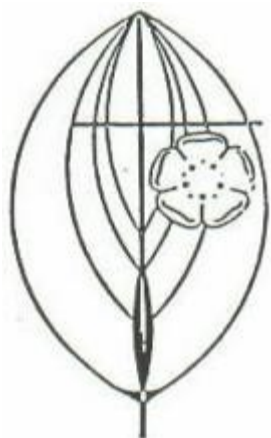


## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



# Messiah Messenger

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

[www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton](https://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

KATHERINE ELLIS  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

### Encouragement, Glorious Encouragement

Here's how Peggy Noonan began a recent *Wall Street Journal* column:

"When I speak with young people beginning their careers I often tell them that in spite of the apparent formidableness of the adults around them—their mastery of office systems, their professional accomplishments, their sheer ability to last—almost everyone begins every day just trying to keep up their morale. Everyone's trying to be hopeful about themselves and the world. People are more confused, even defeated by life, than they let on; many people—most—have times when they feel they've lost the plot, the thread. So go forward with appropriate compassion."

The line that hit me hardest was, "Everyone's trying to be hopeful about themselves and the world." Is that something you struggle to do? If so, you're not alone. Seeing the fallenness of the world in and around us, most of us lose hope from time to time. Which is why the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of hope, is such good news. The gospel enables us to tell the truth and maintain hope even when the truth is worse than we had hoped. The gospel isn't true *because* it makes us feel better. It's true independent of its therapeutic value, but its good news does make us feel better, and encourages us so much that we become able to reach out to our neighbor.

*Hope*

*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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Telling someone who has lost hope to be more pleasant or happy or charitable is like flogging a dead horse. They simply don't have the internal resources to do it even if they wanted to. If we encourage them instead, we give them the hope they need.

Insecurity haunts our world. We fear change, loss, aging, poverty, failure, illness, shame, and death. We work and huddle and hoard to keep what we fear at bay. But the real solution to our insecurity is the gospel of Jesus Christ, of God's love for us, of our redemption and freedom from sin and guilt, and of the promise of eternal life with God. The gospel kindles hope in us and dispels our fears. It is hope that our fearful and insecure world sorely needs – not just once, but frequently.



God blesses us with regular doses of hope in corporate worship each Sunday, where he feeds us with his Word and sacrament in the fellowship of his baptized people. As recipients of God's gift of hope, we can tell others where it can be found, using Philip's simple invitation to Nathanael in John 1:46, "Come and see."

There is much in the world to frustrate us. But instead of kicking against the goads (Acts 26:14) or raging against the machine or throwing in the towel, we can spread the hope God gives us by encouraging each other. We can model being hopeful without whitewashing the truth.

In our Lenten Evening Prayer services this year, we will look at encouragers in the Bible from whom we can take courage and learn to encourage others. I'm looking forward to it and invite you to come and see – Wednesday evenings at 7pm, beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 14).

In the hope and joy of Christian community,  
Pastor Erhardt

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**

7:00 PM Holy Communion  
with Imposition of Ashes

**Subsequent Wednesdays in Lent**

**February 21—March 21**

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

We'll have as many soup & salad suppers as  
people volunteer to host.



### UPCOMING ADULT FORUM TOPICS

**February:** Our Sanctuary and Our Liturgy  
(Kyle Sorkness)

**March:** Growing in Love: A Study of 1 John  
(Pastor Erhardt)

All are welcome. Please join us!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, February 8, 6:30 pm**

*LCM Table Talk: Challenges to Christian Faith  
in Historical Perspective*

**Saturday, February 10, 12 pm**

*River Horse Brewery Fellowship Event*

**Sunday, February 11, 10:30 am**

*New Member Reception & Door Dedication*

**Wednesday, February 14, 7pm**

*Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion*

**Thursday, February 15, 7 pm**

*Prayer Shawl Meeting*

**Friday, February 16, 6 pm**

*ISI Dinner*

**Wednesday, February 21, 6 pm**

*Soup & Salad Supper*

**Wednesday, February 21, 7 pm**

*Evening Prayer*

**Thursday, February 22, 7 pm**

*Executive Board*

**Saturday, February 24, 9 am**

*Men's Forum at Wegmans*

**Wednesday, February 28, 7 pm**

*Evening Prayer*

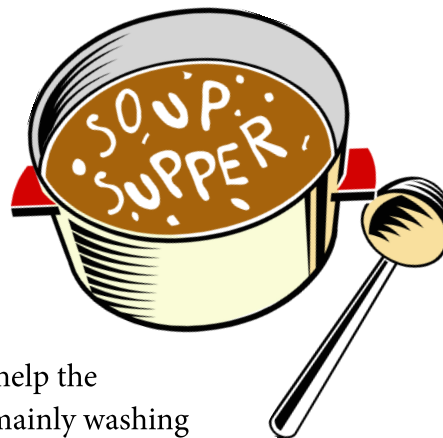
**Thursday, March 8, 6:30 pm**

*LCM Table Talk: Is Simplicity Salvation?*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LENTEN SOUP AND SALAD HOSTS NEEDED

We hope to have a 6:00 PM soup & salad supper on each of these Lenten Wednesdays: February 21 & 28, and March 7, 14, and 21 (no supper on Ash Wednesday). If you are able to host a Wednesday supper, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the nave. Hosts bring enough soup, salad, and bread to feed 20–30 people. We encourage volunteers to team up and work together. Food costs can be reimbursed (submit receipts). Paper goods, butter, and beverages will be provided. We could also 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 church office.



### LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY TABLE TALKS

#### Spring 2018 Lutheran Campus Ministry Monthly Dinner Discussions

##### Upcoming Spring 2018 dates are :

**Thursday, February 8: Challenges to Christian Faith in Historical Perspective (Pastor Erhardt)**

**Thursday, March 8: Is Simplicity Salvation? (Kyle Sorkness)**

All discussions are scheduled for **Thursdays** 6:30 – 8:00 PM in **Room 210** 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.



All are welcome!

Please join us and invite friends.

## EVENTS

### PRE LENT FELLOWSHIP EVENT!

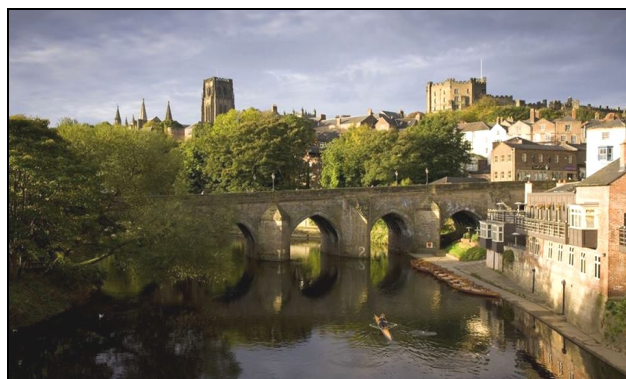
TOUR OF THE RIVER HORSE BREWERY IN EWING 12PM, FEBRUARY 10



Arrive at noon for a 12:15 PM tour; \$5 per person. Sign up on the sheet on the back pew and pay at the brewery. Bring lunch to eat at the brewery after the tour. Minors are welcome, but must be accompanied by someone over the age of 21, and will not be allowed to sample. Location and other information about the tour is available at: [www.riverhorse.com/tours.php](http://www.riverhorse.com/tours.php)

### EXPLORE CELTIC MISSIONS IN IRELAND AND BRITAIN! JULY 10-18, 2018

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.



Durham

**More information on p. 11.**



## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE FROM MIRANDA HEMPEL

### Sunday School - Looking back, forging ahead!



The Sunday School academic year thus far has been a whirl of learning, fun, excitement, and creativity! Our enterprising team of teachers - Rachel Tabris, Skye Jerpbak, and Miranda Hempel - has been mining the riches of the lectionary readings for most of the weekly classes, teaching the students a heady mix of lessons drawn from the Old Testament, Gospels, and Epistles, with a few other fun topics thrown in for good measure.

One of the highlights has been reading and discussing some of the fascinating and occasionally puzzling parables Jesus told his

followers. These parables are peopled with characters with whom it is embarrassingly easy to identify. The feckless third servant in the Parable of the Talents, the whining workers in the Parable of the Vineyard; many of us understand their petty motivations all too well, and harbor the suspicion, until we delve more deeply into the story, that they were treated rather unfairly. And the more we talked about the Parables of the Unmerciful Servant and of the Wedding Banquet, the more it became clear we couldn't acquit ourselves so easily of the unappealing qualities of the eponymous characters in those stories, either, no matter how much we wanted to!

The last several months were busier than usual because the Sunday School put on not only its traditional Christmas skit, but also performed a playlet on Sunday, November 12, the day after St. Martin's Day, in honor of St. Martin of Tours, for whom Martin Luther was named.



*continued on the next page*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE CONTINUED

## Sunday School - continued from p. 6

Pastor Martin was named after Martin Luther, and thus indirectly (okay, very indirectly!) also after St. Martin of Tours. Roger Tabris made a noble and pious St. Martin. The very versatile Beatrice Tabris and Elizabeth Majsztrik portrayed Roman soldiers, pagans, and honking geese incapable of keeping a secret. Drew van Barga also did triple duty as a soldier, townsman, and head pagan, while his sister Katie was a bit of a brat as a bored child eager for her beleaguered mother, portrayed by Rachel Tabris, to entertain her with stories.



Skye Jerpbak was a shivering, rather ungrateful beggar as well as being a towns person and a bloodthirsty pagan who was converted by St. Martin's willingness to risk being flattened by standing in the path of a falling tree. Mark van Bargaen, the van Bargaen clan's *pater familias*, played roles ranging from the priest who



baptized St. Martin to a large, homicidal tree sacred to pagans. The Sunday School students, parents, and students had a great time presenting the skit, which culminated in a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday to Pastor Martin, in anticipation of his birthday a couple of days later.

During preparations for the St. Martin's play and the Christmas skit, we managed to keep up with our weekly educational goals, thanks in no small part to parents, teachers, and students being willing to come in on Saturdays for extended rehearsals.

For the Christmas skit, the sanctuary was crawling (in some cases literally!) with animals: a not-too-bright dog, winningly played by the ever-game Mark van Bargaen; a pompous cat, brought to life by Katie van Bargaen; an amiable mouse acted by Roger Tabris; and two baby mice, otherwise known as Beatrice Tabris and Elizabeth Majsztrik.

*continued on the next page*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE CONTINUED

### Sunday School - continued from p. 7



Drew van Bargaen got the action rolling as a frazzled narrator, and at the close of the skit everyone sang an old Christmas carol called, appropriately enough, "The Friendly Beasts," which derives from a 12th century Latin song "Orientis Partibus," originally composed to give thanks for the donkey on which Mary rode to Egypt! About 800 years later, in the 1920s, the words were re-shaped into their popular form by Robert Davis, whoever he was (no one seems to know much about him). Almost a hundred years after *that*, Messiah's Sunday School, with the good-natured assistance of Pastor Martin, tweaked the words a little more to represent the interests of good Christian dogs, cats, and mice everywhere. There was extra excitement the day of the play because Sam Flores, a former Messiah member who had been heavily involved in the children's Christmas program when he was here, came to Messiah with his wife Terry for

services and to see the skit. He has generously agreed to collaborate on next year's play, so it ought to be amazing!

After the hubbub of the holidays, we have returned to our regular routine, which provides excitement of its own through learning about God's Word and love for us. Thanks to readings in Samuel and Mark, we have been learning about answering God's call and being Jesus's disciples and followers. Along the way we have fished for "men" with magnets, and played a version of "Simon Says" that involves distinguishing between what Jesus tells us to do, and what he doesn't.

(Hint: Jesus *does* tell us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He *doesn't* tell us to talk back to our parents.)

Lent is around the corner, with its own special teaching opportunities and challenges, and then, almost before we know it, the amazing joy of Easter will be upon us, along with our annual Easter Extravaganza. We'll keep you posted on our progress and hijinks!



*continued on the next page*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE CONTINUED

### Christmas Skit Scripture Passages



#### Job 12:7

But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you .

#### Job 35:11

Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth?

#### Genesis 1:24-25

24 God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind, livestock, creeping things, and animals of the earth after their kind;" and it was so. 25 God made the animals of the earth after their kind, and the livestock after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind. God saw that it was good.

#### Psalms 147:9

He giveth to the beast his food.

#### Psalms 36:5-7

- 5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the skies.  
6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your justice like the great deep.  
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.  
7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

*Your love, Lord,  
Reaches to the Heavens;  
Your faithfulness  
Reaches to the skies*

PSALM 36:5



#### Psalms 50:10-11

- 10 For every beast of the forest is Mine,  
The cattle on a thousand hills.  
11 "I know every bird of the mountains,  
And everything that moves in the field is Mine.

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

SEASON AFTER EPIPHANY YEAR B	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL READING
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Feb. 4, 2018	Isaiah 40:21-31	Psalms 147:1-11	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Transfiguration Sunday Feb. 11, 2018	2 Kings 2:1-12	Psalms 50:1-6	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
The First Sunday in Lent Feb. 18, 2018	Genesis 9:8-17	Psalms 25:1-10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
The Second Sunday in Lent Feb. 25, 2018	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Psalms 22:23-31	Romans 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38



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## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY — SUMMER 2018

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### Celtic Missions to Anglo-Saxon Britain: July 10 - 18, 2018

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 registration information, visit:**

<https://www.tours-international.com/tours-for-individuals/celtic-missions-to-anglo-saxon-britain> and use the password **Hilda-664**. For registration by February 14, the cost is £1504 (roughly \$2130 at current exchange rates), and includes local transportation, accommodation, and most meals.

The tour company is located in the UK, so be aware of foreign transaction fees assessed by your credit card issuer. Pastor Erhardt plans to accompany the trip, but to make it happen the tour company needs to see sufficient interest by February 15. 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.





# February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	5	6	7 7:30pm Choir	8 6:30pm LCM Table Talk	9	10 12pm River Horse Brewery Tour
11 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion with ashes	15 7pm Prayer Shawl	16 6pm ISI Dinner	17
18 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	19	20	21 6pm Soup & Salad 7pm Evening Prayer	22 7pm Executive Board Meeting	23	24 9am Men's Forum
25 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	26	27	28 7pm Evening Prayer 7:45pm Choir			



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