

# Messiah Messenger

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### New Bulletin Covers and Lectionary Readings

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This month, you may notice that our bulletin covers look a little different. That's because our previous supplier, Anchor Wallace, has stopped producing them, and we are now receiving our covers from Concordia Publishing House (CPH). CPH is the publishing arm of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS), which uses a lectionary that is similar to, but not the same as, the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) that Messiah has used for many years as the schedule for our Sunday scripture readings. Also different with the new covers is the Bible translation used for the Sunday scripture readings – now the English Standard Version (ESV) rather than the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) that Anchor Wallace used. Both are good translations performed by reputable scholars from a variety of church backgrounds.

The season after Pentecost is when the Old Testament readings in the LCMS lectionary differ significantly from those in the RCL's semi-continuous track that Messiah has used until now. The LCMS lectionary has only a thematic track, in which Old Testament readings complement themes in the Gospel Lesson, and does not have a semi-continuous track, in which, during the season after Pentecost, Old Testament readings are independent of the Gospel Lesson and are instead sequential (aka semi-continuous) readings over a period of weeks from one or more Old Testament books, and sometimes from the Acts of the Apostles and Revelation.

Pentecost is still a few months away. Until then, the differences will be subtle, but I want you to be aware of them and welcome your feedback.

VDMA,

Pastor Erhardt

#### 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.*

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2023

Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> March 5, 2023	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-8, 13-17	John 3:1-17
<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> March 12, 2023	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95:1-9	Romans 5:1-8	John 4:5-26
<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> March 19, 2023	Isaiah 42:14-21	Psalm 142	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> March 26, 2023	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:1-11	John 11:1-45
<b>Palm Sunday</b> April 2, 2023 <i>Sixth Sunday in Lent</i>	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 118:19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11



<b>Maundy Thursday</b> April 6, 2023 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Exodus 12:1-14		1 Corinthians 11:23-32	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
<b>Good Friday</b> April 7, 2023				
<b>Resurrection of our Lord</b> April 9, 2023 <i>Easter Day</i>	*Acts 10:34-43		Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
<b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> April 16, 2023	Acts 5:29-42	Psalms 148	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31
<b>Third Sunday of Easter</b> April 23, 2023	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Psalms 116:1-14	1 Peter 1:17-25	Luke 24:13-35
<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> April 30, 2023	Acts 2:42-47	Psalms 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10

HE IS RISEN  
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## MESSIAH'S LENTEN EVENING PRAYER

Soup and Salad Supper at 6:00 pm, followed by worship at 7:00 pm, Wednesdays during March

### Theme for the Season:

God Meant It for Good: Rejection and Reconciliation in the Story of Joseph

March 1 Readings: Genesis 37, Genesis 39

March 8 Readings: Genesis 41:1-36, Genesis 41:37-57

March 15 Readings: Genesis 42, Genesis 43

March 22 Readings: Genesis 44, Genesis 45:1 - 46:7, 46:26-34

March 29 Readings: Genesis 47, Genesis 49:29 – 50:26

### Puzzle:

The four pictures on the right depict dramatic moments in the story of Joseph in Genesis.

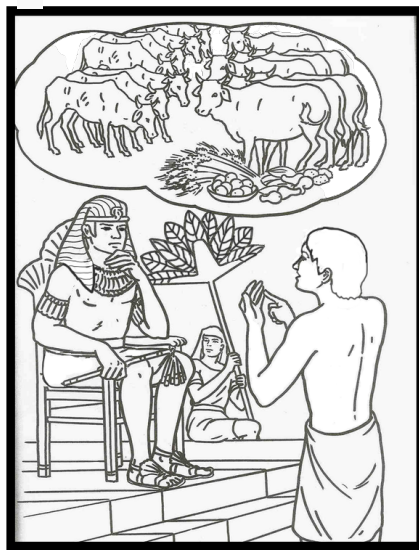
However, somehow they have gotten mixed up, and they are not in the proper order.

Can you arrange them so that they are shown in the order in which the incidents they depict occur in the Bible?

The answer is upside down below:

2 (Joseph shows off his coat of many colors)  
4 (his brothers sell him into slavery),  
1 (Joseph interprets dreams for Pharaoh)  
3 (Joseph is reunited and reconciled with his brothers)

1



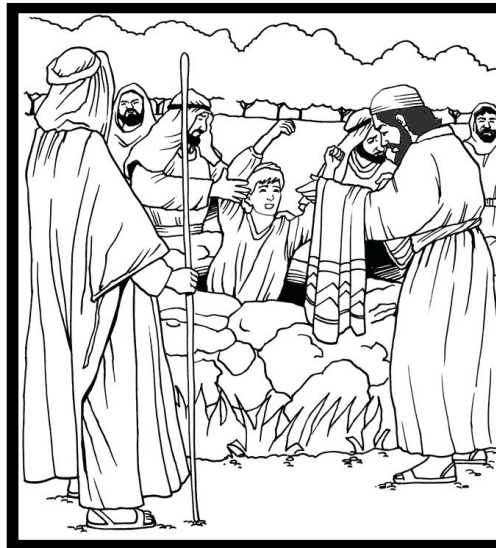
2



3



4





## NEW MEMBERS AT MESSIAH WELCOMED IN FEBRUARY

The congregation welcomed four new members at worship on Sunday, February 5, 2023 (plus one new member in absentia). Jeff Frole, Caroline Noonan, and Shelby Khandasammy and Greg Dignon were feted after the worship service at a special Fellowship Hour, which featured a Messiah classic for such celebrations - a decorated sheet cake. Ben Finlay was unable to attend at the last minute, but is nonetheless delighted to be a member of the congregation.

Jeff Frole has been attending Messiah for several years, enthusiastically participating in various fellowship activities and volunteering his time and talents, including at Messiah Work Days, but somehow, he just never got around to officially joining. "Even my wife thought I was a member," he said, so he decided it was time. Jeff enjoys music, gardening and college basketball, and coaches Little League Baseball.

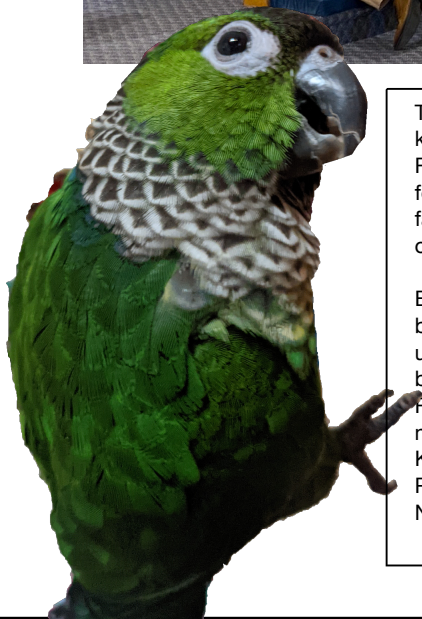
Greg Dignon and Shelby Khandasammy, who are married and expecting their first child, discovered Messiah last year, and jumped in enthusiastically. Greg is a professor of Chemical Engineering at Rutgers University, and Shelby has a PhD in Forensic Chemistry. They have a beloved parrot named Honeydew.

Last, but not least, are Caroline Noonan and Ben Finlay, who started attending worship at Messiah in 2022. Caroline commented: "We are both so excited to join Messiah! I am thankful for such a warm and welcoming community at Messiah to come to for encouragement each weekend, and am especially grateful for the sound teaching and authentic worship." Caroline works in Manhattan as a health care finance consultant, and outside of work, she loves hiking, running, and cooking. Ben is a senior religion major and lacrosse player at Princeton University.



Top - L: The new members kneel during the ceremony.  
R: A special Fellowship Hour followed, with Messiah's fabled sheet cake taking pride of place.

Bottom - L: Shelby and Greg's beloved parrot Honeydew was unable to attend the ceremony but sent best wishes.  
R: Pastor Erhardt with the new members (L to R) Shelby Khandasammy, Greg Dignon, Pastor, Jeff Frole, and Carolyn Noonan.



# MARCH 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6:00 pm Soup & Salad Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 7:45 pm Choir	<b>2</b> 6:30 pm Table Talk	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm Executive Board Meeting	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Soup & Salad Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 7:45 pm Choir	<b>9</b> 7:30 pm Community Book Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 1:00 am Daylight Saving Time begins 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm Soup & Salad Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 7:45 pm Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Soup & Salad Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 7:45 pm Choir	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9 am Men's Forum
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm Soup & Salad Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Evening Prayer 7:45 pm Choir	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Table Talk	<b>31</b>	

# APRIL 2023

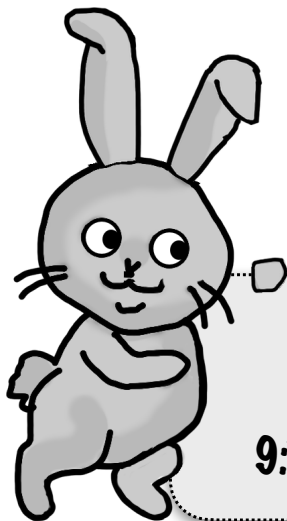
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	3	4	5  7:30 pm Choir	6 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 8:00 pm Service of Word and Sacrament	7 <b>Good Friday</b> 8:00 pm Tenebrae	8
9 <b>EASTER</b> 9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Festival Service of Word and Sacrament	10	11	12  7:30 pm Choir	13	14	15
16  9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	17	18	19	20  7:30 pm Community Book Group	21	22  9:00 am Spring Work Day
23  9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion	24	25	26	27	28	29  9:00am Men's Forum
30  9:00 am Adult Forum  10:30 am Holy Communion						

## SOUP AND SALAD SUPPERS ARE ON THE MENU AT MESSIAH

The Soup and Salad Supper Season got off to a tasty start on Wednesday, March 1, as Carolyn and Herb Gishlick hosted the first Lenten fellowship event this year, serving up two hearty and delicious soups, a colorful mixed salad with a medley of dressings, fresh fruit, and different breads, along with a variety of beverages. After the convivial gathering, everyone went up to the Sanctuary for worship.

Hosts for the next four Wednesdays are: 3/8 - Debbie Baer; 3/15 - Laura Bennett; 3/22 - Pat & Jon Hlafter; 3/29 - Louise Cooper & Miranda Hempel. The suppers start at 6:00 pm; followed by worship at 7:00 pm.

At right: Guests dig in to the array of soups and side dishes prepared by the Gishlicks.



## Easter Egg Hunt!

9:15 am April 9, Easter Sunday All welcome - free!

For the past several years, the Easter Bunny hasn't been able to make an appearance at Messiah, with our annual Easter Egg Hunt on hold due to pandemic concerns. This year, however, the Covid cloud seems to have lifted sufficiently for the Easter Egg Hunt to return, along with the very large and gregarious Easter Bunny who likes to drop in and welcome the children and the adults alike.

Of course, "Easter Egg Hunt" doesn't adequately describe the lively Egg Hunt/Breakfast/Craft Extravaganza that Messiah hosts for the congregation, the neighborhood, the town, and basically anyone who wants to join in (even adults unaccompanied by children). There are scrumptious breakfast treats and beverages (including coffee for those in need of a caffeine boost) and Easter baskets filled with toys and games for the children. There are hats to bedeck (even stylish head gear for boys and men), tote bags to decorate, and craft supplies from aurora rhinestones to zebra patterns.

All are welcome to this fun, free event.  
Bring friends, bring family, and bring yourself!

