

# February 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.”

### MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Pancake Supper hosted by the Men’s Group

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

5pm – 6:30pm

FOLLOWED BY:



February 14, 2018 - 7pm



#### **Ash Wednesday Service – Lenten Services**

The Lenten season starts on a very interesting day this year, February 14, or Valentine’s Day. That day we will start our Lenten services with an **Ash Wednesday service at 7pm**, following the Shrove pancake and sausage supper prepared by our Men’s group. The theme of our Lenten services this year focuses on how we face our fears and how the Lenten disciplines can help us in that endeavour.

**Mark this on your calendar: Lenten services every Wednesday during the Lenten season at 7pm.**

AND

#### **Noon Hour Lenten Lunches 2018**

Calvary United Church starting

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

NB March 8<sup>th</sup> only will be at

St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church

(Soup/Sandwich will be provided – free will offering)

## February 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*

# Children, Come!

by Iris Kristjánsdóttir

A story tells of two young children who were talking to each other about parent problems one day. One of them complained to the other saying, “First they teach you to talk, then they teach you to walk, and as soon as you learn how to do both, they tell you to sit down and be quiet.”

The dilemma of childhood and parenthood! Many have been there, done that. What about the raising of children and youth in our church? Have you been there, done that? What is your view of young people in church? I think most of us would say: Of course we want young families with children in church! They are the future, they represent life and growth in the church. But what does that mean? Does that mean that we are ready to be supportive in more than words?

I think we all want children and youth in Sunday school but often we’re not ready to go out of our way to see that their spiritual education needs are covered. We want them in Sunday morning worship service, but we may not be willing to participate in their nurturing. We want them in church as long as it doesn’t cost us too much of our time. We like them to just sit still and be quiet.

In Mark 10:13-16, people were bringing children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw, this he was upset. He said to them, “*Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.*” And Jesus took the children into his arms and blessed them.

What does this passage teach us about our ministry to youth? Notice that the text mentions that “*people*” were bringing children to Jesus. This seems to mean that there were more than just the parents that came to Jesus with their children, there were more involved. Maybe grandparents, brothers and sisters, other family members, friends and neighbors.

The text seems to suggest that we are all called to bring the youth to know and be blessed by Jesus. Instead of sitting back and talking about all that’s wrong with young people nowadays and how things are not like they were when we were growing up, we should be more involved with them, more physically present with them in church. As a result of the adults who brought the children to Jesus and Jesus’ acceptance of them, the children were able to find an intimate relationship with Jesus. A 2004 survey showed that 85% of Christians began their relationship with Jesus before age 14. Other more recent studies say the same thing. Statistics show us that it does indeed make sense to spend time teaching the young.

Notice that in Mark’s text, the disciples kept the people from bringing the youth to Jesus. They probably thought Jesus didn’t need to be bothered by people as insignificant as children or they just wanted to keep these noisy children and their nuisance guardians away from Jesus. After all, he had better things to do, right? Why would the disciples do something like that? They had already seen Jesus’ heart for children; when he raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Mark 5:41), when he delivered a boy who was possessed with a demon that kept him mute (Mark 7:29-30), and when Jesus instructed the disciples that, “*Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.*” (Mark 9:33-37).

In reaction to the disciples’ actions, the text says that “*Jesus was indignant.*” That term in Greek means to have deep emotional pain. It’s the only time that Greek word is used in the New Testament. It suggests that Jesus didn’t tolerate that kind of attitude from his followers. The disciples thought Jesus needed protection from bothersome young people, but Jesus pointed out



that it is sometimes the young people who need protection from the bumbling adults.

Children and youth ministry is an offering of service by the local church as a whole to and for young people. It involves us communicating the grace of God to young people through preaching and teaching of the Word, accepting them as being important in the kingdom of God, and meeting their needs, showing the love of Christ to them through our actions and encouragement.

Young people are precious in their own right and they stand for something bigger than themselves. What we do in our ministry to youth is not about spending money, it's not just about having a good time and being entertained, and it's not about a place where they can go so they don't disturb the adults. It's about introducing them to the Christian faith and seeing them become transformed by it, just as it transformed us.

When we say that we invest in youth in our church, we are investing in the future of the church. We have a good group of children and youth at Messiah that need our support in many ways. This summer, our youth will be heading to Thunder Bay, ON, for a Canadian Lutheran and Anglican youth gathering. The theme of this CLAY gathering is THREADS. The thought behind the theme is that stories are the diverse threads that God weaves together to form the tapestry of our lives. They can be ancient, personal, intimate, and can help us find meaning and purpose. The youth participants are encouraged to discern their God-given stories. Our youth are busy fundraising for this trip and we hope that the congregation will support them in their endeavor.

There are so many ways in which to support our youth. Some practical ways for encouraging them are, for example, speaking to them, giving them a pat on the back and telling them you think they're doing a great job, sending a card or letter of encouragement, inviting them to sit with you during church, talking positively about the impact they're having on other young people, and praying for them. I encourage you to do that and show them that they matter. May we be blessed by their important presence among us.

## *Church Council*

I write this update from the St. George Hotel, located near the Old City of Jerusalem. Wayne and I are in our final days of the Cdn Lutheran World Relief Global Encounter. Today we met with recently installed Bishop Sani Ibrahim "Charlie" Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and talked about the issues, challenges and hopes of the small Christian and Lutheran community in this part of the world. We walked the 14 Stations of the Cross in the Old City, and then toured the Holocaust Memorial. Every day has been an incredible journey throughout the historic sites, including discussions and questions in our attempt to understand the complexity of the political and social environment in which these people live.

Now on to Messiah - Council met early in January, and some of the meeting discussions included:

- Compiling the survey information related to questions about ministerial support such as a congregational coordinator.
- Further discussion and a decision on this role is tabled at this time as there may be opportunity to have an intern pastor later this year.
- With the Annual General Meeting set for March 11, ministerial teams and committee reports were due January 31. We hope you are able to attend the Meeting which starts about 12:30 pm following Sunday service and a pizza lunch. Sign-up sheets for the pizza lunch will be posted on Sundays prior to March 11.
- Rides to church are provided through Checker & Family Taxi. Previously a fee of \$3.00 was paid by church members with the remaining cost paid by Messiah, however, in future there will be no charge to church member with the entire cost paid by Messiah.
- Messiah is eligible for two Faith Life grants of \$300.00. For 2018, grants have been approved for the Youth Group fundraisers. In addition, Faith Life provides \$100 for our pizza lunch prior to the Annual General Meeting. We are grateful for the support provided by Faith Life.

- Thank you to everyone who supported our wider community through donations of clothing for the YWCA/Our House; mittens, toques and scarves (King George School); food for the Christmas Hampers, We Care bags, and those who volunteered for the Salvation Army Kettles.
- Plans are being made to update the congregational member photo frames, and further details will be announced later in the spring / summer.

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



In January the children and youth worked together to make friendship bracelets which were distributed to many in the congregation at the end of the Welcome Service for the Congregation of Birch Hills. My apologies if you didn't receive a bracelet, or if the delivery of the bracelets was a bit abrupt. They were the product of 20 minutes of frenzied child labour, and while we had worked on handing them out in a welcoming sort of way ... in the excitement of it all the speed of delivery became a bit of a contest ... the couriers were enthusiastic, and the 'shipping' was express. Ah, the exuberance of youth!

We also began to explore the Lord's Prayer in January and the goal is to have the children recite the prayer at the beginning of their Sunday School sessions in hopes that they will have it memorized by the end of the term. We also looked at 1 Corinthians 13 and worked on a love-themed booklet of puzzles and fill-in-the-blanks.

The Older Youth Bible Study (Route 66) began again in January and my thanks to Merv Bender and Harvey Jacobsen for leading the sessions in January. We have had 3 participants in the sessions so far, and look forward to having more youth join in.

- **On February 4th** the children will have a day to rehearse a choral piece with Colleen Bowen and work on a Valentine's Day cootie-catcher of scripture verse for them to take home.

- **On February 11th**, the children will participate in the service and sing.

- **Please note** there will be no Sunday School on February 18th due to the school break.

- **On February 25th** the children will be in the kitchen helping to prepare soup for the congregation to be served at the potluck on March 4th. They will also work on a placemat craft which will be used for that purpose as well.

- **Our hope is that the soup for March 4th will add to the potluck** - i.e. there will also be other selections brought by participants for that meal since the logistics of having the kids make soup in advance for that many people is a bit much. If you are able to assist the children in their act of service on the 4th of March, please let me know as it's a big job for little people! Please also considering acknowledging the children/youth on the 4th and telling them you appreciate their efforts - we want to grow future volunteers who feel that their contributions to the church and life of the congregation are meaningful.

Sunday School takes place during the 10:30 Service and begins immediately after the Children's Story. The materials are suited for children age 5-10ish, and the Older Youth Bible Study is aimed at age 10/12 and up. Children under 5 are welcome to attend with an adult to supervise them. If you would like to volunteer to assist in Sunday School or feel called to lead a Route 66 session please contact me after the service, or at [dranne@sasktel.net](mailto:dranne@sasktel.net)

**Sincerely,**

**Anne Barlow  
Volunteer Sunday School Coordinator**

## Messiah Youth

We have a very healthy youth group in our church that we're all very proud of. Many of them are now busy with fundraising for their CLAY gathering this summer and they're also busy with all kinds of other activities. Here are some of the things that the youth have on their schedule for February and March 2018:

1. **Confirmation H<sup>2</sup>H Events.** Our confirmation youth continue to meet every second Sunday. The next confirmation events are as follows: February 11 and 25, and March 11 and 25.
2. **Night in Italy, Saturday February 3, 6pm.** By the time you read this, this event has probably taken place. Our CLAY youth are hosting a wonderful supper event on February 3 at 6pm here at Messiah, *Night in Italy*. They're selling tickets for \$20 each, and that includes a wonderful meal in a nice Italian setting that the youth prepared and set up in our fellowship hall.
3. **Pre-CLAY youth gathering in Saskatoon, February 9-10.** Awesome evening, night and morning at Zion Lutheran Church in Saskatoon - \$20 a person, includes snacks on Friday night and breakfast Saturday morning. Great evening of fun, games, singing and meeting others. All youth in our church are welcome to this gathering, even the ones who are not going to CLAY.
4. **Worship service on February 11 with participation of children and youth.** Great opportunity to have our children and youth involved in our worship services. We will be asking the kids to do readings, skit, greeting, ushering and much more in the service. Come join us for the service!
5. **Bible studies for older children/youth in Sunday School.** On most Sundays this semester, older children and youth are invited to participate in Bible studies during Sunday school. Thanks to the adults who volunteered to teach this age group. Come to church on Sunday and see what it's all about!
6. **Sunday school hosting potluck on March 4.** Sunday school children are hosting potluck on March 4 after service. Preparation takes place the Sunday before, February 25. Youth are invited to join them and help out.
7. **Confirmation Kinasao Retreat March 9-11.** Our annual trip to Kinasao with confirmation youth takes place on March 9-11. Great weekend of learning and fun, supported by Kinasao staff. We consider this to be a very important part of our confirmation education and experience, so we encourage all our confirmands to participate. The cost is \$100 per person. If you have any reservation about the price, don't let that stop you, please contact pastor Iris.
8. **Bun making and sleepover, March 17.** Another CLAY fundraising event will take place, most likely on March 17, coordinated by Colleen Bowen. The youth will meet in church on Saturday evening and make lots of wonderful buns, and then have a sleepover in church - and then sell the buns to our congregation after the service next day. Great night - lots of fun! We hope that our congregation will be hungry for buns that Sunday morning!



9. **Easter Pageant on Palm Sunday, March 25.** We all remember our awesome Christmas Pageant last December - well, now we want to do an Easter pageant! All children and youth are encouraged to participate. More information later.



We all agree how important it is to nurture and encourage our children and youth in church in the best way possible. Please remember to pray for them.



### Messiah Lutheran Women

Our general meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> immediately after church services in the Peace Chapel. We will be disbursing funds. Also, elections will be held for all positions except one program coordinator. Please come with nominations or submit your own name if you are willing to hold an executive position.

The mitts, toques, scarves from the mitten tree were donated to King George Community School. Thank you for your donations.



“Under His wings you will find refuge.”  
~ Psalm 9:1



February 27<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 p.m.

Peace Chapel

Please come out and join us in the Peace Chapel for coffee, knitting and crocheting - these ARE NOT requirements!  
We do a lot of visiting and your fellowship would be welcomed!

## *Congregational News . . . . .*



Congratulations to Kristi & Ian Stolee, and big (little) sister Adalynn, on the safe arrival of Joel Selmer Stolee born on January 4, 2018 weighing at 9lbs 13ozs and 20.75” long.

### Psalm 139:13-16

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

## Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

On January 14<sup>th</sup> Messiah officially welcomed the members of Birch Hills Lutheran congregation into our church family. A potluck lunch was held after worship. Welcome to you all . . . .

Please email or call the church to have your name added to the data base and email list. This will be an ongoing project over the next few months.



## *Community News*



### **World Day of Prayer 2018**

**All God's Creation is Very Good!**

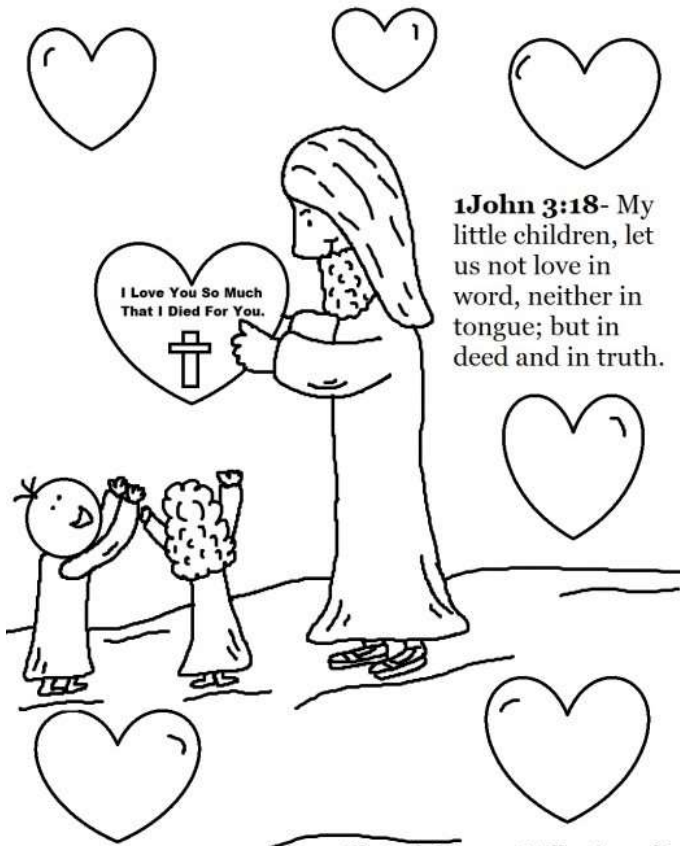
Written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer. Through World Day of Prayer, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and engage with the whole world, are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures, share the burdens of other people by praying with them and for them, and use our own talents in the service of God's world.

This year the material comes from women of the Republic of Suriname, on the northeastern Atlantic coast of South America. It centers on Genesis 1:1-31 as the women from Suriname lift up their voices to remind us that we are caretakers of God's creation!

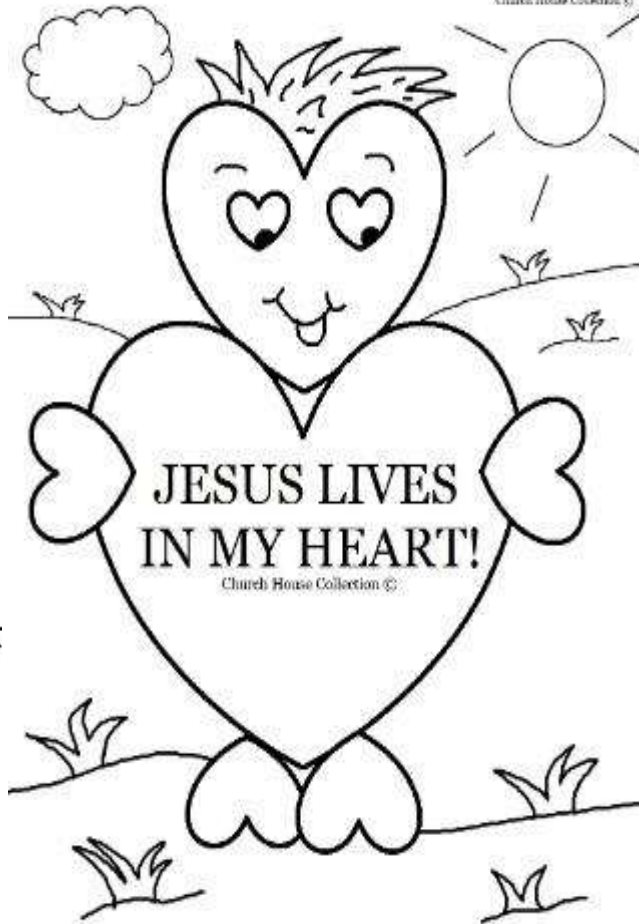
**We will join our neighbours in celebrating Word Day of Prayer at:  
St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, 581 9<sup>th</sup> Street East,  
Friday, March 2, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.**

More information about our community's service is available from: 306-764-4637 Please join us!  
The Churches of Prince Albert.



**1John 3:18-** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

Church House Collection ©



Psalm 104:34- My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD.

*Happy Valentine's Day!*