

# May 2018 Newsletter

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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## 2018 Council

### EXECUTIVE

**Chairperson:** Cheryl Bauer Hyde

**Vice Chairperson:** Merv Bender

**Secretary:** Jean Meyers

### MESSIAH MINISTRY TEAMS:

#### **Caring Ministry & Community Service:**

Lois Manchur

Jean Meyers

#### **Education Ministry:**

Merv Bender

Jean Meyers

#### **Property Management Ministry**

Dick Honch

Darren Sundbo

#### **Worship Ministry**

Colleen Bowen



#### **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 on Sunday(s)  
10:00am Coffee On*



*10:30am Worship Service  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month  
are Services with Holy Communion*

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## **Bible Studies in May/June**

In the week before Pentecost Sunday we will start a new Bible Study course on **Paul’s Letter to the Galatians**. This study is a part of *The Books of Faith Series*, that explores individual books of the Bible through historical, literary, devotional, and Lutheran-theological perspectives.

Paul’s letter to the Galatians could easily be considered one of the most radical book in the New Testament. It shows Paul at his most youthful, least understated and most non-compromising. Participants in the study will explore this rich letter and the background that surrounds those to whom it was written through four big questions.

**This 4-session Bible study explores selected passages from Galatians.**

#### **Sessions include:**

1. What happens to people pleasers? (Galatians 1:1-24)
2. Is there one, and only one, Gospel (good message)? (Galatians 2:1-21)
3. So...what about God’s rules now? (Galatians 3:6-29; 5:18)
4. How do we live by the Spirit? (Galatians 3:1-5; 5:1-26; 6:8-10)

Other Bible studies of the *Books of Faith Series* that we have done in the past few years at Messiah include *Opening the Book of Faith*, *Rediscovering the Book of Faith*, and *Revelation*. This Bible study takes place **every Wednesday at 7pm from May 16 to June 6**. All are welcome!

# The Greatest Gardener

by Iris Kristjánsdóttir

It's spring. Time for planting, seeding, and preparing for the season of garden and growth. A wonderful time, really. I'm just not one of the people who does any of those things. In the season of spring, I'm more of a "TimeToTakeYourMotorcycleOut" kind of girl. But that's just me.



I think some people are natural-born gardeners. Jesus himself grew up in a society that was familiar with agriculture. The images that he used to explain the ways of his Father in heaven are familiar to his audience. Take John 15:1-8 for example:

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."*

It seems to me that in these verses, Jesus is suggesting that the word of God is like a giant weed trimmer for the people of God. Our Lord scatters the word with grace in his teaching and in his example. The word of God comes into us and as it takes hold it is designed to remove areas in our life that keep us from God while making room for God to dwell within us. The word of God not only provides us with an opportunity for growth, it provides us with the possibility of greater health. By cutting away growth that is unnecessary and may even stunt the fullness of our being, pruning serves to provide space and room for God's better growth and life to shine forth and become apparent in and through us.

There may be aspects in our personal life and the life of our church community that needs pruning as well. When congregations seek to be all things to all people, the danger is that they operate out of their own ideas rather than making room for the word of God to dwell within them. When congregations are pruned by the word of God, when congregations listen and discover the guidance of the Holy Spirit unique to its identity, congregations become fruitful and noticed and make a difference not only among the membership but in the larger community in which they are situated.

One of the things I need to prune in my personal life is time management, how to manage my time equally between my ministry duties and my duties to myself and God. The pruning that I find myself needing is to adjust my life in a way that I could allow God to be God and to simply serve as God's minister, one day at a time seeking his guidance for each day. I think that when we allow ourselves to be pruned by God, we discover that as painful as the pruning may be at the moment of pruning, our lives do become richer, fuller, and more abundant.

The reading from John 15 reminds us that as we abide in our Lord we can ask for whatever we wish and it will be done for us. Abiding in the Lord doesn't give us license to ask for things that are selfish or hurtful or outside of God's will. As we abide in our Lord and our Lord's word abides in us, as we spend time each day in our congregation and in our lives seeking our Lord's direction and purpose, we will discover God's glory and we will discover God's blessing in the fruitfulness of our lives as we are given the privilege of serving those around us with his love, his joy, his patience, and his faithfulness.

Let us find pleasure in presenting our lives to our Lord and to those whom the Lord has given us to serve, and let us pray that our Lord will come and do the work of gardening that he needs to do within us and within our communities, so that he may be glorified, that the world may be served and that we may be blessed as he abides in us and we in him.

## *Church Council Update*

**Following the Annual General Meeting at the first meeting of Council, the following positions were affirmed:**

Cheryl Bauer Hyde – Chair

Merv Bender - Vice-Chair

Jean Meyers – Secretary

Morris Hesje – Treasurer

Garry Reinhardt - Financial Secretary

Harvey Jacobsen - Envelope Secretary

**Council Liaisons for the Ministry Teams are:**

Worship – Colleen Bowen

Education – Merv Bender, Jean Meyers

Caring Ministry & Community Service – Lois Manchur, Jean Meyers

Property Management – Dick Honch, Darren Sundbo

Cheryl, Merv and Jean serve as the Executive Committee with responsibility for the finance function. All of the ministry teams also include people from the congregation. If you are interested in helping out in any of these areas, please talk to anyone on Council.

**Some of the upcoming events include:**

- **Confirmation Sunday on May 6** with a potluck lunch to follow (Council will set/cleanup) – cake will be provided
- **Graduation Sunday on June 3** with a potluck lunch to follow – another cake will be provided
- **Kinasao Sunday on June 17 @ 11am**, Christopher Lake – no service at Messiah that Sunday
- **Photo sessions** for those people who want to have their photos included or updated in the member directory in the hallway will be set up – dates to be announced
- **Watch for work begin done in / around the church** – new covering on the front steps, upgrading of lights in the Sanctuary, and some maintenance work in the parking lot

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

## *MESSIAH YOUTH - SPRING AND SUMMER*

Youth in our church have been pretty active this winter, especially the ones going to the CLAY gathering this summer. Thanks to all of Messiah's members who have supported them in their fundraising for the trip.

The following events are planned for this spring and summer for the youth:

### **Apex and Pizza, April 29**

The youth are heading down to Saskatoon for a fun afternoon at the Apex Trampoline Park, with pizza supper at Boston Pizza afterwards.

### **Confirmation Sunday, May 6**

There are 6 youth getting confirmed in our Confirmation Blessing Service on May 6; Karissa Alford, Chelsea Bellerose, Leah Bratvold, Courtney Hansen, Kade Hufnagel and Nathan Remus. Join us for the celebration!

### **Service May 13 – see Sunday School corner**

We have a very interesting service coming up on Mother's Day, May 13 – check out the Sunday School corner for more information!

### **Youth Wind-up, May 27**

Our usual H2H and T4T youth wind-up will happen on May 27. We still haven't decided on where it takes place but we will send out emails about it later in May.

### **Graduation appreciation, June 3**

In our service on June 3 we will honor our graduation students who are finishing 12<sup>th</sup> grade, university or higher education. Potluck lunch is served after the service with a special cake in honor of the graduates.

### **CLAY gathering – August 15-19 (trip from August 11 to 20)**

Our youth have diligently raised funds for their trip this summer to the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering in Thunder Bay in August. There are 15 of us going, 12 youth participants and 3 leaders, and we are certain it will be a great experience. Thanks to all who have supported the youth in various ways in the past few years. It is much appreciated!

## *SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER*



Spring has sprung and with it comes the end of the Sunday School year!

April was a busy month for the kids and we spent some time working on learning The Lord's Prayer, Adam & Eve, The Creation Story. At our last official class for the year (April 29) we gave the Sunday School Participants Night Meditation Bags which have illustrated scripture pages and a flashlight for children who find it difficult to fall asleep due to anxiety. The Older Youth had a few sessions of Route 66. We had some good turnout in April with up to 12 children in Sunday School and 9 older youth participating.

**On May 6th** the Sunday School children will participate in the Confirmation Service. On May 13th we will have our end of the year wind-up and have chosen a different format from previous years. The details are yet to be finalized, but it will feature the talents of our youth and Pastor Íris and a 'magical' element. You won't want to miss it!

**May 13th** we will also be thanking those who have stepped up to volunteer their time to make Sunday School and the Route 66 program such a success. If you think you aren't qualified to work with kids then you would fit right in to leading the Older Youth program - many of the people who stepped up to lead this year felt they were seriously outside their comfort zone yet did so anyways. No one ran away screaming and the kids enjoyed their lessons, so yes with God anything is possible!

We would like to continue the Route 66 program in the fall, and whether that is possible or not will depend on having adult volunteers who will lead the program. The aim is to only ask an individual to lead twice a year so as to not make it a burden, plus give the youth a chance to meet lots of parishioners. I've volunteered to coordinate the Sunday School again for next year and the term will begin in September. So keep the education of youth in prayer, consider volunteering to lead, and we'll see you in the fall!

**Anne Barlow**

**Volunteer Sunday School Coordinator**

## Congregational News . . . . .

- **News from the Hopkins:** Jessica Hopkins, granddaughter of Stirling & Marion, participated in the Boston Marathon this year. Jessica lives in Edmonton and her plans were for her and her fiancé to fly to Boston via Toronto. However, the ice storm in Toronto meant no planes were flying! Plans changed from flying to driving to Boston. The Marathon went well and Jessica placed 1,500 out of 30,000 participants. The next big day for Jessica will be her wedding day on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 which just happens to be the 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary for Stirling & Marion.
- **After being hospitalized for a few weeks at the end of January, Nettie Piecowye relocated to Saskatoon** to recover and be closer to her daughter, Nancy. She now resides at Primrose Chateau in the Lawson Heights area of Saskatoon and her health is good. She misses the Messiah Lutheran community and extends an open invitation to stop in for a cup of coffee at Primrose Chateau. She can be reached at (306) 384-0940.
- **A BIG THANK YOU to Anne & Roger Mayert, and their main helpers Hazel Schultz, Lorraine Anderson, Dorothy Banjac & Cheryl Stewart.** The sale brought in a total of \$960.50.



### Men's Breakfast Men's Group



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](mailto:merv.bender@sasktel.net) for more information. **Hope to see you there are breakfast meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>!**



Ladies mark your calendars for May 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Banquet  
Doors open: 5:30pm  
Supper: 6:00pm

Missed picking your ticket up? Call the office.  
Deadline for tickets is Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> by 4pm.



If you're on Facebook, please like our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert/>

## Community Events . . .



Come check out Susan Prakash's art work!  
Susan Prakash would like to extend an open invitation to all to come out and view her art work at Amy's On Second.  
2990-2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue West  
Sunday, May 6, 2018  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Check out the poster on the Bulletin Board.

### WATSONAIRS SPRING CONCERT ~ In Harmony

May 6, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

E.A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts 142-12<sup>th</sup> St

\*Special Guest Artists\*

Tickets \$20 Available at the Door or from Watsonair Members



Camp Kinasao's  
24th Annual  
WALK-RUN-BIKE-A-THON  
Tour-de-Kinasao 2018  
June 2, 2018  
Sign up now at: [tourdekinasao.myevent.com](http://tourdekinasao.myevent.com)



For those who are unable to be in church for worship on Sundays, there is Central Lutheran Church in Moose Jaw that has a radio broadcast that you can listen to. Check it out.

**Radio Service Broadcast**

For over 50 years, Central Lutheran Church congregation has broadcasted 15 minute worship services on Sunday mornings at 7:45am on CHAB 800 AM. The serving Pastor does these services in order to reach out to those who cannot attend a worship service on Sundays. These broadcasts are sponsored by local members and from our large listening audience over southwestern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and parts of Alberta.

There is also a radio station in Swift Current that you can tune in to on Sunday mornings. **CKSW 570 Radio**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**  
*In Mission for Others*

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**LCBI HIGH SCHOOL**  
*We Would See Justice*

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**LCBI Graduation Weekend**

The 2018 graduating class members are busy with preparations as LCBI Graduation Weekend is quickly approaching. The Bible verse for this year's class is Psalm 147:4 -*He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.* The theme for this year's graduation will revolve around this Bible verse, including the night sky, the stars and rural life. Graduation will once again be held on our traditional Mother's Day weekend

*Happy Mother's Day*

