

# *Messiah Messenger*

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

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

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

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

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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THE REV. DR.  
MARTIN K. ERHARDT  
PASTOR

THE REV. DR.  
JOHN MARK GOERSS  
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER  
ORGANIST

PAUL HOFREITER  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

### Messiah at 75

What a wonderful time to turn 75! With the Covid threat in the rearview mirror, a freshly painted sanctuary, new windows in the fellowship hall, a renovated kitchen, and two new trees planted on Messiah's lot this past year, we've had a festive start to this significant anniversary year. We've now had two of our three celebratory anniversary events: Pastor Goerss's sermon and reflection on his pastorate (1983-2007) on April 3, and the hymnsing and organ concert by Eric Plutz on November 6. I'm still whistling the Sinfonia to Bach's Cantata #29 from that organ concert and hope to continue until our next and last 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event – a banquet on the weekend of June 3-4, 2023. That is still several months away, and in the meantime we revel in the recently past anniversary celebrations. As the publication of this newsletter issue attests, the *Messenger* is back from its summer and fall hiatus. Thank you to Cristel Boedecker and Miranda Hempel for taking on the responsibility of creating and publishing the *Messenger* since Messiah has been without an office assistant as of August 2021.

Thank you also to those of you who have managed, advised, volunteered for, and funded Messiah's anniversary projects and events. I'm grateful to pastor such a committed body of believers and am thrilled to help launch Messiah into its next 25 years.

Thankful for God's faithfulness and for your partnership in the gospel,

Pastor Erhardt

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023

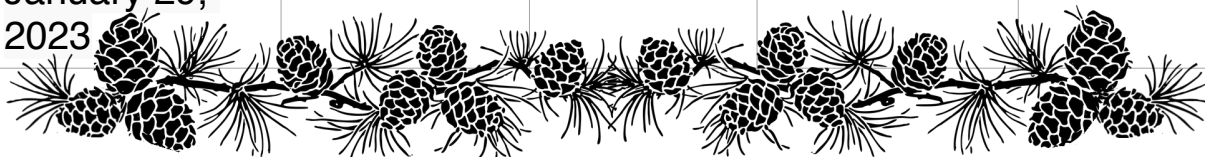
Advent Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2022	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12
Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2022	Isaiah 35:1-10	Luke 1:46b-55	James 5:7-10	Matthew 11:2-11
Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022	Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	Romans 1:1-7	Matthew 1:18-25





Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>Christmas Eve</b> December 24, 2022	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
<b>Christmas Day</b> December 25, 2022	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalm 98	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
First Sunday after Christmas January 1, 2023	Isaiah 63:7-9	Psalm 148	Hebrews 2:10-18	Matthew 2:13-23

First Sunday after the Epiphany January 8, 2023	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 15, 2023	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 22, 2023	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-17	Matthew 4:12-23
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 29, 2023	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12



## MESSIAH'S FALL BARBECUE AND SCAVENGER HUNT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2022

The weather was beautiful for Messiah's annual fall barbecue, which was held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend this year. Hans Henkes and Paul Majsztrik served as gourmet grillmeisters, cooking burgers, hot dogs, and brats for the crowd. A panoply of salads, sides, and desserts was provided by members. After people had sated their appetites, there was a fun scavenger hunt, with fabulous prizes for one and all. Debbie Baer organized the cookout and scavenger hunt, as well as providing essential supplies.









## RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATION FOR MESSIAH'S NEW KITCHEN

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

Messiah's newly renovated kitchen, featuring an improved layout, all-new cabinetry, counters, sink, stove, and ovens, was officially inaugurated on Sunday, October 16, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Debbie Baer baked chocolate chip cookies in the new kitchen to test it out and provide an additional tasty treat for the regular Fellowship Hour spread. Hans Henke, who oversaw the project was on hand for the celebration, and Patty Hlafter and Debbie Baer explained the kitchen's new features and gave mini-guided tours of the new facilities.





## FALL EVENTS AT MESSIAH



On Sunday, November 6, Messiah offered a free organ concert and hymnsing as part of its 75th anniversary celebration. Eric Plutz, Princeton University's organist, played a varied program of selections from the church year. The concert drew an enthusiastic crowd from area churches as well as the general public. Mr. Plutz received a standing ovation at the concert's conclusion.

This September, Messiah welcomed its new choir director, Paul C. Hofreiter, the son of Paul W. and Janice Hofreiter. Janice will continue to serve as our organist. The choir returned from its summer break with the first anthem of the new season on Sunday, September 11, with Paul C. Hofreiter conducting.



Even our youngest members are enthusiastic volunteers at Messiah. Here, two arborists-in-training are cheerfully assisting Pastor Martin in planting a new red maple in the side yard this fall.



## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR PASTOR MARTIN

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Messiah celebrated Pastor Martin's birthday on Sunday, November 20. The congregation serenaded the Pastor with an energetic rendition of "Happy Birthday," ably accompanied by Janice Hofreiter on the piano. With the formalities observed, everyone settled down to feast on shrimp, veggies, and cheese provided by Debbie Baer. A special birthday carrot cake was happily devoured as well. The presence of some welcome visitors added to the festivities - Skye Jerpak's family was in town (photo on bottom left, this page), and former member Debbie Zak was also visiting Messiah (chatting with Nancy Amidon in top right photo on next page).







# DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion  12:15 Voters' Meeting	5	6	7 7:30 pm Choir	8 7:30 pm Community Book Group	9	10
11 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	12	13	14 7:30 pm Choir	15 6:30 pm Table Talk	16	17 9 am Men's Forum  7 pm Live Nativity
18 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	19	20	21 7:30 pm Choir	22	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 8pm Candlelight Service
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:30 am Holy Communion	26	27	28 7:30 pm Choir	29	30	31



# JANUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 am Holy Communion	2	3	4 7:30 pm Choir	5	6 <b>Epiphany</b>	7
8 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	9	10	11 7:30 pm Choir	12 7:30 pm Community Book Group	13	14
15 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	16	17 7:00 pm Executive Board	18 7:30 pm Choir	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	23	24	25 7:30 pm Choir	26	27	28 9:00 am Men's Forum
29 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	30	31				