

Messiah Messenger

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

On to 100!

THE REV. DR.
MARTIN K. ERHARDT
PASTOR

THE REV. DR.
JOHN MARK GOERSS
PASTOR EMERITUS

JANICE HOFREITER
ORGANIST

PAUL C. HOFREITER
CHOIR DIRECTOR

Having concluded Messiah 75th anniversary in June, it feels great to embark on this new academic year on our way to 100! And having said several goodbyes this past spring, I'm happy to be welcoming new people to Messiah, while keeping in touch with those who have left. If you haven't met the newcomers among us, please take the opportunity to do so after a worship service as we restart refreshments during fellowship hour on Sept. 3, or at the church barbecue coming up on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 4pm.

This coming Sunday, Sept. 3, we will revert to our 10:30 worship time on Sunday mornings, as well as to the LBW Holy Communion Setting II liturgy. Lutheran Campus Ministry Table Talks and Adult Forum will resume on Sept. 7 and 10, respectively. At our first Table Talk, we will read and discuss an interview in *Christianity Today* with Tara Isabella Burton about her new book, *Self-Made: Creating Our Identities from Da Vinci to the Kardashians*. In Adult Forum, we'll be learning about the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek biblical texts from which English Bibles are translated. Choir resumed on August 30, and welcomes new members, as do Messiah's Community Book Group and Men's Forum, which meet monthly. For more information about times, locations, and how to participate, keep your eye on your email and the Sunday bulletins, and feel free to contact me with specific questions.

As we begin this new academic year, we thank God for his many blessings in Messiah's first 75 years of life, and joyfully set out on our next 25, confident that God is leading our way.

Pastor Martin

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 SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2023

Year A	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2023	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2023	Exodus 12:1-14	Psalm 149	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2023	Exodus 14:19-31	Psalm 114	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023	Exodus 16:2-15	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16



Year A	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 1, 2023	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 8, 2023	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Psalm 19	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 15, 2023	Exodus 32:1-14	Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 22, 2023	Exodus 33:12-23	Psalm 99	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost October 29, 2023	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46



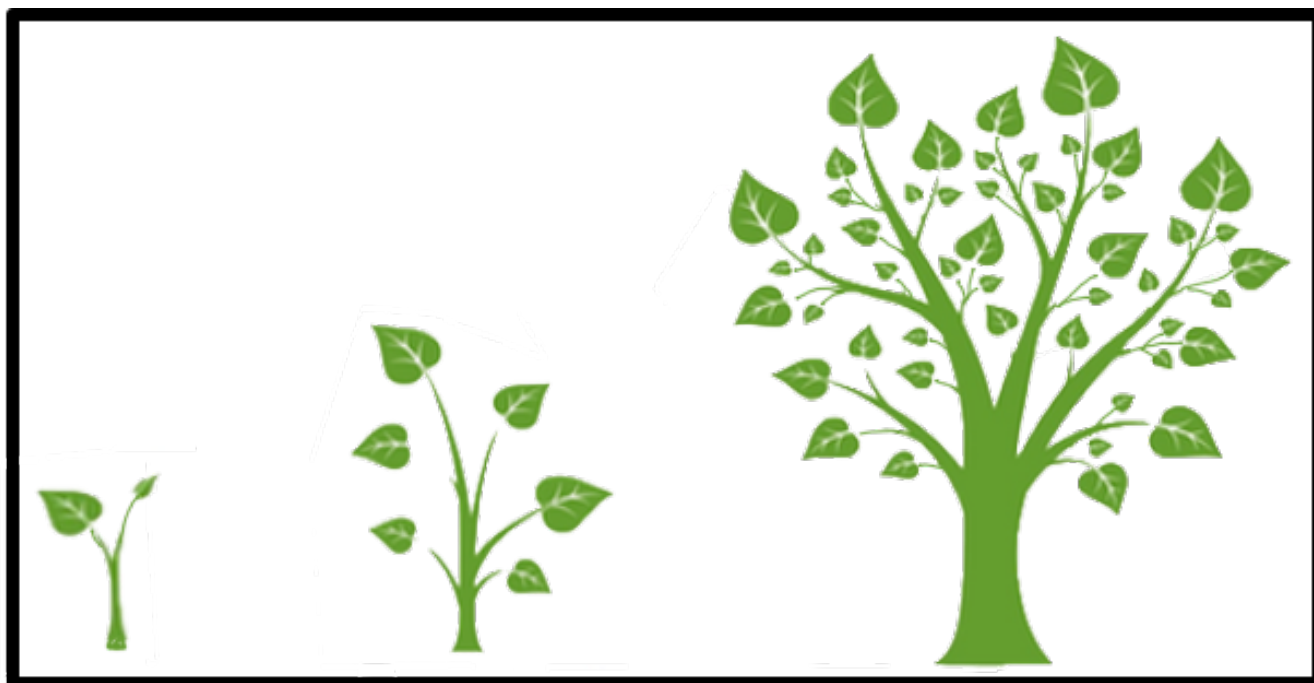
CELEBRATING MESSIAH'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Seventy-five years ago, a group of dedicated and committed Christians came together to sow the seeds of what would become the Lutheran Church of the Messiah. The Congregation gathered in June to commemorate the achievement that Messiah has come to mean to those who worship here now.

Resting on our laurels might be satisfying, but we should also look to the future, to Messiah's 100th anniversary, and do whatever we can to ensure that our church will thrive and continue to be there for those who wish to hear God's word, partake in the sacraments, worship with other believers, and show God's love to all those around us. How can we help make sure that Messiah will continue to exist, to its 100th anniversary and beyond?

To help answer that question, the congregation voted this May to establish the Messiah Future Fund to generate an ongoing source of income to secure Messiah's long-term financial future. Donations made to the Messiah Future Fund differ from regular contributions made throughout the year which are meant to be spent (not invested) the year they are given. By contrast, your donations to the Messiah Future Fund are invested to create a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding. A designated percentage of the Fund is available annually to support Messiah's mission, while earnings in excess of this amount remain in the Fund to continue to increase. As the principal grows, more funds are available for annual disbursement.

A brochure about the Messiah Future Fund will be forthcoming later this year. In the meantime, if you have questions, you can speak to one of the members of the Messiah Future Committee: Tom Fusco, Jeff Frole, Laura Bennett, Miranda Hempel, and Pastor Erhardt.



ANNUAL SUMMER BARBECUE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Don't miss Messiah's annual Barbecue coming up this Saturday, September 9, at 4pm, organized by the indefatigable and incomparable Debbie Baer! There will be juicy burgers and hot dogs galore, along with a lavish spread of salads, side dishes, and tempting desserts - with plenty of beverages to wash it all down. Please take note: no-one in history has ever left a Messiah Barbecue hungry.

Debbie always organizes a Scavenger Hunt with fabulous prizes which is fun for everyone - and don't worry, even the last team to finish the hunt still gets a nifty prize!

If you want to come, but haven't signed up yet, don't despair. Please email the church office to let us know by Thursday, September 7, how many people are coming, as well as what kind of side dish or dessert you will be bringing with you, and we'll greet you with open arms!.



✠ HOLY CROSS DAY IS OBSERVED ON SEPTEMBER 14 ✠

One of the earliest annual celebrations of the Church, Holy Cross Day is marked every year on September 14. The feast was established by Emperor Constantine the Great in AD 335.

In Greek the festival is called "Υψωσις τοῦ Τιμίου καὶ Ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ (Raising Aloft of the Honored and Life-Giving Cross)," from which we have the familiar hymn, "Lift High the Cross" On this day we remember the pivotal roll of the cross in our lives by recalling what the Bible teaches, for example:

* For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

*And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

* For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Colossians 1:19-20)

* And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			7:30 pm Choir		1	2
3 10:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	4	5	6 7:30 pm Choir	7 6:30 pm Table Talk	8	9 4:00 pm Summer Barbecue
10 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	11	12 7:00 pm Executive Board	13 7:30 pm Choir	14 Holy Cross Day 7:30 pm Community Book Group	15	16
17 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	18	19	20 7:30 pm Choir	21	22	23 9 am Men's Forum
24 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	25	26	27 7:30 pm Choir	28	29	30

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Worship 1:30 pm Campus Tour	2	3	4 7:30 pm Choir	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	9	10	11 7:30 pm Choir	12 6:30 pm Table Talk	13	14 9:00 am Fall Work Day
15 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	16	17	18 7:30 pm Choir	19 7:30 pm Community Book Group	20	21 9:00 am Men's Forum
22 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Service of Word and Sacrament	23	24	25 7:30 pm Choir	26	27 Sexuality, Integrity, and the University conference	28
29 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Service of Word & Sacrament 4:00 pm Reformation Service	30	31 Reformation Day				

MESSIAH FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES

Our Plainsboro Pantry food drives goes on until 9/10/23, so there is still plenty of time for you to bring in items to donate!

The Plainsboro Pantry's needs are listed below.

Coffee
Pancake Mix
Honey/Syrup
Canned Meals
Canned Meat
Canned Fish
Canned Fruits
Canned Potatoes
Drink Mixes
Juice
Snacks
Toilet Paper



No glass containers, please! Items may be brought to Messiah and placed in the basket at the entrance. Many thanks for your generosity!



REFORMATION DAY ON OCTOBER 31



More than 500 years ago, the Protestant Reformation brought the church's focus back to God's free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ.

On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses — the “Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences” — to the church door in a small city called Wittenberg, Germany. This event ignited the Protestant Reformation, and thus the church officially commemorates this important anniversary on Oct. 31. As an Augustinian monk, Luther had fasted, prayed, attended and led Mass. Despite this holy life, he was in constant doubt of his salvation. Luther began concentrating his studies on the Bible rather than the Church Fathers. In 1514, while studying Paul's letter to the Romans in his tower room in Wittenberg, he finally saw the pure Gospel. He realized that sinners are saved not through good works but by the gift of God through faith. This realization sparked a concern that the church's practice of selling a certificate of forgiveness (called an indulgence) would lead to the loss of true contrition for sins. If people could receive pardon from all sins, then they could spend the rest of their lives not worrying about the status of their souls. Luther felt he must protect his flock from this dangerous practice.

Today we commemorate Luther's act on October 31. The Reformation was, first and foremost, all about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was then, and it still is now. The task of reformation never ends. Every person, in every generation, needs to hear the Good News of their Savior from sin and eternal death.