

November 2018 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

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2018 Council

EXECUTIVE

Chairperson: Cheryl Bauer Hyde

Vice Chairperson: Merv Bender

Secretary: Jean Meyers

CHURCH COUNCIL MINISTRY TEAM:

Caring Ministry & Community Service

Lois Manchur

Jean Meyers

Education Ministry:

Merv Bender

Jean Meyers

Worship Ministry Team:

Colleen Bowen

Donna Silver

Property Management Ministry Team

Dick Honch

Darren Sundbo



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.”

Upcoming Events

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no potluck in November. On November 18th following worship service there will be lunch consisting of “beef on a bun”. No need to bring anything for this month except yourself and \$5. Thank you to Wayne & Cheryl and Anne & Roger for looking after these arrangements.

Remembrance Day Fall Supper



Sunday, November 11, 2018

4pm – 6pm

(Doors open at 3:30pm)

Adult: \$15

Children 6 – 12: \$8

5 & Under: Free

Menu featuring:

Roast Beef, Meat Balls and Pie!

November

Prayer List

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____
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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

God's Calling

by Iris Kristjánsdóttir

There is an old joke about a young farmer, who standing in his field, observed a peculiar cloud formation. The clouds formed the letters G, P, and C, and he thought them a call from God: *Go preach Christ!* The farmer rushed to the deacons of his church and insisted that he had been called to preach. Respectful of his ardor, they invited him to fill the pulpit. That Sunday the sermon was long, tedious, virtually incoherent. When it finally ended, the leaders sat in stunned silence. Finally, a wizened deacon muttered to the would-be preacher, "Seems to me the clouds were saying 'Go plant corn.'"

If it really happened that way, it wouldn't be the first time there's been confusion about what it means to be called into ministry. The concept of a *call* is one of the most profound of all biblical ideas. The Bible is riddled with stories about calls to men and women who, when summoned to service, went out and marked their generation in a particular way. In a sense, as Christians we are all called to Christ, to follow and obey him. He made that clear when he said to his disciples, *"If anyone would come after me he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me (Luke 9:23)."* The call to Jesus himself is the ultimate call on our lives.

The apostle Paul urged Christ's followers with these words: *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (Phil. 3:13-14). For Paul, the "call" was not as much a destination as a journey. Also, it was one that required commitment and moving forward in faith.

I've been thinking about my own calling lately. 22 years ago, I was called into ministry, to serve as associate pastor in a large congregation. After four years I became the senior pastor in that same congregation, and 12 years later a pastor here at Messiah. It's been a wonderful journey, most of all because of the loving relationships created and maintained. I have felt myself grow into the calling that God set out for me through those relationships and I'm eternally grateful for the invaluable support that I have received on the way.

For the past 10 years I have wondered if there might be something else in stock for me later in life. My thoughts and sense of calling has let me to think about a possible future in chaplaincy where the focus is on serving people in a different setting than a congregational one, either in hospitals or care homes. This sense of calling has grown stronger as the years have passed. So when an opportunity arose this past summer to apply for a chaplaincy position within the Luther Care Communities in Saskatoon, I felt God knocking on my door. It wasn't a good timing for me. We here at Messiah had just made a commitment to welcome an intern pastor to our congregation for a whole year, with me as her supervisor. I therefore dismissed the thought of applying for this position at first because I did not want to back out of that commitment. But God kept knocking. The sense of call grew stronger. I realized that this opportunity might not present itself again for many years. I also realized that our timing isn't always God's timing. With great reluctance I sent out my resume and applied for the position on the last day possible, struggling with feelings of doubt and guilt, but also feelings of excitement. I wasn't ready to leave Messiah but at the same time I wanted to follow this urge to try something new.



I went for an interview and that same day I was offered the position. I experienced simultaneously feelings of joy and sorrow. I had honestly not thought that it would go this far. I talked to a handful of people in our congregation, and also our intern pastor, and I was very grateful for the support and encouragement that they showed me, although they also expressed their sense of loss because of my possible departure. I received a formal offer for the position from Luther Care Communities, and after a short deliberation I accepted the offer, effective March 1, 2019.

Even now after having accepted the offer, I'm still struggling with mixed emotions of joy and sorrow. I don't want to leave, but it feels right to follow the call. I feel guilty for leaving the congregation with the straining task of finding a new pastor, but at the same time I know that you will welcome the challenge and are more than ready for it. I feel guilty and sad for leaving our intern pastor after only six months instead of a full year of internship, but I have high hopes that the church's council will be able to honor the full year internship agreement with our intern in cooperation with our Synod's bishop and Martin Luther University College. Hopefully Brooklynn will be able to continue her internship at Messiah, possibly with another supervisor by her side.

I will be leaving Messiah at the end of February with tremendous gratitude for all the good gifts that I have received from its members; gifts of love, generosity, companionship and nurturing spirit. The friendships that have been created in the past years will continue to grow. I'm not going far, just a few kilometers south! I am certain that the ministry at Messiah will continue to bloom and that some lucky pastor will hear God's call and grab the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful community. And I'm also certain that this change will create something new and beautiful for the congregation as a whole, because let's face it; we all need something new once in a while to keep us on our toes!

God works in mysterious ways. God knows things about our past, present and future, that we do not, and it's our choice to involve God in our decision making or leave God out of it. People throughout history have heard the call of Christ and most could probably never tell you *why* they heard the call. They are the first to admit that they are insufficient for the task (Paul's words), and that they have occasionally desired, like Jonah, to run. They might even have misread the message and should rather be planting corn than preaching Christ! But the call has prevailed.

Through the mysterious kindness of God I have heard God's call and I feel prompted to respond in acceptance and follow. I'm not sure where it will lead me but I trust God — not only for myself, but also for what God has in store for the wonderful congregation at Messiah Lutheran. I pray for blessings in abundance in your journey forward towards an unexpected but exciting future. May we trust in God's guidance with our future and hope for all things good and wonderful.

November Greetings

Intern Brooklynn Lane

Two months have come and gone, and November is here. October was a full month filled with visits to congregation members, two funerals, sermons, confirmation, youth events, and much more. It had been full of learning opportunities and God's grace. This month we are continuing with our Bible Study on the parables. Each Wednesday we meet and discuss one of the parables found in the Bible. This coming week we are looking at two parables together; new cloth and old wine (Matthew 9:16) and new wine in old wineskins (Matthew 9:17). We do not have set material, but are reading the Bible, reflecting on the passage/passages, and discussing what resonates with us, challenges us, or any questions or wonderings we have. All are welcome to come. We meet Wednesday, 7:00 pm in the Peace Chapel at Messiah Lutheran Church. Come dwell in the Word of God with us!

Feel free to drop by my office anytime for a visit. May your month be filled with God's presence and love.

The grace and peace of Christ be with you,
Intern Pastor Brooklynn Lane

Church Council Update

As we observe All Saints' Day, we not only remember those who have gone before us but are reminded of our connectedness as Christians. Who is a saint? *We all are* as followers of Jesus. God calls a "saint" anyone who trusts in Christ alone for salvation and is granted by God to any common, salt-of-the-earth person who simply trusts Christ

1Corinthians 1:2: To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.

New name tags on lanyards will be distributed to the congregation in the next couple of weeks. If you didn't get a name tag, please contact Donna in the office and she will prepare it for you. We are all encouraged to wear the name tags at Sunday Service and other church functions so that we can learn each other's names and to be more welcoming to visitors.

We had a number of the Share your Gifts (blue) forms returned so thanks to everyone who completed one, and thanks for the ongoing sharing of gifts (time and talents) that already happens at Messiah. In case you missed completing one and have access to a computer, an online questionnaire (Survey Monkey) has been created. An email with the link has been sent out to the Messiah distribution list or you can contact Intern Pastor Brooklynn (email brooklynnlane@gmail.com) and she can email the link to you. There are also paper copies available on the table in the narthax to complete and return if you prefer to provide your information in that manner.

The Messiah family photo wall is being updated; just a few of the recently submitted photos to be put into a photo frame. If you would like to submit a photo for inclusion or would like to have a photo taken, please talk to Donna in the office.

Upcoming events include the Remembrance Day supper on November 11 (see sign up sheets in the narthex), Beef on a Bun lunch following the service on November 18, and the Lay Academy on November 17 and 24 (contact Merv Bender).

The next Council meeting is Tuesday, November 27 at 5pm.

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

Note regarding Pastor Iris: While we rejoice at the call to LutherCare chaplaincy that Pastor Iris has accepted, her departure is a huge loss to our congregation. We give thanks for her ministry and the friendships developed during her time here (and it continues into 2019), and that she will be just down the road in Saskatoon. Council will be meeting to begin the call process and calling on the Bishop's office to assist Messiah as we move forward. We pray for guidance and God's support during this journey of discernment.

Caring Ministry & Community Service

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the YWCA during the month of October. We collected 7 boxes/bags of clothing and a box each of books and household items. The YWCA was very thankful for these donations.

During the month of November we will be collecting donations for the Prince Albert Safe Shelter for Women.

The Shelter provides temporary (up to 6 weeks) shelter, safety, nutrition, transportation support and referrals to women and their children fleeing an abusive situation. They need clothing, household items, and books so if you missed donating in October, you still have an opportunity to bring in items to donate in November.

**Jean Meyers and Lois Manchur
Caring Ministry & Community Service**

Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW)

MLW hosted "Fall Faire" Saturday, October 27th. This event brought in over \$1200. Many thanks to all who participated by providing goods for sale, worked the event and attended to consume desserts and beverages and purchase items. Thank you everyone!

Corrine Amyotte, MLW

MESSIAH YOUTH



Unravelling the Threads of Racism in our Story

A youth retreat for 12-18 to build on the on the **THREADS** that brought us together at CLAY2018, to grow in faith, and to discover how we continue to weave the story of the SK Youth of the ELCIC and the ACC

November 23-25 @ Camp Kinasao

Guest speaker, the Rev. Emmanuel Aristide, will talk about faith, racism, and ways we can work to raise up cultural diversity all around us.

To ask questions or to register for this event, please email sksynodiyam@gmail.com

Cost: \$50 / Person
1 Leader per 8 Youth

Logos: YBYAM Youth and Young Adult Ministry of Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC, Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada In Mission for Others

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

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.



7pm to 8:30pm - Peace Chapel.

Bible Study is on the Parables of Jesus.
All are welcome to participate!

AND

Walking Wednesday!

Join Jean Meyers and Intern Pastor Brooklynn every **Wednesday at 10 am** for walking and fellowship.

See Jean or Brooklynn for any questions or further details



- **Congratulations to Joyce Nilson on the arrival of her 19th great-grandchild.** Mila Elizabeth Nilson, born October 23, 2018 to Tara & Tory Nilson.
- **Congratulations to Morris & Angeline Hesje on their upcoming 50th Anniversary on November 16th, 2018.**
- **Gladys Ronning has moved into the Mennonite Nursing Home, Rosthern, SK.** Her mailing address is Box 370, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, S0K 3R0.

Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.	He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.



BREAD OF LIFE

Someone once said, "My relationship with Jesus is like a bread and jam sandwich. He is the Bread of Life and it seems I'm always in a jam." Whenever we get ourselves in a jam we turn to God for help. In times of trouble it is easy to see our need for spiritual food. We hunger desperately for the Bread of Life that is Christ Jesus. We need to be assured of His love and forgiveness. But how are our souls nourished on a day to day basis? We all do a good job of making sure our body gets food everyday, but it not so obvious to see that we are sometimes starving for spiritual food. *"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never go thirsty."* John 6:35. Using a bread analogy, let us take a look at ourselves.

What spiritual "bread type" are you?

- **Banana Bread** – You like quick and easy devotion that require little effort, yet are satisfying.
- **Homemade Yeast Bread** – You get into God's Word with diligence, kneading it thoroughly verse by verse. Then you let the thoughts sit and "rise," pondering God's will in your life.
- **Sliced Bread** – You feel sandwiched in by life's many different demands. Time, like each slice, is quickly used up, leaving nothing but leftover heels of time with the Lord.
- **Unleavened Bread** – You judge yourself according to God's law and see only your own deeds and shortcomings.
- **Manna** – Through the Word and daily prayer you are reminded of your dependence on God to provide His love and forgiveness.
- **Pita Bread** – You are eager to try something new and challenging. You enjoy attending Bible class or teaching Sunday School.
- **Bagel** – You feel like you are going in circles and getting nowhere in the same old routine.
- **English Muffins** – Morning devotions, along with a glass of "Sonshine" get you going each day.
- **Dinner Rolls** – Formal worship settings suit you best, but people must butter you up to get you involved.
- **Hamburger Bun** – You order your devotions to go, by listening to an audiocassette in the car or while jogging.
- **French Bread** – You feel a little stiff when it comes to sharing your faith.
- **Toast** – You will have a few burnt edges from where feelings have been hurt and are a little dry from lack of spiritual nourishment.
- **Croissant** – You enjoy being a little flaky and light-hearted because you know God has a sense of humour, too.
- **Biscuit** – You are happy to know God's forgiveness covers us all like gravy and makes life easier to bear.
- **Blueberry Muffin** – You are bursting with the Good News of the Gospel because the Holy Spirit has recently brought you to faith.

- **Sweet Bread** – You are eager to share the sweet news of God’s love and forgiveness with others.

Did any of these sound familiar? We probably could find an assortment of bread types that would accurately describe each one of us. But no matter which type we relate to, we all have the assurance that in Christ Jesus we have life, and have it abundantly. *“For the wages of sin is death,” but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” Romans 6:23

Bread Machine Analogy Have you ever used a bread machine? I think they are just wonderful. All you have to do is dump everything into the machine and press the button. It does all the work. It mixes, kneads, warms, raises, and even bakes the bread for you. When it is finished, out pops a loaf of piping hot bread to perfection. Isn’t this the way God works in our lives? We dump all our sins, burdens, concerns and grief on Him. Jesus did all the work of redeeming us, paying the debt, fulfilling the law, and achieving our forgiveness. He then handed us the gift of perfection through faith in Him. He gives us this as a free gift. *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not by yourselves, it is a gift of God.”* Ephesians 2:8 As we focus on this amazing gift, let us always keep in mind that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, We praise you for being our Bread of Life and giving the free gift of faith to each one of us. We thank you for your blood bought gift of forgiveness. Forgive us when we fail to nourish our hungry souls and feed on Your Word. Help us to stay steadfast in that Word that we may grow in our faith and service to you. Amen.

All Scripture is from NIV.

BREAD OF LIFE – *Written by Kristin Kaldahl Published by Lutheran Women’s Missionary League 2005*

**The Lay Academy Presents
Pathways to Prayer – Series One
November 17 & 24, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
FACILITATORS: Rev. Cam Harder (Nov. 17) Rev. Paul Sartison (Nov. 24)**

In our busy lives these days sometimes **prayer** can get pushed aside. But **prayer** is our calling to relationship with **God**.

It is **God’s** gift to us and our response to **God**. We long for it.

We may wonder how should I pray? How can I stay faithful to it? What are its benefits?

How can I know God really has heard my prayers?

Join **Dr. Faith Nostbakken** in-person and online from Edmonton for a guided tour to

PATHWAYS TO PRAYER, Series 1.

We’ll look at what it means to meet **God in prayer**,

- how our personalities may influence the **way we pray**,
- what **Scripture** says about prayer, and above all,
- how we might spend time together in **prayer** itself.

We will also consider the treasure of the **Psalms** as the **earliest prayer book** of our tradition, one that can still be a rich guide and **source of prayer** for us today in its broad range of emotions from praise to lament. Together let us grow in experiencing afresh out relationship with **God**. Share in the journey of travelling ***PATHWAYS TO PRAYER.***

For more information, online Registration and Payment see:

<https://layacademy5.wixsite.com/elcicwla/prayer1>

or

contact Merv Bender by email - merv.bender@sasktel.net



The Canadian Soldier

He climbed the hill at Vimy Ridge, while bullets fell like hail,
He braved barbed wire, mud and blood at a town called Passchendaele.
He led the charge through no man's land, a horrible place to die.
And now he lies in Flanders Field, where larks still bravely fly.

He faced the mustard gas attack, while those around him fell,
He paid with blood and damaged lung, his life a living hell.
And when that war was over, he stopped to count the dead,
This war will end all wars, the Canadian soldier said.

But evil doesn't slumber and in '39 again,
Freedom would be lost without the brave Canadian.
At Dieppe he was first to land amid the cannon's roar,
And he alone was first to die upon that bloody shore.

He scaled the cliffs of Sicily though no one thought he could,
He rode triumphant into Rome where Caesar once had stood.
At Juno Beach he beat the odds, he knew there was a chance,
To change the course of history by liberating France.

In Holland, he brought food and toys and dried the children's tears,
And gave new hope to families who hadn't smiled in years.
And when that war was over and he stopped to count the dead,
This war will end all wars the Canadian soldier said.

Korea called in '50 and again he heard the call,
For freedom isn't worthy if it isn't for us all.
He helped to keep the peace in Honduras and Uganda,
And he patrolled the ravaged streets of Zaire and Rwanda.

He was there when the war ended between Iraq and Iran,
And India's ceasefire with her neighbour Pakistan.
And when those wars were over and he stopped to count the dead,
These wars will surely put an end to war the soldier said.

And he was in Afghanistan, where freedom once again,
Was placed within the hands of the brave Canadian.
He patrolled the streets of Kabul, protecting people's right,
To go to school and shop for food and sleep right through the night.

Syria was next to fall upon the tyrant's blade,
And Canada is there again, the innocents to save.
So, war, it seems keeps going and man keeps killing man,
Although we sacrifice for peace, it's hard to understand.

And when he falls in battle, and he breaths his last breath,
He comes back home to Canada, where he is laid to rest.
And now his war is over, his battle finally done,
He takes his place among the best, he is Canadian.

Written by Rick Ronning

"Lest we forget"

*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We shall remember them"*