

# Messiah Messenger

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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### One in Christ

THE REV. DR.  
MARTIN K. ERHARDT  
PASTOR

THE REV. DR.  
JOHN MARK GOERSS  
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER  
ORGANIST

PAUL C. HOFREITER  
CHOIR DIRECTOR

A lot has happened at Messiah since the May/June issue of the Messenger: our May voters' meeting with the election of officers for 2023-24 and the creation of an unrestricted endowment in the form of the Messiah Future Fund, Ascension Day, Compassion Sunday, Pentecost, the Baptism of Maisie Dignon and the reception into membership of Maisie and of Xuxu Song, the celebration of the graduations of Antti Valkonen and Ben Finlay, saying farewell to Ben Finlay, Caroline Noonan, and Skye Jerpbak, and the conclusion of Messiah's 75th anniversary year on Trinity Sunday (June 4) with a luncheon at the Springdale Golf Club.

Now, as we enter a quieter season of the year, I'd like to reflect briefly on one aspect of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, which we know as Holy Communion – specifically, why it is served from a common loaf and a common cup. Writing to the church in Corinth, the apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:16-17:

*<sup>16</sup> The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*

In the next chapter, Paul continues:

*<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

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#### PLEASE NOTE:

1. Monday is Pastor's day off, so he generally doesn't respond to messages on Mondays. If you have an emergency situation on any day of the week, contact him by calling his cell number and sending him an email.
2. Once in a while, the livestream video on Messiah's website homepage is not the one for the service being streamed. If during a worship service Messiah's livestream is not accessible via the YouTube window on the home page, check for it at <https://www.youtube.com/@thelutheranchurchofthemess7052/streams>

*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.*

One bread and one cup, from which we receive the body and blood of our one Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. That is why we ordinarily receive Jesus' body and blood from a common loaf and cup. For those parishioners who cannot do so, the church provides individual cups and wafers. Both are valid ways to receive the sacrament. If you would like to discuss this with me, please let me know. I would be glad to do that.

Among Paul's concerns in writing to the Corinthians were the divisions among them. The issue of the common loaf and cup should not divide us or cause us to judge one another. Instead, let us reflect on our own practice in light of what God tells us about the Lord's Supper in the Bible, and make our unity in Christ known by our charity, humility, and generosity toward one another.

In Christ, in whom all things hold together (Colossians 1:17b),

Pastor Erhardt



## LECTIONARY READINGS - JULY AND AUGUST 2023

Season after Pentecost Year A	First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 2, 2023	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 9, 2023	Genesis 24:34-67 Psalm 45:10-17	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 16, 2023	Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-23
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2023	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 2023	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 6, 2023	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 13, 2023	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 20, 2023	Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: 21-28
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 27, 2023	Exodus 1:8 - 2:10 Psalm 124	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20

## COMPASSION SUNDAY AT MESSIAH

### REACHING OUT TO HELP CHILDREN IN NEED AROUND THE WORLD

by the Jameson Family

Compassion International is a Christian organization that helps children in extreme poverty by partnering with churches in some of the world's poorest countries. On May 21, Messiah hosted Compassion Sunday, an event to teach people about Compassion and invite them to sponsor a child. Compassion sponsors sign up to help each kid by donating 43 dollars a month and writing letters. Compassion focuses on the needs of each child.

With Pastor Martin's dedicated help, the children of Messiah helped write and participate in the Children's Sermon. They cleverly explained how Compassion provides what kids need in a fun, engaging way based off of a verse from the day's chanted psalm: "In your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy" (Psalm 68:10). It was also Ascension Sunday, and Pastor Martin gave helping children living in poverty as one way to be Jesus' witnesses throughout the world in both the children's sermon and the one he wrote all by himself.

After the service, our family answered questions and staffed a table giving out child packets and encouraging people to sponsor children or make another donation. We think 8 children were sponsored as a result of this event including children from Burkina Faso, Thailand, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. This is a huge response by a congregation of our size, and we are grateful for your generosity.

We look forward to the relationships between children and their sponsors through letter writing. We would like to thank sponsors and other donors for helping children in poverty. We would like to thank the people who made this event possible, including Pastor Martin Erhardt, the Majsztrik family, the Henkes family, Skye Jerpbak, Miranda Hempel, Temi Olusola, Nancy Amidon, and Janice Hofreiter.

. . . more photos on page 4



## COMPASSION SUNDAY AT MESSIAH (continued)



## MESSIAH CELEBRATES AND SAYS FAREWELL ON PENTECOST

Pentecost was an eventful day at Messiah! At the 10:30 am worship service, we celebrated the birth of the Church through the gift of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, and witnessed the Spirit's continuing work by welcoming two new members into our congregation: Maisie Dignon through Holy Baptism, and Xuxu Song.

As though that weren't enough, at the Fellowship Hour downstairs after the service, in addition to congratulating Maisie and Xuxu, we also marked the graduation from Princeton University of Antti Valkonen (PhD) and Ben Finlay (AB), and bid a reluctant farewell to members Ben Finlay and Caroline Noonan.

Not surprisingly, one sheet cake simply wasn't enough to cover all these notable events, so Vanessa Valkonen, the resourceful "hostess with the mostest" in charge, ordered three sheet cakes, brightly decorated in pink (Baptism and membership), orange (congratulations to Antti and Ben), and blue (very appropriate for a farewell to Ben and Carolyn).

During her baptism, baby Maisie remained poised and calm, and later dozed delightfully at the Fellowship gathering, oblivious to the coos and cries of unrestrained admiration she elicited from everyone clustered around her. Family members and friends of Maisie's parents, Shelby Khandasammy and Greg Dignon, were on hand to add to the festivities.



. . . more photos on page 5



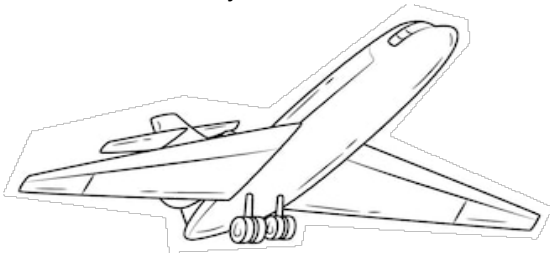
## PENTECOST EVENTS AT MESSIAH (continued)





## FAREWELL FELLOWSHIP HOUR FOR SKYE JERPBAK

On Sunday, June 25, Messiah bid a (premature) farewell to Skye Jerpbak, celebrating the contributions that she has made to our congregation and wishing her well as she begins training to become an air traffic controller. Although Skye still had another two Sundays to spend here, celebrating on this date turned out to be more convenient, and it was comforting to know that the real goodbye wouldn't come till later! Debbie Baer provided air traffic controller-themed decorations (including two very snazzy airplane balloons) and gifts - a stylish tee shirt reading "plane whisperer;" a puzzle to assemble, with the finished product being an air control tower with a music box, no less; and a mug with her name on it, which hadn't arrived yet but will make it before Skye leaves. The Fellowship hour hosts, Dave and Barbara Rutherford, provided a medley of different cakes and other treats, and Pastor Martin led a farewell toast to Skye.





## 75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR CELEBRATIONS CONCLUDE WITH FESTIVE LUNCHEON

Messiah concluded its 75th anniversary year observances on Trinity Sunday (June 4) with a celebratory luncheon at the Springdale Golf Club. Approximately 65 current and former members (some traveling quite a distance) gathered to mark the occasion, mingling and sharing reminiscences as well as hopes for the future.

A continuously running slide show put together by Jon Hlafter, who was the MC for the event, offered an informative and entertaining pictorial history of Messiah from its inception to the present. Doris Gerwers spoke about Messiah's Prayer Shawl Group and set up a display with photos and examples of prayer shawls. She presented a shawl to Shelby Khandasammy, a new mother. Debbie Baer and Miranda Hempel offered brief remarks on their personal perspectives, and Pastor John Goerss spoke about his 24 years at Messiah (1983-2007). Our anniversary year may have come to a close, but our 100th anniversary is only 25 years away!

. . . more photos on the next two pages











75 Years!

# JULY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12 Noon Installation of Pastor Stephens at Trinity Scarsdale
2  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	3	4	5	6  7:30 pm Community Book Group	7	8
9  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	10	11  7 pm Executive Board Meeting	12	13	14	15
16  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	17	18	19	20	21	22  9:00 am Men's Forum
23  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	24	25	26	27	28	29  LCMS Convention begins
30  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	31					

# AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 LCMS Convention ends	4	5
6  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	7	8  7:30 pm Messiah Future Committee Meeting	9	10  7:30 pm Community Book Group	11	12
13  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	14	15	16	17	18	19
20  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	21	22	23  7:30pm Messiah Future Committee	24  7:30 pm Circuit Forum via Zoom - Synod convention review	25	26  9:00 am Men's Forum  10am ISI Garage Give-Away
27  9:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	28	29	30  7:30pm Choir	31		