



The MESSENGER

A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.

Messiah Lutheran Church
Rev. Julie Haspel, Pastor
Church Phone: 201-337-4900
Email: info@messiahoaklandnj.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
Contemporary Worship: 8:45am
Christian Education: 9:45am
Traditional Worship: 10:45am



2017

When we can't find Easter

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's wrong with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. You're okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too. —Heidi Mann

Forsaken for us

Church reformer Martin Luther considered Jesus' cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) as "the greatest words in all of Scripture," writes Timothy Keller. In *Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering* (Penguin Books), Keller notes, "Luther knew personally about what he called *Anfectungen*, a word that means the 'assaults' that the world, the flesh and the devil make on human beings through the evils and suffering of life."

Jesus suffered *Anfectungen* "in infinite degrees, beyond anything any other human being will ever experience," Keller writes. And he did it all for us. As Luther said, "In Christ, the God-forsaken sinner has a Savior who has taken on himself the full depths of human estrangement from God — and overcome it."



SIGNS OF NEW LIFE

As I sit at my desk pondering an Easter message, there are piles of snow just outside my window. The forsythia, which looked like it was ready to blossom just over a week ago, now looks like it has closed up shop for the foreseeable future. Even though we enjoyed unseasonably warm weather not too long ago, it feels like we are trapped in winter.

I often wonder what it was like for the women who approached the tomb that first Easter morning. What were their thoughts? I can't imagine the grief that they felt. Not only was their friend in the tomb, he was the one that they hoped would be the one to save them. Now, he was gone.

One of the beautiful gifts of God's love is the gift of new life. Not only will we experience it in heaven, but we can experience it every single day. Winter may feel like an eternity, but we know that it isn't. Even while life lies dormant under the ground, we know that an important part of the growth cycle is taking place. We know that new life is just waiting for the right moment to spring forth.

At Messiah, I see signs of new life around us as well. It's been a tough winter and we have lost some dear members of our congregation. And yet, we continue to grow and move forward. I bring you good news that our Church council is filled with wonderful ideas and programs to move ahead. New ministry starts and ideas always point us forward to new beginnings.

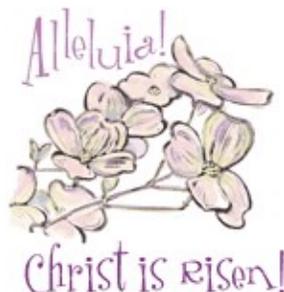
Life always has the last word.

¹After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said."

Matthew 28:1-5

Let us rejoice in this new beginning and in the unity of what makes us Messiah Lutheran Church.
Let us boldly venture forward, together.

Pastor Julie Haspel



WHAT'S HAPPENING at Messiah

Saturday April 1, 9:00am: Property Work Day

Spring is here and with it begins our outdoor cleanup. Please join us. Any amount of time is appreciated.

Saturday April 1 at 5:30pm: Roast Loin of Pork Dinner with all the trimmings. Suggested donation: \$25/adult, \$12/child. Dessert, and soft drinks included, BYOB. Sponsored by the families of the youth attending the 2018 National Youth Gathering

Wednesday April 5th. Join us for a Lenten service at 7:30p. Come early at 6:15 for a soup and sandwich supper.

Sunday, April 9, 8:00am: Men's Breakfast

Thursday April 13, 7:30pm: Maundy Thursday Communion

Friday April 14, 7:30pm: Good Friday Service



Sunday April 16, EASTER SUNDAY

8:45am - Contemporary Easter Worship

9:00am - 10:15am - Easter Breakfast

10:00am - Easter Egg Hunt

10:45am – Festive Easter Communion Service

Sunday April 16, Easter Breakfast: Once again, everyone is invited to attend our annual Easter morning breakfast. We will begin serving at 9:00am. Please sign up on the chart in the narthex or call the office. We also need people for set-up and clean-up.



Tuesday April 18 and Wednesday April 19, 10-12 and 1-3: Volunteer at [Community Thrift Shop](#) in Midland Park.

Saturday, April 22, 9:00am: [Messiah on the Move](#) joins Oakland's Team-up to Clean-up Event.

Saturday, April 29, 9:00am-1:00pm: [Stephen Ministry Workshop](#)

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

March 21, 2017

† Committee assignments for the year ahead:

❖	Christian Education	Jacqui Kartanos
❖	Evangelism	Sue Boyce
❖	Finance	Ron Rubner
❖	Garden	Terry Vollmin
❖	Music & Worship	Eleanore Orman
❖	Office Administration	Carol King
❖	Property	Mike O'Neil
❖	Publicity/Communications	Joan Ludke/Nancy Krause
❖	Social Ministry	Michele Weintraub
❖	Special Events	Brigitte Albrecht
❖	Stewardship	Joan Ludke
❖	Vibrant Faith	Eleanore Orman
❖	Youth Ministry	Lee Haymon, Sue Boyce

- † CHURCH SIGN: Terry Vollmin has volunteered to keep the church sign current.
- † CHAIR REPAIRS: Approximately 30 folding chairs were repaired at the March 11 work day and materials have been purchased to repair another batch. Special thanks to Arnie and Joan Ludke and all the March 11 workers who made this project possible.
- † OTHER REPAIRS: Plumbing repairs are being scheduled for the men's room and the water fountain, and the church tractors will be getting new tires and batteries, key repairs, and maintenance.
- † The BOY SCOUTS will be doing a church property clean up day on April 15.
- † SYNOD ASSEMBLY: May 12-13, in Princeton this year. It is always a wonderful opportunity to hear what our Synod and the greater ELCA are doing in the world. Please speak to Joan or Pastor if you are interested in attending.



Palm Sunday with Passion Drama
Sunday April 9
8:45am for Contemporary Worship
10:45am for Traditional Worship



MAUNDY
Thursday

Thursday April 13
7:30pm: Maundy Thursday Communion



Friday April 14
7:30pm Good Friday Service

We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 16

8:45am - Contemporary Easter Worship
9:00am - 10:15am - Easter Breakfast
10:00am - Easter Egg Hunt
10:45am - Festive Easter Communion Service





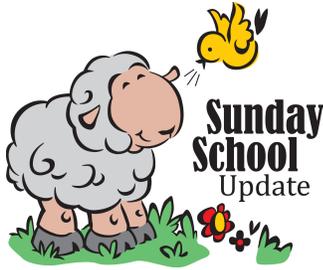
EASTER LILIES and *HYACINTHS* may be dedicated to the Glory of God and/or given in memory of loved ones. Plants will be purchased by our flower guild and may be taken after the 10:45am service on Easter Sunday morning. Donation: \$10. Please sign up in the narthex and use special offering envelope.



Spring is here and it's time for spring cleaning. We clean out our house, the garden and our overstuffed closets. As we start changing our warm winter woolies for our light bright spring/summer outfits, stop and think for a moment. Do you have any spring/summer clothes that don't fit, you never wore (still with price tags), haven't worn in 2 years or think, "why on earth did I buy that". Like most of us we will find clothes that we would like to give away, still in good condition but need a good home. We are collecting clothes, toys, books and small pieces of furniture in good condition for the Community Thrift Shop. Please refer to the annual report or call me for details 201 337-4035. Customers of the Thrift Shop can purchase your treasures at a reasonable cost, Messiah gets a percentage and you will finally have room in your closets. It's a win, win situation! You can leave any donations in the hall closet labeled Thrift Shop or #35.

Also I am looking for volunteers to work at the Thrift Shop in Midland Park for 2 hour shifts. Two people will work together and spend an enjoyable 2 hours for a worthy cause. The dates are April 18th & 19th 10-12 and 1-3. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. You might even find a treasure of your own to purchase.

Marilyn Rubner



The Sunday School has been focused on animals and Lent in recent weeks. We have been continuing with our Illustrated Children's Ministry series with lessons titled "Creation of the Animals", "Balaam and the Lord's Messenger", and "Jonah and the Big Fish". During the season of Lent, our focus has followed the lectionary with a look at the Gospel lesson for the day. For the study of John 3:16 the children created artwork that connected colors to the ideas represented by the "Gospel in a Nutshell" - black for sin, red for Christ's blood, white for forgiveness, blue for baptism, green for growth, and yellow for salvation. We will also focus on the symbolism of the Cross and create matchstick crosses for each child to hang in their homes as a reminder. After Easter we will wrap up the Illustrated Children's Ministry series with the lesson "Parable of the Lost Sheep" and return to lectionary based lessons for the remainder of the Sunday School year.

Messiah on the Move joins Oakland in their Team Up to Clean Up event on April 22

Starts at 9am where we will meet for breakfast at VMS. From there our team will go to one of the Oakland Parks to clean up. At 11:30 we meet with everyone back at Stewart Woods Park for a picnic lunch! Wear your Messiah T-shirt. This is an event for all ages though we are particularly looking at it as an opportunity for our youth to bond together on a community project.

Sign up in narthex. Contact Nancy Krause for more information.

MESSIAH's GARDENS



On Sunday, April 30, we will show and share our love for the earth that God created by preparing the garden for the upcoming growing season. Join us both between services with your gardening clothes, gloves, and your favorite shovel or rake!

Anyone interested in assisting with the gardens (vegetable or flower) at Messiah, please contact Terry Vollmin. All hands welcome!



**Earth Day:
GO GREEN**

Benevolence of the Month
National Youth Gathering



June 27 - July 1, 2018 we will be gathering in Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Pillows for Saint Paul's



Please join us this month as we collect new pillows and pillowcases, which will be donated to the Emergency Men's Shelter at St. Paul's Community Development Corporation in Paterson. A sign up sheet is in the narthex. Monetary contributions are welcome and will go toward purchasing more items. Pillows and pillowcases are to be returned to church by Sunday, April 23rd. Please contact Michele Weintraub from Social Ministries with questions or to make a donation toward the project.



Thank you to the entire congregation at Messiah for all the food, hugs, prayers and sympathy you offered to our family on the passing of Harvie Klaus. Thank you for the cards, memorials, the visits at the Oakland Memorial Home and for making his funeral service a true celebration of his long and blessed life. AND most of all, thank you for all the visits over the year he was at the Oakland Care Center. He loved seeing you and having someone different to talk to; it helped to break up his day and keep his spirits up to know he was not forgotten. You have all been a blessing to our family!

The Ludke Family



**BECOME AN
ACTIVE
BYSTANDER**

**LEARN HOW
TO:**

**DIRECT
DISTRACT
DELEGATE**

Active Bystander Training

Zion Lutheran Church

215 Elm Ave, Rahway, NJ 07065

Saturday, April 22, 2017

10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Check-in begins at
9:30)

Cost: \$15/person, includes lunch

*A man struggles with English at the checkout counter
and the clerk jokes with a colleague about immigrants.*

A young man is followed by security while looking for a present for his mother's birthday.

A Muslim girl has her hijab snatched off by a stranger in a crowd.

At baptism, Lutheran Christians promise publicly to "love all people following the example of Jesus" and to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth". Other major religions also value protecting others from harm. When we observe threatening or harassing behavior, how do we respond? What would *you* do? This training gives participants tools to build confidence in speaking up and acting to protect others, and promotes positive ways to impact our communities.

To register, call the New Jersey Synod office at: 609.586.6800

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

For financial assistance, please contact Rev. Kimberly Vaughn (kvaughn@njsynod.org)



New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

National Youth Gathering Fund Raiser



C H U R C H TRUNK SALE

May 6th at Messiah Lutheran Church

9am – 3pm

Set Up will be from 8-9am. You bring and sell your items.

Monetary Donations Accepted for Youth Gathering

Items not sold are the responsibility of the seller to dispose of.

Contact the church to reserve your space now!

Spaces are limited, Rain or shine!



Introductory Workshop

We have a unique opportunity to learn about Stephen Ministry at a church close by. Have you ever wanted reach out to help someone with your faith? This is your chance! We would like to get a group of at least 4 people to attend this workshop and explore how this ministry could fit here at Messiah.

A Half-day Workshop Featuring:

Session 1: Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

Session 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

Session 3: How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

When:

Saturday, April 29: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Where:

Grace United Methodist Church, 555 Russell Ave, Wyckoff, NJ

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40

What is Stephen Ministry all about?

The Stephen Series is a program overseen by Stephen Ministries St. Louis; that teaches and enables members of congregations all over the world to care for one another just as Jesus commands us to do. Stephen Ministers go through extensive training in their individual churches to learn how to care for people who are experiencing some type of loss in their lives; i.e. loss of a family member, a job, their dependence, their health, their self esteem, their faith... just to name a few. A Stephen Minister is paired in a relationship with one person and meets with him or her one to one on a weekly basis for an hour or so to 'walk alongside them,' offering comfort and encouragement, extending the hand of Jesus. One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.



To All Members of Messiah Lutheran Church:

Total Income in February was \$15.9K versus expenses of \$18.8K, resulting in a deficit of \$2.9K. YTD Total Income is \$38.9K versus YTD Total Expenses of \$37.7K. YTD there is a surplus of \$1.2K.

Restricted Accounts decreased \$1.8K, from \$76.4K to \$74.6K in February. There is a net decrease of \$4.7K since January 1st.

Cash Accounts (Checking and Savings) decreased \$4.7K, from \$80.5K to \$75.8K in February. There is a net decrease of \$.1K since January 1st.

Ron Rubner
Treasurer

Year to Date
February 2017

	Budget	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Income Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	33,793.00	35,606.00	35,259.00
02, Mission Support	3,217.00	3,317.00	3,393.00
Total Income	\$37,010.00	\$38,923.00	\$38,652.00
Expense Accounts			
01, Ministry at Messiah	33,081.00	33,294.00	33,088.00
02, Mission Support	3,900.00	4,404.00	4,428.00
Total Expenses	\$36,981.00	\$37,698.00	\$37,516.00
Income Less Expense	\$29.00	\$1,225.00	\$1,136.00

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY PAGE

JESUS IS RISEN!

When Jesus' disciples saw that the stone was rolled away from his tomb, they knew he had risen. Make a moveable tomb to celebrate Easter.

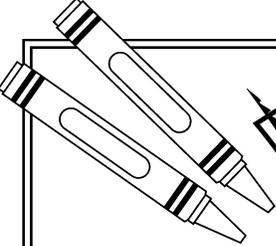
What you need:

- 4 pieces of paper (brown, blue, black, yellow)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Glue stick
- Brad fastener
- Marker



What you do:

1. Fold the brown paper in half, short side to short side. Cut along the fold. On one half, draw and cut out a large half-circle (the tomb). On the other, draw and cut out a palm-sized circle (the stone).
2. Glue the brown tomb onto the blue paper.
3. Cut a black circle (the inside of the tomb) the same size as the brown stone and glue it onto the brown tomb.
4. Place the brown stone over the black half-circle; this is the entrance. Push the brad through one edge so the stone can move from side to side.
5. Cut out a cross from the yellow paper and glue it by the tomb.
6. Write "Jesus is risen!" atop the blue paper.

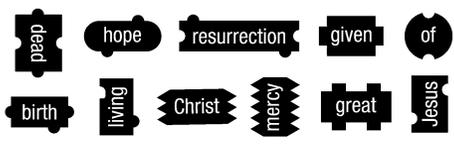


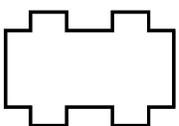
PUZZLE

> NEW LIFE <

How did God work through Jesus to give us new life at Easter?

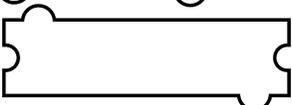
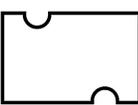
Directions: Use the puzzle pieces from the box to complete 1 Peter 1:3, NIV.

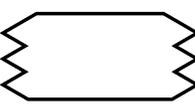
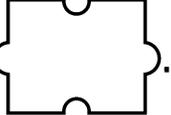


In his   he has

 us new  into a

  through the

 from the .

1 P E T E R 1 : 3 , N I V

Answer: In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3, NIV