

January 2018 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

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2017 Council

EXECUTIVE

Chairperson: Cheryl Bauer Hyde

Vice Chairperson: Troy Hufnagel

Secretary: Robert Bratvold

CHURCH COUNCIL MINISTRY TEAM:

Education Ministry Team:

Merv Bender

Jean Meyers

Worship Ministry Team:

Colleen Bowen

Caring Ministry & Community Service

Stanley Livingstone

Jennifer Rust

Robert Bratvold

Property Management Ministry Team

Dick Honch

Troy Hufnagel



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.”

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!



On January 14 we will have a **service of welcome for our brothers and sisters from Birch Hills Lutheran Church**. With their closing service in November, Messiah wants to acknowledge the transfer of their church membership and say ‘welcome’. Bishop Sid Haugen and Deacon Eldon Danielson will join Pastor Iris in the worship service. **A ‘cold item’ potluck lunch will follow the service**, so all are invited to bring some food to contribute and to stay for lunch and fellowship. We hope that the Sahadi family, Messiah sponsored, will join us for lunch as well. Messiah Council will be responsible for setting and cleaning up. Join us for this time of coming together for Birch Hills and Messiah Lutheran congregations!

January 2018

Prayer List

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*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not be afraid.
John 14:27*

New Potentials

by Iris Kristjánsdóttir

Ah Lord God! It is you who made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17

Years ago, a man by the name of Henry Ford came up with an idea for a new kind of engine. Ford was eager to get his exciting new plan into production so he had someone draw up the plans and presented them to the engineers. As the engineers studied the drawings, one by one they came to the same conclusion. Their visionary boss just didn't know much about the fundamental principles of engineering. "He'd have to be told gently," they concluded, "this engine is just not realistic, it can't be done."

When Ford heard their opinion, he immediately replied, "Produce it anyway." "But it's impossible!" they insisted. "Go ahead," Ford commanded, "and stay on the job until you succeed, no matter how much time is required."

Six whole months they struggled --drawing after drawing, design after design. Nothing. Another six months. Nothing. At the end of the year Ford checked with his engineers and they once again told him that what he wanted was impossible. Ford told them to keep going. They did.

Finally, one bright sunny day, a beautiful new V-8 engine came to life and revolutionized the world of automobiles forever. The most brilliant engineers ridiculed Henry Ford because they thought his engine was impossible to create, but in his heart, Ford knew it could be done.

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. An important time of year that seems to bear much meaning in our culture. For some people, it's a time of change, hope and excitement. They have a vision for the future. It may be so big a vision that those around them become skeptical of its enormity. Some may express their fears and anxieties about its details and experts on the matter might be just plain negative. But they are driven by a determination and belief that makes the impossible possible. For others, this is a time to make promises to themselves to correct bad habits. They set goals. They determine to improve themselves physically, intellectually, situationally. They look ahead at a sort of clean slate, standing at the edge of a new year.

We've all been here before. We know that we will break our promises sooner or later, we will not achieve all our goals. Our self-improvement schemes will not all be realized. The good news is that we have opportunities all the time for positive change, new visions. The New Year can be a new beginning. So can January 10 or March 15 or October 21. Every morning, every day, we start over with possibility. At any time we can set goals, determine to do something for others, choose to do something for ourselves, and have the hope and belief that we will succeed.

We have the hope—the responsibility—to reflect God's creativity by welcoming the potential brought by every new day. May your year be filled with creative promise, and may you have the courage to live each day faithfully.

Church Council

Council hasn't met since the end of November, so much of what follows for information is from the December newsletter:

A service of welcome for Birch Hills Lutheran will be held on January 14, followed by a 'cold item' potluck lunch. We will have a formal motion of welcome at the Messiah Annual General Meeting in March. Let us extend our friendship and Christian love as we go through this time of coming together.



The Annual General Meeting has been set for March 11, 2018, following the service. Donna will be in touch regarding ministry team and church group reports required for the annual report.

Council's next meeting is Tuesday, January 9, 2018, beginning at 5pm.

As we enter 2018, this bible verse came to mind:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Happy New Year!

**On behalf of Messiah Council
Cheryl Bauer Hyde**

Hello Messiah,

Our congregation's needs are growing and changing, so Council is considering the possibility of hiring a part-time person to support the members and ministry of the congregation. Our dedicated and enthusiastic pastor, secretary and volunteers serve many of the congregational needs, but perhaps with the hiring of a person for some coordination and attention to specific ministry areas, the ministry of the congregation can grow.

As part of its efforts, Council seeks feedback from the congregation and invites you to share your thoughts.

- 1) Do you think members of the congregation or the ministry of the church would benefit from the hiring of a part-time ministry support person? **YES** or **NO**
- 2) What are the **main** needs of the congregation that might be served by a ministry support person?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)
- 3) Offerings help sustain the ministry of the congregation. Would you be likely to increase your regular offerings to help provide a part time ministry support position? **YES** or **NO**
- 4) Do you have any other comments?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUGGESTIONS!

Please place this completed page in the offering plate or in the box in the church narthex and watch for information from council in the coming months. (This form is available at church as well.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy 2018 everyone! November and December were both busy months for the Sunday School children and older youth! Perhaps you've noticed the children and youth taking on some of the volunteer responsibilities to help in our services, and their sharing of talents as well.

In November the Sunday School children made a Remembrance Day craft which was used to decorate the sanctuary for the [November 12th](#) service. Practices also started for singing "Cradled In A Manger". The older youth assisted at the Hanging of The Green service (Dec. 3) in decorating the church while the Sunday School children joined in to share the song they had learned. Thanks to Colleen Bowen and Lynnae Wagner for leading the choir and to Linda Moriarty.

In preparation for advent, the Sunday School children made donations to worthy causes. On November 26 the children wore their pj's to church for Pajama Sunday and brought new or gently used pajamas to donate to the P.A. Women's Shelter. They also chose to donate soccer balls to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief program instead of receiving them as prizes in Sunday School.

The Older Youth started a Bible study series called Route 66 which invites them to journey through the books of the Bible and to ask questions they have (difficult or not so difficult) regarding their faith, Lutheran traditions, and the Bible in general. Leading this group can push some adults out of their comfort zone, but Merv Bender stepped up to lead the first session and in 2018 we hope to work our way forward in building this ministry. He was very impressed by the Biblical knowledge of the group! If you are interested in working in this ministry please let me know!



In December labours began to have the Sunday School children and youth re-enact the Christmas story. The final product was truly a group effort! Thank you to Pastor Iris for putting together the program, and for taking the question "what do you think about having a donkey in the

pageant" as an invitation to try something different. It was refreshing that "no" was not her answer, but "maybe we could get a real baby too?" Thank you to Jen Leier for putting "Stitch" into some intensive pre-pageant training and for bringing her miniature donkey to church. Thank you also to Larry Brewster for volunteering to be on stand-by with his Ultimate Carpet Cleaning Services - we're grateful too we didn't have to call you! Thank you to the Deobald-Nagy family for entrusting us with 3 week old baby Kace! Thank you to Vimy and Jim Penner for helping to arrange the set and the donkey access, and for helping to put everything back again!

Thank you to the Church Council for supporting this event, and to Merv Bender, Deanna Rindal, and Robert Bratvold for offering your talents! Thank you to all of the parents who helped form the script, costume children, and wrangle children - it was a lot of fun working with you all! Thank you to Colleen Brown and Lynnae Wagner for your work with the choir - lots of enthusiast singers! Thank you to all of the children for being the stars of the show - everyone participated, everyone cooperated, and everyone did a great job! My thanks also to those whose contributions are not coming to mind as I write this - we were all in it together! Combining a live performance with a live animal and lively children wasn't without trepidation, but the pageant went over without a hitch and was truly one to remember. Thank God! What a way to end the year!



The format for Sunday School going forward is a work in progress. We've spent a lot of time in preparation for special services, so now it's time to get into some Bible study and works of service ... and of course a little fun too! If you are interested in helping with

Sunday School please let me know! Our Sunday School program suits children 5-10ish and we will start our Older Youth sessions (runs at the same time as Sunday School) soon. Children under the age of 5 are always welcome, but require an adult to attend with them. Please also pray for the Sunday school and the growth of youth ministry at Messiah Lutheran. Letting people know that we have a Sunday school and inviting them can help us grow our program!

Anne Barlow
Volunteer Sunday School Coordinator

H2H ~ T4T Youth Program - CLAY Fundraising Events

Bottle Drive Fundraiser for CLAY 2018

Looking to get rid of those cluttering bottles!

The CLAY 2018 Youth are collecting any pop bottles/cans and all other beverage containers that are refundable! Milk containers, juice cartons, water bottles, beverage cans and Tetra Pak packages are all refundable! Bag them up and bring them to church. They will be stored in the Youth Room and then taken to Sarcan. If you are unable to drop them off at the church, we will pick them up! Just call the church office and make arrangements. Our trip to Thunder Bay, ON is fast approaching and we appreciate all the bottles you would be willing to donate!



It's time to Register for:
**Saskatchewan Synod
Pre-CLAY Gathering**
(In Saskatoon!)

Register OnLine:
Deadline to Register: February 2nd

Details:

**February 9-10 at Zion Lutheran Church in Saskatoon.
6 p.m. Friday to 11 a.m. Saturday.**

\$20/person. Includes snacks on Friday night and Breakfast Saturday morning.

An evening to gather and get to know youth from around the province. Many of you will be on the bus trip together but all youth are welcome. Start gathering snapchats and contact information to generate excitement for within the Sask. Synod community as well as the bus trip community. Pastor Zsofi and Pastor Iris will lead most of this fine evening of games, worship and community building.

Official CLAY registration opens soon as will registration for the bus trip. So come join us to see how CLAY is going to shape up to be awesome!

Buon
♥
Giorno



“A Night in Italy”

Saturday – February 3, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.

Our next fundraising event for the youth heading to CLAY 2018 is going to be a good one! “A Night in Italy” promises to be the date night that everyone will need right before Valentine’s Day. With homemade Italian style pizza, pasta, and desserts, who wouldn’t want to indulge!

Tickets will be available for \$20 and they will be available for purchase after worship service on Sunday for the next few weeks; as well, you will be able to call the church office to purchase your ticket(s) during office hours.

**Thank you so much for supporting the youth
at Messiah Lutheran.**

We hope you enjoy your evening!

Congregational News . . .

Moment of Prayer ~ Peace Chapel
Come join us on Tuesdays at 12:15
All Are We



Do you have a prayer request?

A few members gather each Tuesday in the Peace Chapel during the lunch hour to pray for known needs of our congregation, as well as our community, and current events in our world. If you have any prayer requests, please contact Pastor Iris or Donna Deobald to convey the particulars on Tuesday mornings. Your prayer requests remain confidential outside of the prayer group.



Check out the door stopper that Morris Hesje made! You can find it holding open the Fellowship Hall door! Thank you Morris for your gift!



SAVE THE DATES!

Lay Academy Winter Session (January 20th & 27th)

Building Community: Welcoming the Stranger / Loving Our Neighbor

Welcoming the stranger and getting to know one's neighbors, be they inside or outside the pew, has never been the easiest of missions. But it has become a central one of our national church.

Join our Facilitator Rev. Dr. Dave Saude, Winnipeg and our featured presenters:

Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein of Alberta,

Dr. Fikre Tsehai of BC (CLWR),

Rev. Jason Johnson of Saskatchewan,

Rev. Tyler Gingrich of Manitoba

as we learn and discuss about 'welcoming and loving others as ourselves'.

How do we do that in a culture that seems to raise barriers?

Visit our webpage <https://layacademy5.wixsite.com/elcicwla/buildingcommunity> and the attached documents for more details!

Opening Soon:

Registration fees are \$25 per session or \$47 for the 2 dates.

8% discount for home attendees.

Sessions run from 10:30 am to 1:10 pm SK/MB Time

Saskatchewan

Messiah Lutheran Church, 1796 - 15th Ave E, Prince Albert;

St. Olaf Lutheran Church, 665 Central Ave N, Swift Current

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1215 McKercher Dr., Saskatoon (Jan. 20th)

Lutheran Theological Seminary, 114 Seminary Crescent, Saskatoon (Jan. 27th – Rev. Johnson in attendance)

Contact: 306-966-7851, layacademy.lts@usask.ca

*Rev. Dr. Dave Saude obtained his Masters of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and his Doctor of Ministry from St. Stephen's College in Edmonton. He is now semi-retired after serving over 40 years as a pastor in Western Canada. Facilitator: *Rev. Dave Saude MNO. He has conducted numerous lay training sessions in Manitoba for those who serve in their congregations as worship assistants, leaders and preachers.*

Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, AB Jan. 20 "Theology of Welcoming". Kayko Driedger Hesslein was born and raised in Calgary, receiving her M. Div from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She was ordained in the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC and served her first parish in Toronto from 2002-2007. She then received her PhD in Systematic Theology (with a minor in Christian and Jewish History) from Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Kayko and her family moved back to Calgary in 2014. She has taught courses at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon.

Dr. Fike Tsehai, BC Jan. 20 "Making a Difference Through Resettlement". Fikre M Tsehai is the Development Manager of the Refugee Resettlement Program for Canadian Lutheran World Relief, working out of Western Regional office in New Westminster, BC. He studied at the University of Paris in France obtaining his Doctorate in 1984. For the past 25 years, he has been working with Lutheran Churches and other community groups to resettle refugees in Canada and has been instrumental in resettling over 10,000 refugees in all parts of the country. Fikre has been a member of the Sponsorship Agreement Holders Association Council serving three consecutive terms. He has also served as a member of the Executive Council for the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR).

Rev. Jason Johnson, SK Jan. 27 "Congregational Challenges in Reconciliation". Jason Johnson is a graduate from the Lutheran Theological Seminary and presently serves as the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Laird while also working as a counsellor at an inner-city elementary school in Saskatoon. He has played a key role in building community amidst the Lutherans, Mennonites, and the Young Chipewyan Band in the process of reconciliation for Treaty 6. <https://www.reserve107thefilm.com/>. He also participates in advocacy work with Saskatoon Native Ministry in areas of poverty, homelessness, gang lifestyle, and missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Rev. Tyler Gingrich, MB Jan. 27 "Finding Our Way in Upholding God's Mission". Tyler Gingrich, raised on Vancouver Island, obtained his M.Div from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, and has served in all four western synods of the ELCIC. His ministry has included rural ministry, mission development work, and work with Canadian Lutheran World Relief. He currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop for the MNO Synod, and holds both the Missions and Youth and Young Adult Ministry portfolios. He has a special interest in social justice work, local activism, and partnerships that cross ecumenical, inter-faith and cultural lines. In 2016, Tyler participated in a "Northern Justice and Reconciliation Tour" that connected Anglicans and Lutherans with the Tataskweyak Cree Nation in the community of Split Lake, MB. (View a video of the experience [here](#).)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18th – 25th, 2018)



What is it?

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an annual ecumenical celebration. Christians around the world are invited to pray for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship.

You can use the [resources](#) on this website not only during the Week of Prayer itself, but throughout the year. Let them help you express the degree of communion already given to the churches, and to pray together that we may be more fully united in the one Christ.

[Learn about the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity theme >](#)

When does it take place?

In the northern hemisphere, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally held every year between January 18th (the Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) and January 25th (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul). In the southern hemisphere, it is often celebrated during the Pentecost season. Your communities are invited to choose the dates that would be appropriate for your context.

[Discover how to organize a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service >](#)

Why does it matter?

In the Gospel of John, Christ prays for his disciples before going to the cross. He asks that his followers “may all be one,” as he and the Father are one, “so that the world may believe” and have life in his name (John 17). Christian unity is here made central to the very being of the church and to its mission and witness.

Today, we live with divisions even as we yearn for the unity promised and commissioned by Christ. The long and often painful history of Christianity has sundered our churches for theological, liturgical, and political reasons. Many Christians now strive to heal these divisions, yet honour our diversity, through ecumenical dialogue, common action, and relationship-building. They also come together to pray for unity, joining Christ in his prayer to the Father.

The worldwide celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is both the seed and the fruit of this striving for ‘unity in diversity’. This time of shared prayer, reflection, and fellowship invites Christians of different traditions to deepen our relationships and to live and witness together throughout the year.

[Read more about the history of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity >](#)

A special service will be held in Prince Albert

on

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 – 7pm

@ Sacred Heart Cathedral 1401-4th Ave West

Liturgical Service In observance of the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity