

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

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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 for Sunday, September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

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.

Announcements:

1. We have begun to worship in-person at Messiah on Sunday mornings and we are asking for volunteers. **Can you help out?** We are looking for people to read the lessons, usher/greet, and run the power point. If you are able to attend in-person, perhaps you might consider helping out from time to time. The protocols are quite simple and we will guide you through the process. Call the church office to sign up.
2. The **Lectionary Bible Study** has started on **Wednesday mornings at 10am**. There has been enough interest that we will also offer this study on **Wednesday evenings at 7pm (weekly)**. This study follows the lectionary (cycle of Scripture readings on Sunday mornings). The reading, study, and conversation happens in-person and online using a zoom link. Please email or call the church office or Pastor Fran to receive the link.
3. **Bring your pet to church Sunday!** On Sunday, October 4th, we will have a Blessing of the Animals as part of our worship service so you are invited to bring your pets (crated if possible) to receive a blessing. October 4th is the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, he was a lover of nature and in particular animals. It is a wonderful time to bless the special creatures with whom we share our lives.

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

- **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,** Go to the ELCIC national website, with a link on the SK Synod website. **Living our Faith** follows a series put out by our National ELCIC Bishop, Susan Johnson. You can see her introductory video here: <https://youtu.be/Vu1qKoPfht4>
- 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.

<u>2020 Financial Update</u>		
	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budget</u>
January – August	\$85,862.65	\$107,766.64

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

PRAYER OF LAMENT: WATER

Leader: Creator and Life-giver You water the furrows of the earth abundantly, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth,

Pastor: And we clear-cut the forests and till the edges of the fields, until the soil spills into the streams and pesticides and manure make foul the rivers. O Source of Living Water, hear our cry, **Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

Leader: In every part of the earth You have set humans to tend and steward the land as a goodly heritage,

Pastor: And the First Peoples of this land are poisoned with mercury from pulp mills and cannot safely drink the water in their own homes. O Source of Living Water, hear our cry, **Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

Leader: You make springs to gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every creature,

Pastor: And we sell off that water for a pittance, to be bottled in plastic and sold back to the thirsty at a profit, while the crops wither in the fields. O Source of Living Water, hear our cry, **Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

Leader: You lap the shores of the continents with the wide oceans, filled with living creatures great and small,

Pastor: And we choke them with our refuse and suffocate them with our waste. O Source of Living Water, hear our cry, **Cleanse and renew us and all creation.**

Pastor: The God of mercy cleanses us, heals us, and renews us and all creation Hear the Good News: through Jesus Christ our Lord, your sins are forgiven and you are a new creation. **Thanks be to God!**

*-adapted for our use from Keepers of the Water Vigil 2017,
written by Elin Goulden for the Diocese of Toronto, Keepers of the Water Vigil 2017.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of unchangeable power, when you fashioned the world the morning stars sang together and the host of heaven shouted for joy; open our eyes to the wonders of creation and teach us to see all things for good, to the honor of your glorious name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- From A New Zealand Prayer Book, p. 569

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7 (semi-continuous reading)

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”— received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:1-4, 12-16 (semi-continuous reading)

¹Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—

³that which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, we will not hide from their children.

⁴We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works God has done.

¹²God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan,

¹³splitting open the sea and letting them pass through; making the waters stand up like walls;

¹⁴leading them with a cloud by day, and all the night with a glow of fire;

¹⁵splitting the rocks in the wilderness and giving them drink as from the deep;

¹⁶bringing streams out of a rock, making them flow down like a river.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’

²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’
²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”
 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: “Living Water”

(based on devotion by Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Anglican Church of Canada)

HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Living Water” (“Agape” Worship resource, LWF 10th Assembly)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;
pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;
look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
 Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

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.

Sung: 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: ELW #453 "Baptized and Set Free" (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.