

Messiah Lutheran Church
1796-15 Avenue East
Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca

Facebook page and YouTube channel: MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert

Pastor Fran Schmidt
Cell: 1-306-716-3954
Email: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net

Administrative Assistant, Donna Deobald
Office: 306-763-7374
E-mail: messiah@sasktel.net

The office is open on a limited basis for church related activity: Tuesday – Friday from 10am – 4pm.
Please note that the use of hand sanitizer and masks will be required for anyone entering the office with the exception of the church staff and financial volunteers.

Worship Plan for Sunday, September 20, 2020
16th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A
“Season of Creation”
Musician: Colleen Bowen

Worship Service (in-person) starts at 10:30am. Please pre-register by phoning or emailing the office. Saskatchewan Health and SK Synod guidelines regarding physical distancing and adjustments to the worship service will be followed. In addition, masks will be worn and will be provided if you do not have one. The service will be recorded and available on the Messiah Facebook page, YouTube channel and Website by 6:00 pm on Sunday.

For those without internet access, a telephone conference call is provided beginning Sunday at 6pm. Please phone the office for the conference call information.

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

Peggy, Garry and the Reinhardt family on the passing of Peggy's brother, Jim O'Neil, late of British Columbia in August 2020. A Memorial Service will be held on September 26, 2020, in BC. Please keep the Reinhardt / O'Neil families in your prayers at this time.

Olga, Karen, Brent and the Routley family on the passing of Fred on Saturday, September 12. A funeral service was held at Messiah on September 16. A video recording of the funeral service is available on the internet; please phone or email the church office if you would like the link information. Please remember Olga and her family in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION Confirmation will start on September 20, with a zoom call for all parents & youth and will meet weekly on Sundays from 7- 8 pm. The Zoom Link will be sent out by mail and email, or you can call into the office to receive the link.

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

- Wednesday bible study at 10am through the internet and telephone conference call. Call the office for details.
- Eternity for Today (October – December) daily devotion booklet is available. Please contact the church office if you would like a copy.
- The Community Service & Caring Ministry Team: if you would like a call or have a need of spiritual support, please contact the church office.
- Online Worship, Bishop Susan's daily hymn and prayer, Bible Book Club, and devotions: go to the ELCIC national website, with a link on the SK Synod website.
- Central Lutheran Moose Jaw radio worship service (CHAB 800 AM) Sunday morning at 7:45am.

Thank you for all the ways you continue to support Messiah!
Your prayers and concern 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.



Thursday, October 1 from 3 – 4:30 pm; You are invited to join Dr. Volker Greifenhagen, Bishop Chris Harper, Tashia Toupin, and others for an ecumenical webinar on the Stewardship of Creation. What do the Hebrew scriptures teach us about the interconnectedness of humanity and all creation? What we can learn from Canadian Indigenous spiritual tradition, Roman Catholic social teachings, and other sources of wisdom? Please register by emailing Nick Jesson at njesson@archregina.sk.ca. Maximum 100 participants via zoom.

Advance notice: mark your calendars for a fall Stewardship series: "Gathering God's Harvest", Thursday, October 22 and 29, and November 5, 12, and 19. This series is organized in the spirit of the LAURC Covenant by the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle, the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina.

2020 Financial Update

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
January – August	\$85,862.65	\$107,766.64
September 1 – Direct Automated Funds Deposit	\$ 1,370.00	
September 6	\$ 5,851.00	

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.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. ^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

²Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

A reading from Philippians.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.

⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: "Work of Your Hands"

(based on message by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, The Episcopal Church)

HYMN OF THE DAY: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

1. He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands.
2. He's got the wind and the rain in his hands, He's got the wind and the rain in his hands,
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands.
3. He's got the tiny little baby in his hands, He's got the tiny little baby in his hands,
He's got the tiny little baby in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands.
4. He's got you and me, brother, in his hands, He's got you and me, sister, in his hands,
He's got everybody here, in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands.

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OFFERING PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You nourish and sustain us with the bountiful gifts of creation, so we give to you all that you have already given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions. With these gifts we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE TO CARE FOR CREATION

Creator God, teach us to see you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for everything that you have made, praying, Creative Spirit and responding, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

...

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; 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 Father, who created the world, give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation. Amen.

God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole creation, help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace. Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

(from "Let All Things Their Creator Bless": Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, p. 37)

SENDING SONG: Hymn #679 "For the Fruit of All Creation" vs. 1 & 3

DISMISSAL

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(from "Let All Things Their Creator Bless": Liturgy for Use During the Season of Creationtide, Diocese of Guilford, pp. 38-39).