

Messiah Messenger

407 Nassau Street at Cedar Lane

Email: lcmaprinceton@gmail.com

www.princetonlutheranchurch.org

www.facebook.com/MessiahChurchPrinceton

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Celebrating Resurrection

THE REV. DR.
MARTIN K. ERHARDT
PASTOR

THE REV. DR.
JOHN MARK GOERSS
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER
ORGANIST

PAUL C. HOFREITER
CHOIR DIRECTOR

Christ is risen! Three years ago, I was writing my first newsletter column of the Covid epidemic – an epoch-making event in our lives (the epidemic, I mean, not my newsletter column). But not as epoch-making as Jesus' resurrection. Now, looking back on the disease, fear, and isolation of three years ago, we see that we've undergone a resurrection of sorts from those things, and that too is cause for joy. Let's never take for granted our freedom to gather to devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers – as Acts 2:42 tells us the first Christians did. As we enter Messiah's sanctuary for worship, let's remember that we're re-enacting the post-resurrection visit in which Mary Magdalene and another Mary found Jesus' tomb empty (Matthew 28:1-9)! As we see new life burgeoning around us this spring, let's live in the newness of life that Jesus' resurrection has given us (Romans 6:4), thankful

As is typical of this time of year – having been through an epidemic, doesn't typical seem marvelous? – there is lots going on at Messiah. I'll highlight two events here: 1) Compassion Sunday on May 21, on which we will also celebrate Jesus' ascension, and 2) the anniversary luncheon on Sunday, June 4, with which we will conclude our celebration of Messiah's 75th year. Take a look at the Sunday bulletins (available online) for more information about these and other upcoming events. I hope to see you there.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor Erhardt

PLEASE NOTE:

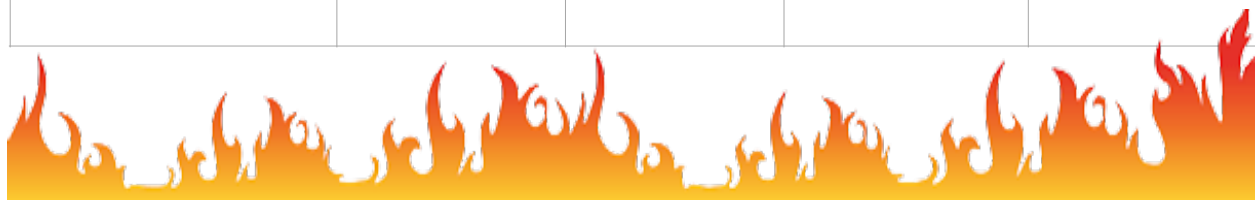
1. Monday is Pastor's day off, so he generally doesn't respond to messages on Mondays. If you have an emergency situation on any day of the week, contact him by calling his cell number and sending him an email.
2. Once in a while, the livestream video on Messiah's website homepage is not the one for 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 MAY 2023

Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2023	Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60	Psalm 146	1 Peter 2:2–10	John 14:1–14
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2023	Acts 17:16–31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13–22	John 14:15–21
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 21, 2023	Acts 1:12–26	Psalm 68:1-10	1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11	John 17:1–11
The Day of Pentecost May 28, 2023	Numbers 11:24–30	Psalm 25:1–15	Acts 2:1–21	John 7:37–39
Trinity Sunday June 4, 2023 First Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Second Sunday after Pentecost June 11, 2023	Genesis 12:1-9	Psalm 33:1-12	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Third Sunday after Pentecost June 18, 2023	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 25, 2023	Genesis 21:8-21	Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42



OUT AND ABOUT AT MESSIAH



On March 14, Messiah members went to the movies to see *Living*, an adaptation of Akira Kurosawa's film *Ikiru*. In the film, Bill Nighy plays a bureaucrat leading a desiccated life in the post-war London of 1953. When he is diagnosed with a fatal illness, he examines his life and finds will and purpose. The Messiah group gave the movie a unanimous thumbs up.

A hardy band of enthusiasts from Messiah went to the lacrosse game between the Princeton men's team and Yale to cheer on Ben Finlay on a cold, rainy March 25. After Princeton's 23-10 win over Yale, they gathered to celebrate with Ben.



On a recent trip, Hank and Doris Gerwers visited former Messiah member Suki Featherson, her husband Jim and their dog Joey in Georgia. The three are about to pack their belongings again and move to Texas in June, to be closer to Suki's sister.



MESSIAH CELEBRATES A BAPTISM AND A BABY SHOWER



Messiah had a double celebration on Sunday, March 26, at Fellowship following worship. During the services, a member's daughter was baptized, and the congregations gathered afterwards to celebrate her baptism, and also to attend a baby shower for Shelby Khandasammy and Greg Dignon. Vanessa and Antti Valkonen hosted the celebrations with a lavish spread of pastel sheet cakes and other treats. Pastor Martin presented a certificate of baptism as well-wishers looked on, and after some general carousing, the crowd settled down as Shelby and Greg, wearing pink ribbons signifying their status as parents-to-be of a girl, opened presents to oohs and aah of appreciation.

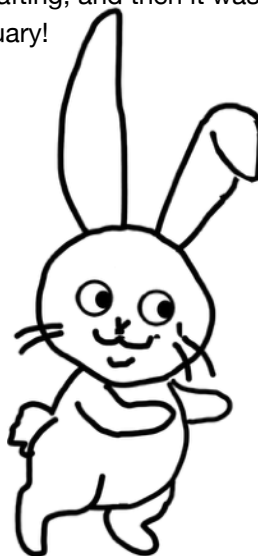


JOY ABOUNDS ON EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday festivities began with the return of the Easter Egg Hunt, absent to these many years due to Covid. Generous volunteers stuffed Easter eggs with candy, decorated the Fellowship Hall, arranged the copious craft supplies, and festooned the outdoor steps with beckoning welcome balloons. Messiah members, neighborhood families, and far-flung folks who read about the Egg Hunt in the media eagerly swarmed into the hall at 9:15, and immediately set about decking the “Easter” hats and gift bags provided with mounds of artificial flowers, stickers, rhinestones, ribbons, tissue paper, and just about anything they could get their hands on. Adults as well as children modeled their millinery creations with pride! Participants kept up their strength with the delectable spread of croissants, cookies, mini-muffins, grapes, clementines, and more provided by Vanessa and Antti Valkonen.

When the time came, the celebration moved outside for the excitement of the hunt itself. More than 500 eggs had been hidden all around Messiah’s grounds, but the children (and their helpful parents!) managed to find every one! Gift baskets were available for every child as well. Post-hunt, some enthusiasts returned to the Fellowship Hall for more food and more crafting, and then it was time for the real celebration - Easter worship in the Sanctuary!

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The Easter Festival Service began outside, where the congregations gathered in front of the church doors, before entering the church. Many visitors as well as regulars attended worship, which was made especially celebratory by the addition of a trumpet.

After the service, there was a lively and joyful Fellowship Hour downstairs, amid the remaining decorations from the Easter Egg Hunt. Hardboiled eggs, dyed in bright colors, were a traditional addition to the refreshments.



He is risen

Alleluia!



MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:30 pm Choir	4 6:30 pm Table Talk	5	6 10am-2pm LWML Rally Bethany Ewing
7 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion 12:15 pm Voters' Meeting	8	9	10 7:30 pm Choir	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion	15	16	17 7:30 pm Choir	18 Ascension Day 7:30 pm Community Book Group	19	20
21 Compassion Sunday 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27 9 am Men's Forum
28 Pentecost 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Communion	29	30	31	Messiah's May voters' meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, May 7. We'll get started around 12:15. The meeting will include an update on Messiah's finances, and information about the new Messiah Future committee. In addition, the annual election of officers to serve on the Executive Board from June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, will take place. Please plan to attend this informative and important meeting.		

JUNE 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Trinity Sunday 9:30 am Holy Communion 11:30 am 75th Anniversary Luncheon	5	6	7	8 7:30 pm Community Book Group	9	10
11 9:30 am Holy Communion	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 9:30 am Holy Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24 9:00 am Men's Forum 11am Rally for Life in Trenton
25 9:30 am Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30	

SPRING WORK DAY VOLUNTEERS MAKE MESSIAH SPARKLE INSIDE AND OUT

The weather for Messiah's Spring Work Day was very obliging - sunny skies and hospitable temperatures welcomed volunteers arriving the morning of Saturday, April 22 to give the church a thorough spring cleaning.

Inside, volunteers organized storage and sorted out expendable items. Dozens of handsome candles Messiah can't use any more were unearthed, to be taken home and used for a romantic dinner or power outage. The children's play area was scrutinized and re-ordered as well.

Outdoors, planting, pruning, weeding, watering, raking, and deadheading were the order of the day. A new white azalea joined the forsythias on the corner of Nassau and Cedar. Weeds got their comeuppance, although the dandelions will require constant vigilance!

As is traditional, volunteers gathered after work to relax and enjoy lunch from a local Mediterranean restaurant in the Fellowship Hall.

