

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

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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.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

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.** Phone 1.800.967.7148; when requested enter access code 182219 #. Please share this information with 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.

September 1 marks the first anniversary of Pastor Fran's call to Messiah. We are blessed by her ministry and her gifts of leadership, calm manner, and compassion for our church family. On behalf of the Messiah congregation, thank you Pastor Fran. We look forward to continuing our journey of faith together.





Bring your backpack to the **Worship Service on Sunday, September 13**. Hope to see you and your backpack there.

- YOUTH** Mark your calendar for our first Joint Youth Activity with St. Alban's Cathedral and St. David's Anglican youth! It will be Saturday afternoon, September 19.
- &** More info to come!
- 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 coffee chat** at 10am through the internet and telephone conference call. Call the office for details.
- The **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 and other resources:** Listing provided on ELCIC national website, with a link on the SK Synod website - <https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>
- 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.



GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(based on Leviticus 25:1-25)*

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We praise you God, for the Earth that sustains life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons, renewal and growth, you open your hand to give all creatures our food in the proper time. In your Wisdom you gave a Sabbath for the land to rest. But these days our living pushes the planet beyond its limits. Our demand for growth, and an endless cycle of production and consumption are exhausting our world. The forests are leached, the topsoil erodes, the fields fail, the deserts advance, the seas acidify, the storms intensify. Humans and animals are forced to flee in search of security. We have not allowed the land to observe a Sabbath, and the Earth is struggling to renew. And so we confess.

God of mercy and justice, You tell us the land must rest, free from the burden of production.

We confess our demand that the Earth produce beyond its limits, and our bondage to desire more.

You call us to pause from sowing, pruning, and reaping in ways that destroy the soil.

We confess our vicious consumption of food and energy.

You assure us that we can be filled from the yield of the land.

We confess our lack of trust that we can thrive within the Earth's limits.

You affirm that our security is found in enough.

We confess our lack of courage to resist the myth of endless growth.

You tell us that the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is Yours, and everything in it.

We confess to thinking of creation as given, instead of a gift.

You call us to leave enough fruit on the vine and in the fields to feed our neighbours, animals, and replenish the Earth. **We confess our failure to share what we receive from the Earth.**

You call us to fairness and justice. **We confess our lack of faith, not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind, or our human and non-human neighbours as ourselves.**

Turn us from fear and mistrust, **and free us to imagine a life reconciled to the Earth and all creatures, through the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.**

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

Hear the word of truth that God proclaims: your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, we live in freedom and newness of life to do God's work in the world. Amen.

(adapted from the Lutheran World Federation, Jubilee for the Earth)

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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

A reading from Romans.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18: 15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**SERMON: “Waking Up”**

(Introductory Message to “Season of Creation” by Pastor Fran with excerpts from ELCA, Episcopal Church, ACC, ELCIC)

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #556 “Morning Has Broken” (vs 1 & 3)**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of that peace with your family group.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

Let us pray. **God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through your grace, bless the gifts we offer now and those who give them, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. 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 #824 "This is my Father's world" (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.

In the name of Christ. Amen.