

# December 2019 Newsletter

## Messiah Lutheran Church

1796 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, Prince Albert, SK S6V 8A1

Website: [www.messiahluthpa.com](http://www.messiahluthpa.com)

Facebook:

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

Pastor: Fran Schmidt

Cell #: 1-306-716-3954 E-mail: [pastor.mlc@sasktel.net](mailto:pastor.mlc@sasktel.net)

Admin Assistant: Donna Deobald

Email: [messiah@sasktel.net](mailto:messiah@sasktel.net)

T: 306-763-7374 Fax: 306-763-6284

## 2019 Council

**Executive & Finance:** Cheryl Bauer Hyde  
Merv Bender  
Jean Meyers

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

**Education Ministry:** Merv Bender  
Jean Meyers

**Property Management Ministry:** Dick Honch  
Darren Sundbo

**Worship Ministry:** Colleen Bowen  
Donna Meyers

### 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.”

Jesus said, <sup>12</sup>This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” John 15:12-13



If you would like to donate a Poinsettia over the Advent Season; please drop them off to the office no later than Tuesday, December 24 by 11am. If you are donating in memory of someone, please let the office know by Thursday, December 19. Call or email the office if you have questions.

### Worship during Advent and Christmas 2019 at Messiah

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent, December 1*

**Hanging of the Greens Service @ 10:30am**

Reflection on the message of Advent and Christmas as the church is decorated with the help of youth and children.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent, December 8*

**Worship service with Holy Communion @ 10:30am**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, December 15*

**Lessons and Carols service @ 10:30am**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent –December 22*

**Worship service with Holy Communion @ 10:30am**

*Christmas Eve, December 24*

**Christmas Candlelight Service @ 7:30pm**

*Christmas Day, December 25*

**Worship service with Holy Communion @ 10:30am**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas, December 29*

**Worship service @ 10:30am**

### MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREE 2019

This year BOOK MARKS are being provided for you to memorialize and decorate the Memorial Christmas tree at the back of the sanctuary. Write a personal message for one person or for multiple people on the green or red card attached to the ribbon. Include your name so that after Christmas you can retrieve your book mark.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who trust in the Lord  
will receive new strength.

They will fly as high as eagles.

They will run and not get tired.

They will walk and not grow weak.

# “Patient Waiting”

*by Pastor Fran*

Most of the world is already celebrating the season of Christmas. We listen to familiar and beloved Christmas carols; our homes are likely all decorated. Some are busy shopping for gifts and others are baking in preparation for Christmas celebrations. Even in the church, our trees are set up and decorated. Throughout December, we will even have our own celebrations. And yet, at the same time, we observe another season almost simultaneously; the season of Advent.

Advent means arrival. It is a time set apart in the church to await the arrival, the return, of Jesus Christ. The church has been waiting for two thousand years for Jesus' return. We watch and wait, too. And we acknowledge our need of Christ's return, our need for peace, our need for God to do a new thing. We pray for the time when the wolf shall live with the lamb, as Isaiah proclaims: "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11: 6-7. This is the peaceable kingdom, the return of Jesus Christ, our Advent hope as Christians.

The church waits, pregnant with anticipation for the arrival. There is hopeful expectation in the midst of the preparations. We wait, as we have waited for centuries, pregnant, present, active, on the lookout for that day of the Lord's appearing.

I don't know about you but waiting is not something I have ever been really good at. Whether at the airport, for a bus or train, or for family and friends to arrive for a visit. Whether waiting on health tests or results from school exams. Waiting is not easy.

As theologian, Henri Noewen reflects in his book, "The Path of Waiting":

"... Patient living means to live actively in the present and wait there. Waiting, then, is not passive. It involves nurturing the moment, as a mother nurtures the child that is growing in her womb. Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, and Anna were present to the moment. That is why they could hear the angel. They were alert, attentive to the voice that spoke to them and said, 'Do not be afraid. Something is happening to you. Pay attention.'... Much of our waiting is filled with wishes... we want to do the things that will make the desired events take place... But Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, and Anna were not filled with wishes. They were filled with hope. Hope is something very different. Hope is trusting that something will be fulfilled according to the promises and not just according to our wishes."

In the midst of the busy Christmas celebrations, concerts, and preparations, may we also take some time to listen to what God has to say in this time set apart to contemplate Jesus' return. And as we wait and watch, may the God of hope will fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in Advent hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing to each of you in these Advent and Christmas Seasons!!



# *Messiah Church Council*

## Council Update – December 2019

**“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.” Mother Teresa**

Council meeting highlights:

- The Executive Committee will investigate and revise ‘Safe Church’ policies for adoption by Messiah, review the 2020 Stewardship material, and work with Pastor Fran and the Worship Ministry Team to establish an annual calendar. **The Annual General Meeting was set for Sunday, March 8, 2020 following the Sunday service.**
- Agreed to Christmas office hours – closed at noon on December 24 and 31, and to make arrangements for a Supply Pastor on December 29.
- Altar Guild will meet in January to review their role and provide orientation. People interested / able to assist the Altar Guild should contact Jean Meyers.
- Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team have been collecting donations for the YWCA, scheduling volunteers for the Salvation Army kettle, arranging food hampers, providing information for the CLWR Gifts from the Heart program, and are planning a meeting and orientation for new team members and establishing a Care (visitation) Team.
- Property Maintenance Ministry Team has completed roof maintenance, replaced parking lot lights with LED fixtures, and will review the Insurance Risk Management report.
- The Education Ministry Team is supervising Sunday School, and working with youth who are planning to attend the CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) gathering in Calgary next August. Thanks to the Men’s Group for hosting the Pancake & Sausage lunch fundraiser.
- Pastor Fran’s report began ... “When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.” (Luke 5: 4-6) observing that November felt this way to her. We have cast our nets into the deep waters together. We encourage others to let down their nets, too: share the Good News, invite someone to church, talk about your faith and then watch and wait and see what God will do! Our nets are full, as we give thanks to God for this ministry we share!
- Her report continued:
  - o Highlights: Youth Retreat at Kinisnoo; Remembrance Day Fall Supper; new microphone headset; “Preaching in Advent” Seminar.
  - o Worship plans/details/organizing of several communion services, the liturgies and details for special services and Advent.
  - o Communion Service at Mt. St. Joseph’s and Celebration of Life Service for Deanna Rindal.
  - o Caring Ministry/Visitation: 25 Visits. The pastoral care needs are great, please let down your nets and share about this ministry ... you never know who might find joy in doing this kind of visiting.
  - o Youth Ministry: Confirmation; CLAY (6 youth planning to attend); updated youth contact list.
  - o Women’s Ministry: Naomi Circle, and coffee fellowship with Faith Circle.

- Wider Community Support/Networking: PA Ministerial, ELCIC Pastor's Cluster, Women in Ministry Brunch, Just in Case Seminar, Heather Driedger (Parkland Restorative Justice).
- Other: Work on the service power point, with plans to add an announcement section prior to worship. Providing two Choral Workshops at the PA Arts Centre (after Easter), and involvement in the Firebird North Sistema Music Project, teaching music for two sessions a week at King George School.

- **Council's next meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2020.**

On behalf of Council, may God's blessing be with you throughout Advent and Christmas, and remain throughout the coming new year!

Cheryl Bauer Hyde  
Council Chair

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### *Caring Ministry*

The Caring Ministry and Community Services Team will meet in January to plan for the New Year. If you indicated that you would like to be a part of this team we will be in contact with you. We are still looking for people who may be interested in being a part of a Care Team that will do visitations on behalf of the church. If you are interested please let Lois Manchur or Jean Meyers know.

During the month of December, we will be collecting donations for Children's Haven. Children's Haven provides emergency care for children when a family crisis occurs. They operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and accept children up to 12 years of age. They have facilities to support up to 17 children at one time. Their support and consultation staff are trained and experienced and provide services for both parents and children. They have indicated that they can use donations of toothbrushes, socks, and pajamas as well as toys and puzzles (48 pieces or less). There will be boxes in the Narthex available to collect these items.

**Lois Manchur and Jean Meyers**

**On behalf of the Caring Ministry and Community Service Team**

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### *The Men's Group*

The Men's Group will meet at Chicken Chef at 9am on Saturday, December 29. If you are needing more information, please contact Merv Bender at [merv.bender@sasktel.net](mailto:merv.bender@sasktel.net).

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### *Messiah Lutheran Women*

♥Messiah Lutheran Women Christmas Party♥

**Tuesday, December 10 at 7pm – Peace Chapel**

All Ladies young to older, are encouraged to come for an evening of signing, fellowship, fund and food!

Bring a potluck snack or goodies to share.

If you wish to take part in a gift exchange bring a wrapped gift (\$5).

We will have a basket for a cash donation for Children's Haven if you wish to donate.

**NAOMI CIRCLE** – meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Peace Chapel at 7:00 p.m. This year we are studying the 12 Women of the Bible.

**FAITH CIRCLE** – meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Peace Chapel at 1:30 p.m.

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## *Sunday School - December*

During the month of December the Sunday School children may donate toward a 'Gift from the Heart', Tiny Hearts, a CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief) program. Donations will be collected and then we will purchase Chickens, Bees, Seeds, and/or Trees at \$5.00 each on behalf of the children.

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*H2H Confirmation Christmas Party  
for youth & their families!!  
Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:45 p.m.  
Please bring snacks to share.  
Confirmation students please bring a gift (\$10) for a gift exchange.*

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### *Moment of Prayer - 12:15 pm.*

December 3, 10, and 17.

We meet each Tuesday in the Peace Chapel.

All are welcome.



### **Employment opportunity - Kinasao Executive Director**

Kinasao is currently recruiting for the position of Executive Director to lead the next chapter of Kinasao's future. The candidate will have a strong personal faith in Jesus Christ and be a member of a Lutheran Church. Reporting to and supporting a diverse Board of Directors, the Executive Director will possess extensive administrative, financial, communication and personnel skills, provide effective and dynamic team leadership, and be responsible for overseeing the development and management of all programs offered at Kinasao. More information and how to apply can be found website [www.kinasao.ca](http://www.kinasao.ca), or emailing out the attached image and job posting to your congregation.

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### **2020 Registration is now Open!**

Summer 2020 registration is now open! Visit our website to choose your program and register now! Join us this summer as we celebrate Kinasao's 80th year of ministry and learn about how God is Faithful Forever. Information and register now at <http://www.kinasao.ca/camp-kinasao/weekend-retreats>, or by emailing [faith@kinasao.ca](mailto:faith@kinasao.ca)  
Faith VerBruggen, Program Director.

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## Merry Christmas



**Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC** **The Central Lutheran Broadcast** was first aired in 1956 and is the longest running radio broadcast by a single organization. The faithful listeners and supporters now see this ministry in its 63rd year. It can be heard each Sunday morning on CHAB 800 AM at 7:45am on the radio, or on cable and satellite providers. Our website is [www.centrallutheranmj.com](http://www.centrallutheranmj.com). There you can see our congregation happenings and listen to past radio services.

Our mailing address is Central Lutheran Church, 27 Hochelaga St. West, Moose Jaw, SK, S6H 2E9. Our phone number is 306-694-5575. And, if you happen to be in the area on a Sunday, our worship services are at 10:00am, in the heart of downtown Moose Jaw.