12	13
14 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	15	16	17 7:30pm Choir	18 No Catechism 7pm Prayer Shawl	19	20
21 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 12:15 Voters Meeting	22	23	24 7:30pm Choir	25 Ascension Day 7:15pm Catechism	26	27 9am Men's Forum
28 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	29	30	31 7:30pm Choir			

June 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:15pm Catechism	2	3
4 Pentecost Sunday 9:30am Holy Communion with Confirmation	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:30am Holy Communion	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:30am Holy Communion	19	20 7pm Executive Board Meeting	21	22	23	24 9am Men's Forum
25 9:30am Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30	



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE MESSIAH

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: 609-924-3642
lcmprinceton@gmail.com
www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED
