

April 2018 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

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2018 Council

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Cheryl Bauer Hyde

Merv Bender

Jean Meyers

Colleen Bowen

Dick Honch

Darren Sundbo

Lois Manchur



Our Mission Statement:

“Through the hearing and sharing of God’s Word, we, as a worshipping community, encourage a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In faith, we reach out with Christ-like caring for the community and the world in which we live.”



Sunday Worship

10:00am Coffee On

10:30am Worship Service

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month
are Services with Holy Communion

10:45am Sunday school and Bible
Study for older youth and children.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Wednesday Evening Studies in April

Following up on direction from the 2015 ELCIC National Convention, the ELCIC's National Church Council established a task force, "to encourage conversations across our church regarding the needs of people in times of death and dying, and to review [the ELCIC's] current *Resolution on Decisions-at-the-End-of-Life* (1997)."

The *Decisions at the End of Life Task Force* has prepared an ELCIC Study Guide for Conversations on Medical Assistance in Dying to encourage conversations across our church regarding the needs of people in times of death and dying.

The task force hopes to receive input from individuals and groups who have participated in these conversations.

We invite you to join us for our studies in these matters on **Wednesday nights in April at 7pm to 8:30pm, starting on April 4**. The study guide will be distributed among the participants. You can also find in on the ELCIC website: http://elcic.ca/Decisions-at-the-end-of-life/documents/MAIDStudyGuide2016_FINAL.pdf

Recommendations from the task force will be submitted to NCC at the September 2018 meeting. Following this, NCC will make proposals for delegates to consider at the 2019 ELCIC National Convention.

Join us for the conversation on Wednesdays in April!

Faith and Doubt

by Iris Kristjánsdóttir

Easter Sunday has just passed. The day of life's victory over death. The day of the resurrection of our Lord. Christ is risen, we say in church on Easter Sunday; Christ is risen indeed! Yet for many of us, resurrection is difficult to believe. We live in a world that lives by the motto, "Seeing is believing." And that makes it hard even to preach about the resurrection. I have often wished that Jesus would show up, while I was preaching, doing a Bible study, or talking about the resurrection with a skeptic. But he doesn't, not in body at least. And then I envy the disciples that really saw and touched, and didn't have to rely on hearing alone. It must have been so much easier for them to believe because of it, right?



From the 20th chapter of John:

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Jesus made a powerful case for the value and importance of God's Word when he said, *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe*. These words of Jesus remind me that my calling, our calling, is not to give people things to see, so they might believe, but to clearly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ so that those who will, might believe.

In John 20, Thomas refused to believe it until he saw Jesus for himself. I'm sure it was disappointing and frustrating for the other disciples that Thomas would not take their word for it. Why would they make up a story like that? Did he really think they were pulling his leg? But then again, they had seen — he had not.

Why do people doubt what we tell them? Today there's a lot of talk about fake news, about stories and tales out there that are taken for a fact but are indeed not based on facts. In a world like that, it's easy to see why we have all become sceptics. But if we think back to the first witnesses of the resurrection, why would they go through all the trouble of spreading a story that wasn't true? Why would they even die for that story?

Doubt is often hard to deal with. People doubt for many reasons. Perhaps, when it comes to the nature of the story of the resurrection, people might doubt it because what we are telling them is such good news they can't believe it. That might have been

Thomas' reason for doubting. He no doubt loved his Lord greatly and grieved as much as any of the disciples when Jesus died. But being somewhat of a pessimist, he would be slower to embrace good news.

Some people doubt because they are logical thinkers. If something is outside the laws of nature and science, then it is not to be believed, according to them. Others doubt, not because they don't want to believe, but because they have weighed the pros and cons of believing a given thing, and the negatives won out. For example, if believing in the death and resurrection of Christ means having to acknowledge one's sin and need for Christ's forgiveness, then they would rather doubt all of it so they don't have to deal with that. Because of this, it's not easy for the bearers of the good news of Jesus to proclaim it. It is not always fun, or easy, to share what we fully believe is good news. The disciples experienced that with Thomas and many more.

But believing carries many blessings. First of all, Jesus said, *Blessed are those who have ... come to believe*. What are the blessings associated with belief in the resurrection? The list could be long, but the main ones are: the forgiveness of sins, a personal and intimate relationship with God, and the hope of eternal life. Those blessings far outweigh any advantages to not believing, at least in my opinion.

In addition to the blessings, John made an editorial comment at the end of his gospel which reads: *But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name*. John saw the value and importance of the word in regard to belief and salvation. He didn't draw pictures or create statues for people to look at and worship, nor did he make little crosses that people could carry in their pockets to help them believe. Don't get me wrong, these all have their place to help us visualize the word which they represent. However, the primary means of grace is through the Word of God, the word that became flesh, through faith in Jesus himself.

Unfortunately, there will always be those who doubt this and therefore will not believe. But that should not stop us from proclaiming the good news. We have a story to tell that might sound too good to be true — but we believe it because we have experienced in our own life that it is true. Christ is risen — he is risen indeed! Go in peace and share the good news!

Church Council

The Annual General Meeting was held on March 11, following the service and a pizza lunch. Twenty-five members were in attendance.

It was reported that the constitution approved by the congregation at the last annual meeting had been sent to the Synod for review and it was approved. The National Church has approved a new constitutional model, and it may require some minor adjustments to the newly approved Messiah Constitution. Council will bring forward revisions for consideration in 2019 or 2020.

The 2017 Financial Statement, report of Financial Review and 2018 Budget were approved. A motion to waive the appointment of an auditor for 2018 was approved, and Debbie Honch and Tim Leson appointed for the 2018 Internal Financial Review. Thanks to our awesome financial team – Harvey Jacobsen, Morris Hesje, Garry Reinhardt, and our financial reviewers, Debbie Honch and Tim Leson.

The Annual Report included information from/about the Saskatchewan Synod and National Synod, and the Messiah ministry teams and committees.

Brooklynn Lane will be starting her year-long internship at Messiah in August or September. She is presently attending seminary in Waterloo, ON, and is from Balgonie, SK. We're very pleased and excited to have Brooklynn coming to Messiah, and will be looking for accommodation for her this summer.

Refugee Committee: 2017 was an exciting year for Messiah as the congregation continued to support the settlement of the Sahadi family, refugees from Syria. The committee expressed great appreciation for the tremendous support from the congregation for financial gifts, time, item donations and prayers. Plans are in place to keep the remaining funds that are in place and use them to begin the process to support a new refugee family, possibly in 2019.

Sadly, the Evangelical Lutheran Broadcast received news late in 2016 that the local radio station will no longer support the broadcast with studio and air time so the ELB finished its work in 2017. We acknowledge the decades of Ministry that the ELB provided and note the bush planted on the south side of Messiah to commemorate work of the Broadcast.

The SK Synod Convention is in Regina on June 8 and 9, 2018. Pastor Iris will attend as a rostered delegate, Merv Bender and myself as Synod Council members, and Wayne Hyde as lay delegate. Messiah can send one additional lay delegate so if anyone is interested, please contact me as soon as possible.

Lois Manchur and Darren Sundbo were elected for 3-year terms on Council. Dennis Ulmer, Paula Sundbo and Deanna Rindal were appointed to the Nominating Committee. Thanks to out-going Council members – Robert Bratvold, Troy Hufnagel, Jennifer Rust, Stanley Livingstone, and outgoing Nominating Committee member Elaine Serfas. If you would like a copy of the Annual Report, it's on the Messiah website under the Annual Reports tab or call the office to request a printed version.

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10, at 5pm, and Council will be installed at the April 22 Sunday service. Thanks to all of the named and unnamed volunteers at Messiah, and to Pastor Iris and Donna.

On behalf of Messiah Council
Cheryl Bauer Hyde



Men's Breakfast Men's Group

Thank you to the Men's Group who hosted and served a delicious breakfast following the Sunrise Easter Service. It was enjoyed by all!

Men, you are always welcome to join us the last Saturday of each month for fellowship and breakfast at 8a.m. at the Travelodge. Contact Merv Bender, H: 306-764-8467; Email: merv.bender@sasktel.net for more information.



Messiah Lutheran Women

A big thank you to those who made soups and sandwiches and who helped at the Lenten Lunch on March 22nd. Also to Pastor iris for her message.



Ladies mark your calendars for May 5th.
Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet.
Watch for more info in the coming weeks . . .

Congregational News

Feb. 26, 2018



This message is to let you know my faith journey is leading me to a different path. After praying and reflecting, I have decided to join the Roman Catholic Church. I want to thank all of you for everything I received during my years as a member of Messiah Lutheran congregation. Pastor Iris, I will be every grateful for your support, which was greatly appreciated. Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine. May God bless every one of you.~

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rust



• **Congratulations to Jill & Colin Thorpe** on the arrival of their daughter, **Logan Jane Thorpe on December 27th, 2017.** Grandparents are Sue & Craig Meyers and Julie & Bill Thorpe. Logan will be baptized on April 15th, 2018 during worship service.



• **Congratulations to Roger Mayert** who was inducted as a builder for his years of service to the junior hockey organization. Here Roger is posing for a photo while holding the Memorial Cup trophy at the Art Hauser Centre in Prince Albert. You can read all about it in the PA Herald dated Wednesday, April 4th. Way to go Roger! You can also see the article on the church bulletin board!



Messiah Lutheran Church Garage Sale!

Thursday – April 19th

10am – 8pm

&

Friday – April 20th

10am – 6pm



Please help by supporting this fundraiser by donating items that you are no longer using and need a new home!

Items can be dropped off at the church anytime during office hours up until April 18th.

**If you are needing to make arrangements after hours,
please call Anne & Roger Mayert (306-763-0000)**



If you're on Facebook, please like our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert/>



Men's Retreat

Friday – Sunday, April 13 – April 15, 2018

Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp

Christopher Lake, SK

Theme: Men of God: Men in Crisis in Today's World

If you have any questions, please contact:

Merv Bender: H: 306-764-8467; email: merv.bender@sasktel.net

Ray McCullum, H: 306-764-1753; C: 960-1460,

Email: ray.mccallum@hotmail.com

Kinasao's Women's Retreat

Friday – Sunday, April 20 – April 22, 2018

Joy in the Journey

Presented by Joyce Rust

Visit www.kinasao.ca or contact

Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp to register

Community Events

Arioso and Friends

11th Annual Concert in support of

Grandmothers for Grandmothers

Kitchen Party (prairie Style)

Sunday, April 22 – 7:30 pm

Plaza 88 - 888 Central Avenue

\$20 for adults and \$10 for students

Tickets Available at:

Beth's Yarn & Needlecraft Boutique

909A Central Ave

(306-764-6910)

Canadian Tire

Parkland Restorative Justice invites you their

3rd Annual Fundraiser

Spring Banquet in the Woods

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Featuring stories from an inmate, a victim, and a community member.

Join us at the Prince Albert Wildlife Federation Building

Doors Open at 5pm

Dinner Service at 6pm

Silent & Live Auctions

Tickets \$40 each or \$300 for a table of 8

To reserve call 306-763-6224 or email

hether@parklandrj.com

Reservation deadline April 20, 2018

Public Ministry in the ELCIC - A Preliminary Draft

In May 2015, the ELCIC's National Church Council (NCC) directed the Faith, Order and Doctrine Committee (FOD) to study orders of ministry with particular attention to *diakonia* and Diaconal Ministry. FOD surveyed recent and historic literature, consulted ELCIC scholars, spent a day with our diaconal ministers, and in 2016 released a *study guide* entitled *To Love Our Neighbour as Ourselves: A Study of Orders of Ministry in the ELCIC*. Since then, FOD has considered responses and has now produced a paper which builds upon its earlier work. It is called *Public Ministry in the ELCIC - A Preliminary Draft* and is on the ELCIC website:

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/a7d5bfe390da9cf9a526dad25/files/d5f18335-0aab-4e27-953d-04ce75e64eab/Public_Ministry_in_the_ELCIC.pdf. Printed copies will also be available at Messiah's office.



Public Ministry in the ELCIC is an *aspirational* document. In the preface, Bishop Susan Johnson writes: "In this document we are now invited to live into a new and fresh vision for our church. A clear sense of where we are as a Christian community in Canada is set forth in Section 1. This is our real-worldly and contemporary context. Sections 2 and 3 offer historical and theological foundations for what emerges as a renewed sense of our church *in mission* and a clearer understanding of what it means to be called into *public ministry* (Sections 4 and 5)." She goes on to note "For the next few months I'm inviting all expressions of the church to review, reflect and respond in particular to the principles and possibilities elaborated in Section 4 and the preliminary recommendations made in Section 5."

FOD has requested that *Public Ministry in the ELCIC* be circulated for review, reflection and response. Next fall, FOD will take into consideration all responses to produce a final draft of this paper. Material should be sent to Pastor André Lavergne, assistant to the Bishop, (as an MS Word file) in an e-mail labelled "FOD – Public Ministry" c/o alavergne@elcic.ca. Responses are due by Sunday, September 30, 2018.

FOD is looking forward to hearing from you as, together, we live into a church that is missional, diaconal and prophetic.

