



Messiah Messenger

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christ is Risen

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 PASTOR

THE REV. DR.
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 PASTOR EMERITUS

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 ORGANIST AND CHOIR
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He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

That's not old news – it's current news. Christ is still risen, and each day his resurrection gives us reason to get out of bed and face the world with faith, hope, and love.

May and June will bring many signs of new life to Messiah – spring flowers and budding leaves, a new oak sapling to be planted in our Cedar Lane yard in May, and installation of new windows in our fellowship hall in June. The large pin oak tree in the back yard is dying and will need to come down soon. While we hate to lose it and the shade it provides, we look forward to planting a red maple to replace it, and to re-grading part of the back yard to direct storm water flow away from the building. Plans continue to move forward for the kitchen renovation, which we hope to complete this summer.

May 26 is Ascension Day, which we'll celebrate on May 29, followed by Pentecost on June 5, and Trinity Sunday on June 12. On May 21-22, the Rev. Juhana Pohjola (YOO-ha-na POH-hyo-la), Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland will be visiting Princeton. He will speak at a Lutheran Campus Ministry event at Princeton University on May 21 and preach at Messiah on May 22. You may remember that we prayed for Bishop Pohjola and Mrs. Päivi Räsänen while they were being prosecuted in Helsinki District Court on charges of inciting hatred against a group. They were both acquitted on March 30, 2022, but the Finnish government's Prosecutor General, Raija Toivainen, has said she intends to appeal the court's decision, at least in the case of Mrs. Räsänen. You can read more about the case, its background, and its implications for Christians and the church in Bishop Pohjola's own words at

<https://blog.acton.org/archives/122890-a-lutheran-bishop-faces-prosecution-for-teaching-traditional-christian-doctrine.html>. I thank Antti Valkonen for putting me in touch with Bishop Pohjola, who is a friend of Antti's family. Thank you also to John Bleimaier, Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne, Indiana), and the LCMS English District for their contributions and cooperation in support of Bishop Pohjola's visit.

The triennial convention of the LCMS English District will meet June 20-22, 2022, at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Herb Gishlick (lay delegate) and I (pastoral delegate) will be Messiah's delegates to the convention. The convention delegates were elected at Messiah's voters meeting on December 6, 2020. Should the lay delegate be unable or unwilling to attend the convention, our alternate lay delegate is Miranda Hempel.

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Emerging from Lent to the joy of Jesus' resurrection, we have lots to celebrate and plenty more to anticipate! As we revel in Jesus' resurrection and look forward to our own, we thank God for his faithfulness to Messiah over the past 75 years, and forge into the future confident in his care and guidance.

Pastor Erhardt

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY & JUNE

Easter & Pentecost Year C	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel Reading
Third Sunday of Easter May 1, 2022	Acts 9:1-20	Psalm 30	Revelation 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
Fourth Sunday of Easter May 8, 2022	Acts 9:36-43	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 15, 2022	Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 148	Revelation 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 22, 2022	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 21:22 - 22:5	John 14:23-29
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 29, 2022	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-21	John 17:20-26
Day of Pentecost June 5, 2022	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-17, 25-27
Trinity Sunday June 12, 2022	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
Second Sunday after Pentecost June 19, 2022	1 Kings 19:1-4, 6-14	Psalm 42	Galatians 3:23-29	Luke 8:26-39
Third Sunday after Pentecost June 26, 2022	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62

CHURCH CALENDAR

May 2022**Recurring Events**

Sundays:

9:00am Christian Education
 10:30am Service of Word and Sacrament

Wednesdays:

7:30pm Choir

Special Events

Thursday, May 5

6:30pm Table Talk

Saturday, May 7

12:30pm Fellowship Event: Messiah Eats in
 Ironbound, Sol-Mar Restaurant

Tuesday, May 10

7:00pm Executive Board

Thursday, May 12

7:30pm Community Book Group

Saturday, May 14

10:00am Outdoor Worship

Sunday, May 15

12:15pm Voters Meeting

Saturday, May 21

1:00pm Bishop Pohjola at Princeton Univ.

Sunday, May 22

10:30am Bishop Pohjola at Messiah

Saturday, May 28

9:00am Men's Forum

June 2022**Recurring Events**

Sundays:

9:30am Service of Word and Sacrament

Special Events

Wednesday, June 1

7:30pm Choir

Thursday, June 9

7:30pm Community Book Group

Monday-Wednesday, June 20-22

English District Convention



The baptismal font, festooned with flowers to celebrate our Lord's resurrection.

MAY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	2	3	4 7:30pm Choir	5 6:30pm Table Talk	6	7
8 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	9	10 7pm Executive Board	11 7:30pm Choir	12 7:30pm Community Book Group	13	14 10am Outdoor Worship Service
15 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion 12:15pm Voters Meeting	16	17	18 7:30pm Choir	19	20	21 1pm Bishop Pohjola at Princeton Univ.
22 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	23	24	25 7:30pm Choir	26 Ascension Day	27	28 9am Men's Forum
29 9am Christian Education 10:30am Holy Communion	30	31				

JUNE 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:30pm Choir	2	3	4
5 Pentecost 9:30am Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 7:30pm Community Book Group	10	11
12 Trinity Sunday 9:30am Holy Communion	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am Holy Communion	20 English District Convention	21 English District Convention	22 English District Convention	23	24	25
26 9:30am Holy Communion	27	28	29	30		

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS UP AGAIN!

Sunday School classes resumed early in 2022 after the long pandemic hiatus. Skye Jerpbak, Cristel Boedecker, and Miranda Hempel signed on as teachers for the term, getting underway just in time for Lent, with its own special teaching opportunities and challenges. During these weeks, our Sunday School lessons focused on the meaning of the season, on the last days of Jesus' life on earth, and on his sacrifice for us, augmented by related Bible stories, games, and, of course, crafts!

We started off by stringing beaded belts (or necklaces, depending upon preference) with a bead for each day in Lent. By moving one bead aside each day, we could keep track of our progress through this penitential period.

As Holy Week approached, we undertook a more ambitious project, inspired by Maundy Thursday and Good Friday: making small dioramas of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane after the Last Supper. We foraged outside for materials to use, and returned to the Fellowship Hall laden with natural materials – mosses, leaves, twigs, cones, seed pods, and pebbles – to be judiciously supplemented by some craft store materials

Although there was no Easter Egg Hunt this year, there were Easter eggs a-plenty at the holiday service. A wide variety of colorful plastic eggs stuffed with Lindt truffles or miniature rabbits, chicks, and lambs were set out, ready for the taking after worship. Additional baskets of plastic Easter eggs were available at the gathering in the Fellowship Hall downstairs, where Barnabas Boedecker and Veronica Henkes, purely in the interests of scientific exploration (of course), made an in-depth study of the various flavors of the chocolate hidden in the eggs. The traditional brightly-colored hard boiled eggs were also available for sustenance, along with other tempting treats like homemade brownies.

As the Sunday School year winds down, we will be learning about and preparing for Pentecost, celebrating the birthday of the church, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is an exciting time to learn about, and you may see some of the projects we undertake on display in the Fellowship Hall over the next several weeks.

- Miranda Hempel



Sunday School children string beads for their Days of Lent counters.



Garden of Gethsemane diorama



The choir singing a joyous anthem as part of the church's Palm Sunday service, accompanied by Janice Hofreiter on the organ and Dennis Ionata playing the trumpet. Pictured from left to right: Janice Hofreiter, Dennis Ionata; Top Row: Pastor Erhardt, David Steinagel, Lou Romolo, Herb Gishlick; Bottom Row: Patricia Hlafter, Doris Schubert-Gerwers, Debbie Baer, Miranda Hempel, and Carolyn Gishlick



Hank Gerwers and Doris Schubert-Gerwers celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary and Hank's 80th birthday on Turks and Caicos Islands. Pictured from left to right: Sam Ricco (son-in-law), Hank Gerwers, Camilla Ricco (granddaughter), Doris Schubert-Gerwers, Nadine Gerwers (daughter)



Pastor (Chaplain) Gregory Jans and Cristel and Ben Boedecker awaiting the presentation of the Air Force Certificate of Appreciation to Cristel on April 8.



Pastor Martin and Ben Boedecker pose for a photo at the reception following Ben's retirement from the Air Force on April 8.

75TH ANNIVERSARY FUND

At the recent Voters' Meeting, it was suggested that a fundraising campaign in honor of Messiah's 75th anniversary be instituted. The intent is to raise funds, over and above pledged and regular giving, to support Messiah's 75th anniversary activities and projects, helping to defray the cost of upcoming building upgrades and renovations, as well as special anniversary events. Given the number of projects involved and the complexity of managing gifts restricted to each one, we ask that contributions in support of these projects be made to the anniversary effort as a whole. * To this end, a separate 75th Anniversary Fund is being created.

There are many exciting plans for this anniversary year. A number of building and grounds improvement projects are slated. The sanctuary and other areas have already been freshly painted. The windows in the fellowship hall are going to be replaced, as they are leaky, energy-inefficient, and difficult to operate. An extensive kitchen renovation was approved at the recent Voters' Meeting. New counters, cabinets, and appliances (with the exception of the refrigerator) will be installed. In addition, the layout will be reconfigured to improve efficiency and traffic flow. Outside the church building, tree replacement, tree removal, and landscaping are planned to refresh and beautify the grounds.

There are also costs associated with events planned to celebrate the 75th anniversary. The anniversary celebration officially began on April 3, when Pastor Goerss preached the sermon and later reminisced at the special fellowship hour about his nearly quarter of a century as Messiah's pastor. In November, the acclaimed organ soloist, Eric Plutz, the University Organist at Princeton University, will present a concert at Messiah as part of the celebration. Festivities will conclude in June 2023 with a gala luncheon.

We invite everyone – the congregation, former members, and friends of Messiah – to celebrate with us and participate by making a donation to the 75th Anniversary Fund.

*If contributions exceed the cost of anniversary projects, the balance will be considered unrestricted.



It was good to say, "Hello again!" to Grant Schultheis (Princeton class of 2018) and his wife, Julianna, at the spring church cleanup day. Grant will graduate from medical school at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia this spring, and is looking forward to relocating to Hanover, New Hampshire, for his residency in ophthalmology.

Pictured: Karen MacDonald, Grant and Julianna Schultheis, Pastor Martin, and Skye Jerpak