

FEBRUARY 2020 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

1796 15th Avenue East, Prince Albert, SK S6V 8A1

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

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Pancake Supper hosted by the Men’s Group

Tuesday – February 25, 2020

5pm – 6:30pm



February 26 - 7pm



March 4th – April 1st

LENTEN STUDY SERIES this year will focus on the theme of “God’s Gift of Reconciliation”. During Lent, we will look at how God reconciles with us, how we grow into our own awareness toward reconciliation with others, discovering the blocks and challenges, then what healthy reconciliation can look like, using the example of Reserve107 and the Mennonite and Lutheran churches in Laird, SK.

Noon Hour Lenten Lunches 2019

Calvary United Church starting
Thursday, March 5th – April 9th, 2020

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

February 2019

Prayer List

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

*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*

Everyone has a Story...

by Pastor Fran

Reflection

As I have spent time visiting with many of you and getting to know you, I have recalled this well-known truth that everyone has a story. We may not always know that story. And when we are fortunate enough to be entrusted with someone's story, it is sacred ground. Pastoral ministry is this way, as people often share their stories with me: times of challenge; difficulty; times of joy; times when God was present in extreme adversity. Stories give voice to changes and transitions, doubts and fears, sorrows and losses. And these stories give insight into your history, as individuals, as a congregation, and the wider community of PA and surrounding area. It is all fascinating and I am enjoying the many stories and visits! I am slowly hearing how, why, and when people started coming to Messiah, and what they enjoy most about being a part of the church.

Clearly, faith is central, as is being nurtured by God's Word and the Lord's Supper. God is here in this place and in the fellowship we share; be it in sorrow and lament, or thanks and praise, we give thanks for this community, and for God's presence in our lives!

So please keep telling your stories. Not just to me, but with one another, too. Tell the stories of your life, your faith, times when that faith was tested, times that were challenging as a congregation and then how God walked alongside you. Share the stories of what you love about being a member of Messiah, what brought you here, what enriches and informs you in your Christian journey. For in all of these stories, what rises and slowly becomes apparent is how God is present and active in and among us, as well as the ways in which God is calling us into the future. We give thanks to God for this wondrous journey of faith, for giving us this community of believers, and sufficient grace upon grace to be God's hands and feet in the communities in which we live.

Let us pray,

O God, we all have stories. Stories of faith, of trials, and of how your love guided us in our lives. We thank you and praise you for your presence in all of it. And we thank you for the gift of this community of faith at Messiah Lutheran Church. You provide all we need as we share your love and grace with others. Give us wisdom and discernment as we look to our future as a congregation, that in all we say and do, we give witness to the love and grace we receive in Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians 3:16-17

Messiah Church Council

Council Update – February 2020

At our January meeting, Jean Meyers shared a devotion about the importance of gratitude. And we have much to be grateful for as a church family.

Council discussions included:

- Working towards live streaming of Sunday services to provide access for those unable to attend services due to health, travel, etc.
- The 2019 financial statements which ended close to budget although there were some unbudgeted expenses during the year. The statements and 2020 budget will be discussed at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on March 8.
- The Tree of Life setting has been introduced at Sunday services. The Lenten services (Wednesday evening) will focus on the theme of reconciliation. Thank you to those who provided music before services in December.
- An orientation will be held for people interested in helping the Altar Guild, and a Caring Ministry & Community Service Ministry Team meeting will be held at the end of January.
- Thanks to the Sunday School children and other members who supported Canadian Lutheran World Relief by donating funds for a chicken, tree, bees and seeds (Gifts from the Heart).
- Youth: Leading Sunday service on February 9, and a Coffee House on April 4.
- Developing 'Safe Church' policies which is a requirement for our insurance, but also acknowledges Messiah's responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for all. Council is also reviewing a social media policy for our website and Facebook accounts.
- Pastor Fran's report covered many activities and highlights for the past weeks. The report is included in the Council meeting minutes posted on the bulletin board in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Office.

Council meets next at 6pm on Tuesday, February 25, following the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Messiah Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 8, following Sunday service.

Messiah Church Council
Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chair

Men's Retreat

Friday, March 27 – Sunday March 29, 2020

Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp

Theme: The Birthplace of Faith and Its relevance Today

The men's weekend retreat begins on Friday and ends on Sunday with worship. Come and join your fellow brothers in Christ from around Saskatchewan for a weekend of faith filled encouragement. As men, we will join to learn, share, sing, be inspired by God's Word, and be encouraged in our walk with Christ. Together with **Rick Istifo**, we will address the above. **Retreat leader: Rick Istifo** is a Chaldean Christian man who was born near Baghdad and will share his life and faith experience with us. He and his family now reside in Saskatoon.

If you are needing more information, please contact Merv Bender at merv.bender@sasktel.net.

Messiah Lutheran Women

NAOMI CIRCLE – meets on the 1st 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 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Peace Chapel at 1:30 p.m.

LADIES – Women’s Fellowship Brunch: Sat., Feb. 29th at 11:00 a.m. at Chicken Chef – hope to see you there!

Women’s Retreat at Camp Kinasao on April 17-19
Pastor Fran is the guest speaker for the theme “Sacred Journeys”.
More information will follow in March Newsletter.

H2H

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

H2H Confirmation resumes on Sunday, February 9th at 6:45pm – 8:30 p.m.
Mark it on your calendar!

There will be NO confirmation class on February 23rd.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

February 28th from 7pm – March 1st @ noon
More info and to register, see: <http://www.kinasao.ca/camp-kinasao/weekend-retreats>
We need 2 drivers (parents/members) to take us to Kinasao on Friday – leaving at 6p.m.

CLAY MEETING – FEBRUARY 9TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE

Moment of Prayer – 12:15 pm.

We meet each Tuesday in the Peace Chapel.



CHOIR will start up again on March 1st @ 9:30 a.m. through to Easter Sunday.

Come & Sing with us!



AGM

March 8th

Annual General Meeting

Do you like to curl?



Deanna Rindal will be receiving the Joan Mead Award on Feb. 17th at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw. The Award goes to someone in the curling community that significantly contributes to the growth and development of women's curling in Canada. It has been awarded annually since 2001 at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts.

CurlSask is also naming an award after her at their AGM. It will be presented to Saskatchewan's Top Official each year.

SAVE
The
DATE

March 28th LCBI Choir will be here at Messiah!
Potluck Supper and concert @ 7p.m.
More info to follow . . .



114 SEMINARY CRESCENT, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN S7N 0X3
EMAIL: layacademy.lts@usask.ca

January 21, 2020

Dear Friends of the Lay Academy:

As many of you know, at the most recent meeting of the Board of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, which manages our finances and provides office space, serious consideration was given to the Lay Academy and its future.

A major challenge is that the Lay Academy was initially funded to operate as a pilot project. There was a vision of providing accessible theological education for lay formation and development. Generous gifts have enabled us to prolong this vision from 2017 to May 2020, at which point our financial resources will end.

While live presentations in educational areas of general interest have ceased to be offered, the Lay Academy is pleased to note that our Leading In Faith Today (LIFT) curriculum will still be available. This will be managed for the Lay Academy by the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

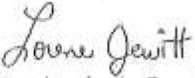
LIFT courses cover a broad range of disciplines including practical leadership, liturgy, theology, church history, scripture, and preaching. In addition to assisting in the preparation of those in lay leadership roles, LIFT courses can be taken for local interest by individuals or groups. A brief outline of the Leading In Faith Today curriculum has been attached to this letter.

If financial support were found (our annual budget is approximately \$70,000) the Lay Academy would continue with expanding the LIFT curriculum to include further lay courses (Pastoral Care, Discipleship, World Religions, Cultural Relations, Mission and Evangelism, Ecumenism, more Scripture studies, etc.) while also maintaining a schedule of live presentations, and developing a series of Podcasts for a younger audience (creation-environment-stewardship, grace and forgiveness, fear and hatred, why does God allow pain/evil?, etc.).

Through the last few years of working across four time zones and five provinces, the Lay Academy has had the privilege of equipping and empowering lay people for ministry in their church and daily lives. Our participants are theologically curious. They are spiritually hungry. They are engaged in service within the community and in the local church and seek greater competence and faithfulness. A lay academy, shared by the synods and the seminary, has the potential to be an important contributor to the future of the church.

Thank you for all your support and your prayers for the Lay Academy. It is deeply appreciated. Prayer is God's opportunity. Be it His will, the Lay Academy may continue into the future as hoped.

In service,


Louise Jewitt
Lay Academy Coordinator



Lay Academy: Introductory LIFT Courses

These courses were created by pastors and academics to meet the interests and needs of the broader church as well as to fulfill the needs for those in lay leadership roles. They are designed for a lay person to study with the support of a pastor or mentor. There are both instructor and student manuals, with some content available online.

Costs range from \$40 to \$120 per manual based on course hours. Payment is through PayPal via a credit card or a PayPal account. Courses will be accessible by late Spring 2020 @ layacademylift.ca

COURSE NAME	TOPICAL THEME	DURATION (Hrs)
Faith Stories I: Mission in Context	Leadership for Mission	2.00
Faith Stories II: Spiritual Care	Leadership for Mission	2.00
Introducing Lay and Local Leadership	Leadership for Mission	2.00
Ethics and Boundaries: Lay Leadership and Ministry	Leadership for Mission	3.00
Working With Teams	Leadership for Mission	4.00
Mentor/Facilitator's Guide	Leadership for Mission	
Church History I: The Story from Jesus to the Reformation	History of Christianity	4.00
Church History II: The Anglican Story from the Reformation to Today	History of Christianity	4.00
Church History II: The Lutheran Story from the Reformation to Today	History of Christianity	6.00
Core Theology I (consists of video lectures)	Theology	3.00
Core Theology II (consists of video lectures)	Theology	3.00
Lutheran Theology -The Augsburg Confession: A Study	Theology	4.00
Lutheran Theology - Luther's Small Catechism: A Study	Theology	4.00
Theology through the Anglican Lens	Theology	4.00
Scripture: The Story of the Old Testament	Scripture	4.00
Scripture: The Story of the New Testament	Scripture	4.00
The Methodology of Scripture Interpretation	Scripture	4.00
Worship I: Introduction to Liturgical Theology	Practical Ministry	4.00
Worship II: Resources and Planning	Practical Ministry	4.00
Worship III: Practice and Presiding	Practical Ministry	4.00
Preaching I: Preparation	Practical Ministry	6.00
Preaching II: Proclamation	Practical Ministry	6.00
Total Curriculum Hours		81.00