

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca

Facebook page and YouTube channel: [Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert](#)

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

PENTECOST SUNDAY– MAY 31, 2020

In preparation for Sunday's Online Worship Service:

- You are invited to wear red today as we worship and to please to take a picture and share it on our Facebook page. Today is Pentecost Sunday, the day we celebrate the birthday of the church and red reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- We will use balloons during the Children's Message, so have your balloons ready to use (without air in them yet please) prior to service starting. Your balloons don't have to be red but they could be!

Pastor Fran 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!

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.

Our condolences to Janice Dubray and family on the passing of Janice's sister, Lone Martodam on May 26, 2020. A private family graveside service will be held at the Spiritwood Cemetery where she will be honoured and laid to rest. Please keep Janice and family in your prayers.

Our condolences to Reg Heebner on the passing of his wife Sonia on May 21, 2020 after a valiant fight against cancer. Please keep the Heebner and Hendrickson families in your prayers.

Messiah Ministry:

Messiah Council met on May 26 and is maintaining a two-week meeting schedule at this time. *Bishop Sid provided information about the Saskatchewan government revision to Phase 3 of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan which included mention of places of worship scheduled for June 9: Synod churches are wondering what direction churches will be given as they make the decision about whether to resume worship together in the church building. The provincial faith community leaders have appointed a working group with the provincial government to develop specific recommendations before Phase 3 begins. Synod office will send those recommendations forward when they become available. In the meantime, keep each other in your prayers as we continue to 'walk this through' together as faith communities in our synod.*

There are concerns that the guidelines and restrictions may be extensive, but still allowing for concern of the unintentional spread of the virus. The recommendations will be reviewed when received but it may well be that on-line services will continue throughout the summer. Provision of Holy Communion through the on-line service will begin on June 7, with information provided in the letter that is at the end of this news bulletin.

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.

To the Messiah Congregation re: Holy Communion during a Pandemic

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ.

We find ourselves in an unusual time in history. We have not been able to worship in person as a faith community for ten weeks now, and we do not know yet for how much longer this will be a reality. While the numbers permitted to gather for indoor spaces slowly increases, it will still be quite a while before we can worship together safely in our own building.

While we are unable to gather in-person, we affirm that it is the Holy Spirit who “calls, gathers, enlightens and makes holy the whole Christian church.” (Luther’s Small Catechism, Third Article) It is through the Holy Spirit that we are gathered into one as the body of Christ at all times and in all places, with the saints of every time and every place. Through technology unimagined by Lutheran reformers, God makes this gathering possible. And so, we believe that when we worship online, Christ is present with us, even as we are physically apart. As Lutherans, we also affirm the teachings of the church, and that it is continually reforming itself, responding to the work of the Holy Spirit and its call to new life and new possibility as breathed into us as the body of Christ.

Trusting in God, we pay attention to our context and needs as we discern how best to respond to this particular time in the life of the church, and the life of the world. In the discernment of our special circumstances, we recognize the current fast from Holy Communion will continue for some time. But we believe the Sacrament of Holy Communion to be a means of grace for us. As such, it offers us a source of nourishment, strength, and unity in Christ. Holy Communion is a gift of God for the people of God. And some are missing the means of grace at a time when we need it the most. When we gather as a church body, we share Holy Communion twice a month. The usual church practice is that we do not commune outside of the gathered community. On occasion, the Pastor will take home communion to someone is ill or shut-in and cannot be at church. She acts as the representative of the body of Christ to bring the elements to those in special circumstances.

But right now, we find ourselves living in special circumstances, with the limitations of a global pandemic. In this extraordinary time, and without knowing how long this pandemic will continue to affect our ability to gather as one body in the same space, the Church Council and Pastor Fran have given prayerful and thoughtful discernment to how best to respond to the needs of our faith community. This has led us to make the extraordinary decision to offer Holy Communion virtually during the pandemic. This means that Holy

Communion will be offered virtually in the Online Worship Services, twice a month, as per our usual schedule. There will be instruction on how this can unfold appropriately in your household. We plan to begin on June 7th.

While this decision is unprecedented, we feel that by sharing Holy Communion in this virtual format, we will continue to be nourished and strengthened in this time of physical distancing and isolation.

We wish to convey that the decision to participate in virtual communion is still up to each person. If you prefer to wait until we gather in-person again, and prefer to fast during this time, know that you can still worship with us, hear the Words of Institution and receive a blessing.

Virtual Communion is not the regular practice of the church and we do not foresee it as being the new normal once the pandemic is past.

What we most long for is in-person community, in-person worship, sharing the peace, singing, praying, and praising God together in the same space. We pray and wait for that time to be re-established again when it is safe to do so, and until then, we can be sure of this: God is with us. As we gather for Online Worship, as we hear God's Word, as we receive the gifts of God's grace in our homes in this time, God is with us. No matter what. And this gives us the grace and strength to carry on in these uncertain and unusual times.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ~John 20: 21-22

As the disciples' lives were changed with the breath of the Holy Spirit, so too may we feel that breath of the Holy Spirit breathing new life and new possibility into our faith community, offering new ways to worship, pray, sing, and receive God's gifts of grace, to support and care for one another in extraordinary times.

We pray God's grace and peace for you as we live this reality day by day. May God continue to strengthen you, accompany you and support you.

Church Council and Pastor Fran



Kinasao's largest annual fundraiser - the Tour-de-Kinasao - has taken on a different form this year. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to gather for the usual large event. So - the Whatever-a-Thon invites participants to do "whatever" they want from their home/community. We have challenged participants to do 80 "whatever" in honor of Kinasao's 80th Anniversary.

You can be involved in the Whatever-a-thon by sponsoring a participant! Messiah member Wayne Hyde is carving 80 comfort birds to be given out through Messiah, and Kristi Stolee's family is baking 80 dozen cookies to donate to a local food distribution center. There are many more participants doing unique and creative things to celebrate this 80th anniversary! You can check them all out at www.bit.ly/whateverathon.

If you would like to make a donation to a participant, you can donate through the website or send an e-transfer to kristi@kinasao.ca (include in the memo who you are sponsoring). We would like to have all donations in by Saturday, June 6.

Thank you for supporting Camp Kinasao!

Kristi Stolee, Assistant Director
Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

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, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our 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 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

A reading from Acts.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." ¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 104:24-34, 35b

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great.**

²⁶There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

²⁷**All of them look to you to give them their food in due season.**

²⁸You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.

³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever; O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

³²You look at the earth and it trembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke.

³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being.**

³⁴May these words of mine please God. I will rejoice in the LORD.

^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul. Hallelujah!**

GOSPEL: John 20: 19-23

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & MEDITATION

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #406 -"Veni, Sancte Spiritus"

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 #396 – “Spirit of Gentleness”

DISMISSAL

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