

# November 2020 Newsletter

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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**Note:** Pastor Fran will be away beginning November 2, returning November 16. If you need to reach someone immediately, phone Cheryl at 306.961.2967

## 2020 Council

Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chairperson

Merv Bender, Vice Chairperson

Jean Meyers, Secretary

Alfred Kristensen

Lois Manchur

Donna Meyers

Darren Sundbo

Pastor Fran Schmidt

### Messiah's Mission Statement:

“Through the hearing and sharing of God's Word, we, as a worshipping community, encourage a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

In faith, we reach out with Christ-like caring for the community and the world in which we live.”

Jesus said: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends” John 15:12-13

John 15:12-13

## All Saint's Sunday – November 1

On Sunday, November 1, we celebrate All Saints Sunday. It is an opportunity to remember those who have passed since the last All Saints Sunday. Their names will be read, and a candle lit during the service.

All are welcome to participate in our weekly Lectionary Bible Study. These are offered both in-person and online (zoom, call the church office to receive the link) on Wednesday mornings at 10 am and at 7 pm. **Note: the 10am bible study on November 4 and 11 will be only be through the use of zoom (online). The evening bible study @ 7pm will still happen at the church on November 4 and 11.**

Here are the upcoming readings for November if you wish to read ahead:

### November 8:

- Amos 5:18-24 *Let justice roll down like waters*
- Psalm 70 *You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *The promise of the resurrection*
- Matthew 25:1-13 *The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids*

### November 15:

- Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 *The day of the LORD*
- Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 *So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Be alert for the day of the Lord*
- Matthew 25:14-30 *The story of the slaves entrusted with talents*

### November 22, Reign of Christ

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *God will shepherd Israel*
- Psalm 95:1-7a *We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)*
- Ephesians 1:15-23 *The reign of Christ*
- Matthew 25:31-46 *The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats*

### November 29, The First Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 64:1-9 *Prayer that God would come with power and compassion*
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end*
- Mark 13:24-37 *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

## *Message from Pastor Fran*

To All the Saints at Messiah,

Grace to you and peace,

Every November in our Canadian context, we gather for Remembrance Day ceremonies. This day offers a time to remember the lives lost and sacrifices made in various world wars, in ongoing conflicts, and in our communities. We honour and remember the memory of those called to serve and protect and who gave their lives to ensure public safety and the democracy that we enjoy today.

In the life of the church, too, there is a time to remember our beloved saints (ancestors in the church, those from our faith community and those in our lives) who have passed away. Every All Saints Sunday (November 1<sup>st</sup>), we remember and give thanks to God for giving them to us to know and to love. As part of our worship, we acknowledge both our thanks as well as our grief.

As a congregation, we acknowledge another loss, that of a growing list of members that have moved, or will be moving shortly. If that is you, we give thanks to God that you were a part of our faith community and we thank you for sharing the gifts you brought to us. Know you will be missed and we will pray for God's presence with you as you make this transition.

In addition to remembering those who have passed, acknowledging our grief, and saying good-bye to those leaving the congregation, we also have an opportunity share the myriad of other losses that this year has brought. In our prayers on All Saints Sunday, there will be a time for us to name those losses (silently), let them go, and lay them down at the foot of the cross.

In this season of loss and remembrance, let us be reminded that God comes to us and pours out upon us grace upon grace so that we are sustained and supported, no matter what happens in this life. We are strengthened, bolstered, and inspired. Our resilience grows through the gift of God's love and grace, and through the gift of the whole communion of saints, both the living and the dead (as the Nicene Creed says).

My prayer as we navigate through this time is that you may know that which is the breadth, the height, and depth of the immeasurable love of God, found in Christ Jesus our Lord and through one another as the body of Christ.

*"I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3: 16-21*

**In God's grace,  
Pastor Fran.**





## One Night in November - by Rick Ronning

The wind came swirling, curling down the street of a prairie town. An old man shuffled slowly on, he didn't make a sound. His eyes were down his collar up and his strength was running low, the wind whipped wildly at his neck as he plodded through the snow. His clothes were dark and sombre from his hat down to his vest, the only glimpse of colour was a poppy on his chest. He was heading for the Legion like a hundred times before, to remember fallen comrades who had paid the price for war. When up ahead he saw them, two men of younger years, they were walking with a swagger that showed they'd had some beers. Just then the young men noticed him and he saw from their faces, they'd have some fun with him tonight, they'd put him through his paces. Hey, old man, you're a veteran right, you won some ancient war, your stories of great valour, we've heard them all before. Who cares what happened long ago and now that it's November, you'll gather in your Legion halls and say we must remember, how brave you were in bygone days, a hero tried and true, we don't believe you've ever shot a gun, just look at you. Your body's bent; your hands are gnarled and shaking as you walk. Your eyes have long since lost their shine and you can barely talk. Those medals that you're wearing there, they really take the cake, we think they don't mean anything, like you they're just a fake. One man grabbed the medals and threw them in the snow, He ground his boot upon them, and then he turned to go. When suddenly the old man was standing in his way, before you walk away from me, there's something I must say. My brother was a sailor; he sailed upon the sea, beneath the North Atlantic he now spends eternity. My sister was a nurse; she was sworn to save lives, and she wrote many letters to the mothers and the wives, of men who died there in her arms while calling out their name, and to this day it's sad to say, she's never been the same. My best friend's shattered body, gave out at Normandy, though blown apart he gave his heart for life and liberty. My mother died of a broken heart in 1945, of five kids that had gone to war, only two survived.

I flew a Halifax bomber, over German skies, and caused tremendous suffering, but never heard the cries, of all the little children that died there in their beds I pray to God a blessing on their tiny little heads. And sometimes when the night is long and I am all alone, I wake up thinking of those kids and think I hear their moans. And yet you say it doesn't matter, that we all went to war, to fight for peace and liberty and saw the blood and gore, I may not be a hero, but this I'll tell you son, the freedom that you have today's because that war was won. The old man turned and walked away, through the wind and snow. The young men stood in silence, and sadly watched him go. That night they understood the price of freedom can be dear, one stared at the old man's back and brushed away a tear. The other grabbed the medals up and suddenly gave chase, he'd catch the old man walking with his slow uneven pace. But as he turned the corner, there lying in the street, he saw a crumpled body, a poppy at its feet. Through tears he pinned the medals back on to the old man's vest, he held the silent, wrinkled face so tight against his chest. The old man's soul had taken flight to heaven on that night, his friends and family welcomed him and now his heart was light. The two young men he left behind that cold night in November, had met a man who fought and died, a hero they'd remember. Now every year when autumn comes to that little prairie town, when leaves have long since left the trees and snow is falling down, by a lonely grave outside of town two solemn figures stand, and think of other soldier's graves, in some foreign land. Then they say a silent prayer for peace with heads bent low, and when they leave, they leave behind a poppy in the snow.

  
*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We shall remember them"*

## **MESSIAH COUNCIL**

*Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. 1 John 3:2*

There is much at this time that is not yet known, but the certainty of God's love and blessing is that we are children of God. As God's children we are called to love one another, and that is one of the most important gifts we can share regardless of uncertainty and especially in these times of stress and anxiety.

Council appreciates Pastor Fran's leadership, the support of Donna and Vimy, and the work of the Ministry Teams. We continue to review the SK Health Authority and SK Synod guidelines, adapting them for Messiah's ministry and worship services. Thanks to those people who are able to volunteer at this time as camera and projection operators, ushers, readers and to our accompanists. The Thanksgiving display was wonderful, with thanks to Linda Moriarty and the contributors for the beautiful addition to our thanksgiving service.

Pastor Fran will be away for two weeks consisting of vacation and study leave. Pastor Michael Diegel will preside at the November 8 service, and Deacon Eldon Danielson at the November 15 service.

Council meets on November 17. If you have anything to share with Council, please contact myself or any of the Council members.

With prayers for God's guidance, Cheryl Bauer Hyde

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### **Property Management Ministry Team – 2020 Update Report**

The Property Management Ministry Team is comprised of: Don Becker, Troy Hufnagel, Dick Honch, Wilf Litzenberger, Wayne Hyde, together with Council Liaisons Alfred Kristensen and Darren Sundbo.

Over the summer due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the team cut back on several of the larger planned projects and concentrated on smaller maintenance issues and care of the grounds. A huge thank you to Don and Alfred for doing a fantastic job of cutting, trimming and watering the lawns; they have never looked so good. Some minor vandalism took place with the shed locks cut off, an accessible parking sign and a sidewalk drainage grate stolen. Finally, some additional sprinkler heads were installed to water the front entry beds.

The flat roof sections of the building developed some leaks due to a number of factors that affected the spray cover such as UV rays and some damage from other crews who had been on the roof over the last few years. Damaged areas of the spray foam cover were repaired, a new spray cover was applied, and the drainage pattern was improved. This new application is supposed to last for 8 - 10 years.

The team encourages all congregational members to take pride in our facility and to take an active role by letting the team members or the office know of anything that requires attention. As winter approaches, we are always looking for individuals to assist in the clearing the lighter snowfalls from the walks remembering to let the office know when you did it as we must maintain a log of this activity for insurance purposes.

Submitted on behalf of the  
Property Management Ministry Team, Wayne Hyde

## Worship Team

**SAVE THE DATE**

Advent is quickly approaching this year. And although many things in our Advent and Christmas Seasons will be quite different than normal, the Worship Team is still working to retain the beautiful themes and meaning of these seasons.

Sunday, November 29, is the First Sunday of Advent and we will have an adapted version of the "Hanging of the Greens".

Also, if you are a singer or musician and wish to share your gifts with the congregation on a Sunday morning, please let us know. We will have to observe careful physical distancing, but we would love to include your gift of music! Please call the church office to volunteer or talk with Pastor Fran or Colleen Bowen.

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### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

#### **Confirmation Students Please Note:**

There is **no Confirmation on November 8 & 15** while Pastor Fran is away.  
**We resume on November 22!**

#### **Joint Youth Activity:**

**Save the Date!** We plan to go bowling on  
**Saturday, November 21 from 2-4pm at the Minto Bowling Alley.**

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### **.Meatballs for Sale!**



Although the Beef Supper has been cancelled for this year, trays of Meatballs (sweet & sour sauce or plain) will be for sale beginning November 2. The cost will remain the same as previous years at \$15/tray.

Orders can be placed by contacting the Messiah office: phone 306.763.7374; email [messiah@sasktel.net](mailto:messiah@sasktel.net). You will be contacted to confirm your order and to make pick up or delivery arrangements.

For more information or questions, phone Wayne (306.960.1074) or Cheryl (306.961.2967).

Not only will you be supporting Messiah's ministry with your purchase, but you'll have delicious meatballs for a quick and easy meal.

## ELCIC – National and SK Synod

The National Church provides a weekly update through email. The most recent version includes these topics:

1. Mi'kmaw fishing crisis (letter to the Prime Minister – <https://www.elcic.ca/documents/2020-09-21ALetteronMikmawFishing.pdf>);
2. Reformation Day 2020 (resources from the Lutheran World Federation);
3. Global Christian Leaders (debt cancellation);
4. Stewardship Resources;
5. Living our Faith (Bible Book Club);
6. ELCJHL Schools (supporting students);
7. One Body Working Together (webinar series);
8. Reconciled Relationships (advocating for Indigenous Rights);
9. Courageous Innovation (Lutheran World Federation in Cameroon);
10. Child of God you are growing up (free copies of the book available).

For those with email access, you can subscribe (<https://elcic.ca/Communique/default.cfm>) to receive the newsletter. For those without internet access, please contact the Messiah office to request a printed copy.

The SK Synod website includes a communications and news area, and you can subscribe to receive updates: <https://sasksynod.ca/news/synod-news/>. One of the most recent items is titled 'Interfaith Statement on Suicide Prevention', issued October 6 on World Suicide Prevention Day and acknowledging The Walking with Our Angels vigil by Tristen Durocher which has drawn attention to the urgency of suicide prevention in Saskatchewan. If you would like a copy of the statement, please contact the Messiah office.

Submitted by  
Cheryl Bauer Hyde  
Secretary, SK Synod Council

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