

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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

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

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

Pastor Fran Schmidt  
Administrative Assistant, Donna Deobald

Office: 306-763-7374  
E-mail: [messiah@sasktel.net](mailto:messiah@sasktel.net)

**While the office is closed, it is staffed Wednesday – Friday; 9am – 4pm  
If you have an immediate need, call Cheryl at 306.961.2967**

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Pastor Fran will be on vacation until July 29. During that time, please call the office (Wednesday – Friday) or phone / email Cheryl at 306.961.2967; [cbauerhyde@gmail.com](mailto:cbauerhyde@gmail.com) if you require immediate assistance.

Online Worship Service starting at 10:30 am, available on the Messiah Facebook page, and YouTube channel. For those without internet access, a telephone conference call is provided beginning at 10:15 am each Sunday. Call the office for the phone access information. All are welcome!

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### Sixth Sunday after Pentecost – July 12, 2020

There will be 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. Phone 1.800.967.7148; when requested enter access code 182219 #. Please share this information to your family and friends. 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 Arlene Wagner** on the passing of her special friend, Ernie Rock, on Tuesday, June 30, 2020. Funeral service was held at the Prince Albert Baptist Church, Prince Albert, SK on July 7.

**Our condolences to Wilfred Litzenberger and family** on the passing of Mildred Litzenberger, a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, on July 7, 2020. A private family service was held Friday, July 10. Please keep Wilfred and family in your prayers.

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**Messiah Ministry:** Online worship services will continue until the end of August, including virtual Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of August. In-person services are suspended, and the office will remain closed except for essential services (finance, maintenance, etc.).

You are encouraged to reach out to others if you are able; contact information is in the Messiah directory. Share news, say hello, provided updates for any special events by phoning or emailing the office to be included in the weekly news / worship bulletin.

**Other Council news (repeated):** Council meets next on July 28, and will put together a working group to prepare for in-person services starting later in August and plans for fellowship gatherings such as a weekly coffee time, bring your own 'potluck' lunch, or any other ideas you might share as we continue through these unexpectedly changing times and reach out to stay connected in the body of Christ.

A camera system will be purchased to continue filming the worship services and providing online access even when in-person services continue. Work will be done to replace the foam (flat) sections of the roof as leaks continue as a result of rain and melting snow. There is a significant cost at approximately \$30,000, so a special roof appeal will be shared with the congregation in the fall. If you have any questions about the project, please call Wayne at 306.960.1074.

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In addition to Messiah's Online Worship Services, our faith can be supported and strengthened through:

- ❖ Wednesday coffee chat at 10am through the internet and telephone conference call.
- ❖ To request a weekly printed or emailed news/worship bulletin, ELW (red book) hymnal for home use, Eternity for Today daily devotion booklet, please contact the church office.
- ❖ The Community Service & Caring Ministry Team: if you would like a call or spiritual support, please contact the church office.
- ❖ Online Worship and other resources such as Vacation Bible School and Bible Studies:
  - Listing provided on ELCIC national website, with a link on the SK Synod website - <https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>
  - Lutheran, Moose Jaw, radio worship service (CHAB 800 AM) each Sunday morning at 7:45am.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to support Messiah, even as we are not meeting in-person – your prayers and concerns for our Messiah family are greatly appreciated. Financial donations can be made through pre-authorized payments, e-transfer, Canada Helps, mail, drop off at the office mailbox, or pick up from your home – call the office for details.

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The Heart of Seniors Gathering has a vacant summer student position for a period of 8 continuous weeks. Interested persons, who love God and have a heart for seniors, should send a resume to [campus@inet2000.com](mailto:campus@inet2000.com). Dr. John Fryters, Senior Pastor

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**Canada Lutheran**  
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How's your PRAYER life? Excerpt: 'Amen' is a Hebrew word that means 'So be it,' 'I agree,' 'Let it be so.' Rev. Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson sums up our focus on prayer this way,

'For me daily prayer, focused firstly on God and divine grace has deepened the sense of God's presence, and abiding love opens up freedom to just be, as well as to speak about whatever is on my mind and heart. In that engagement with God through prayer has come an undercurrent of peace and joy that expresses itself in giving thanks, and a sense of being truly blessed.'

## 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.

**Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

*God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.*

*A reading from Isaiah.*

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 65:1-13

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water. You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.*

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!"

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup>yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup>But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **MEDITATION**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#512 - "Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil"**

### **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

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your word has been sown in many ways and places. We pray for missionaries and newly planted congregations around the world. Inspire us by their witness to the faith we share. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus 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

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
 and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
 bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Sung Amen.**

### SENDING SONG: ELW #726 - "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Messiah Congregation News:



Have you ever been in a situation where you just needed a pair of wings....anything just needed to get out of the situation...."beam me up Scottie" as Spock would say from Star Trek?

Last month I was asked to go to support Canada's "Hot Spot".....highest point of CoVid cases per capita...the Epicenter, Ground O here in our very backyard. Well 6 hours north that is, La Loche Saskatchewan. Some of my family had many hesitations, concerns, fears reservations. I had volunteered with a bus load of our Senior Nursing Students a decade before with H1N1 and some people in the North remembered our presence. It was an honour to be asked back however as an individual now in the "high risk group" I wondered about the safety and the wisdom of such a decision. Would I be a help or hindrance? Volunteering was not foreign to me or my family and part of what God calls each of us to do is "be brave be bold", trust in Him, step out in faith. And so I went, with some tears from those who loved me the most and were fearful for me, but mostly prayers of well wishes and support. I felt called, it was "the right thing to do". I had heard terrible things about La Loche and I was told "if the gangs don't get you, the virus will"...not a positive note to leave on.

The first two days were very difficult. I called my husband after the 2nd 12hr shift and I said "what was I thinking, I should never have agreed to come here". A prayer team of family and friends began in earnest and by the next morning it was like God had "turned a light switch on". It was night and day, I "found" or should I say 2 other prayer warriors were brought to me no doubt by the moving of the Holy Spirit. None of us knew each other before, but somehow because of His love, we just "knew each other" and from that day forward we began praying like never before, for the situation, the team, the people of La Loche. And the light remained on. As I look back at the situation it will always stand out as one of the highlights of my career.

Thank you Lord for these opportunities and helping make our lights burn bright wherever you plant us.

God is good all the time and for me Isaiah 40:31 came alive once again!

Dr. June Anonson, R.N., PhD  
College of Nursing  
University of Saskatchewan