

Messiah Lutheran Church

1796-15 Avenue East, Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca

Facebook page and YouTube channel: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert)

Pastor Fran Schmidt

Cell: 1-306-716-3954

E-mail: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net

Administrative Assistant, Donna Deobald

Office: 306-763-7374

E-mail: messiah@sasktel.net

While the office is closed, it is staffed Tuesday – Friday; 9am – 4pm

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 24, 2020

Rev. Gordon Dixon will provide an Online Worship Service starting at 10:30am, available on the Messiah Facebook page, and YouTube channel. For those without internet access, a telephone conference call is provided beginning Sunday at 10:15am. Contact the office for access codes. All are welcome! Thanks to Rev. Gordon for his message and leading worship.

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns: We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.

Messiah Ministry: Worship services (in-person) and gatherings are cancelled, and the church office remains closed until further notice. Pastor Fran and Council discussed provision of Holy Communion during a pandemic, and more information will be provided prior to the end of May.

To keep in touch and other items of interest:

- ❖ Monday to Friday devotions are posted on the Messiah Facebook page (and on the Messiah website), and Wednesday coffee chat at 10am through the internet and telephone conference call.
- ❖ The Community Service & Caring Ministry Team reaches out through telephone. Contact the office to request weekly printed or emailed news/worship bulletins and ELW (red book) hymnals for home use.
- ❖ Heartfelt thanks to all for your financial donations through pre-authorized payments, e-transfer, mail, drop off at the office or pick up from your home – call the office for more information. Messiah's financial needs have not stopped because of the pandemic, and we ask for your prayerful consideration of those needs for the ministry of our congregation.
- ❖ Other Worship Services and resources (including Sunday School):
 - Listing provided on ELCIC national website, with a link on the SK Synod website - <https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>
 - Time of meditation Sunday afternoon at 3:30pm via Zoom; june.anonson@usask.ca or 306.981.2770.
 - Lutheran, Moose Jaw, radio worship service (CHAB 800 AM) each Sunday morning at 7:45am.

**From the desk of Bishop Sid
Saskatchewan Synod, ELCIC**

We are continuing to walk our way through the pandemic in our synod. I have three things I want to share with you.

First, let me say something about what I have seen in the synod over the last few months. In video conference calls with the roster and in video conference calls with the lay leadership, I hear many stories of faithful ministry. Of pastors and lay leadership working out alternative ways of gathering the faithful for worship. Of pastors and lay leadership working out how to do online services through media they have never used before. Of pastors and lay leadership printing and delivering orders of prayer and printed sermons to those who can't quite make their way into online worship. Of pastors and lay leadership working out alternative ways of giving to fund the faith communities when 'passing the plate' on Sunday is no longer possible. Of pastors and lay leadership engaging in deep care for the community through phone calls to those isolated in this strange road we are travelling. I am so very thankful for the way the Spirit has moved in our faith communities in this time.

Second, a word about the road ahead. You may have been wondering when the churches will be able to gather in our worship spaces again, and how that will take place. The 5 phase Open Saskatchewan roll-out by the provincial government does not address faith communities directly. So the road ahead for churches is quite foggy to say the least. What I can say is that 27 faith leaders from Saskatchewan met by video conference on May 7. We met as bishops, area presidents, imams — a wide representation of leadership from our many faith communities. The gathering called for a letter to be written to Premier Moe offering an official liaison person or ad hoc committee to represent the faith communities in connecting with the government to assure clear and consistent communication between the government and the faith communities. Conversation with the government is in process on this matter. I will keep you informed of further developments in this conversation.

Third, for the time being, I want to urge you as congregations to reaffirm your commitment to follow the province's health directives. Some of you may have come across a quite moving letter online from a Calgary church who back in mid-March, opened for a physically distanced, half capacity worship service - with tragic results. It is a cautionary tale. We are called to be faithful, and that faithfulness takes different forms in different times. As followers of Jesus in this time, we need to 'love our neighbours' by caring for the whole community in following the province's health directives.

Living in the midst of a pandemic feels like a long foggy road, at times - especially when we are not sure when the fog will finally clear. Pray for each other. Support each other in every way you can. Continue to faithfully engage the challenges this particular time in the world presents to us.

Let me close with a Gospel word. I love the words of the Gospel text for this coming Sunday. Jesus gathers his people into an upper room and proclaims the meaning of Easter in these few words that ring like a bell into our world: "because I live, you also will live" (Jn 14:19). We live always in that hope, that however long or foggy the road may be, Life is on the way. Hallelujah.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

A reading from Acts.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds; I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished

¹⁰**Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel, giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

GOSPEL: John 17: 1-11

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY- "I Feel the Winds of God Today"

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

We pray for gifts that have been given to continue the ministry of the church.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem so small an offering in thanksgiving for all you have done. Make an abundance of all that is given, so that those who are in need or want in any way may have the physical, emotional and spiritual support that is needed. Bless these gifts and those who give them, that we may be a blessing to the world in this time of uncertainty. We pray this in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need, praying Lord in your mercy, and responding **hear our prayer.**

...

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG -ELW #543 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!