

October 2020 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

1796 15th Avenue East, Prince Albert, SK S6V 8A1

Website: www.messiahluthpa.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert>

Pastor: Fran Schmidt

Cell #: 1-306-716-3954 E-mail: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net

Admin Assistant: Donna Deobald

Email: messiah@sasktel.net

T: 306-763-7374 Fax: 306-763-6284

2020 Council

Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chairperson

Merv Bender, Vice Chairperson

Jean Meyers, Secretary

Alfred Kristensen

Lois Manchur

Donna Meyers

Darren Sundbo

Pastor Fran Schmidt

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

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

October 11, 2020



I am thankful for

In this strange year of Covid we know that many things are different, but we still have so much to be thankful for! So, we’re asking: what are you thankful for? We would love to include your responses as part of our worship service on Thanksgiving Sunday. **To be included in time, please send in your responses to the church office by next Friday morning, Oct. 9th.** Your name(s) won't be included, just your response. Thanks for participating in this project!

Happy Thanksgiving



October 2020

Prayer List

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not be afraid.
John 14::27*

A Season for Everything

by Pastor Fran

“For everything there is a season, and time for every matter under heaven...”

Ecclesiastes 3: 1

This is such an unusual season in which we find ourselves. It is fall, we hear the leaves crunch underfoot, watch the colours change, drink our pumpkin lattes and start wearing sweaters and jackets. And while some of it feels familiar, much is not. We long for the pre-covid days and a return to normal.

But at the same time as wanting things to return to the way they were, there have been several articles published recently suggesting that this disruption and the “new normal” might actually be a good thing. I am not going to wholeheartedly agree with that point. However, we are learning some things about ourselves and our world, and many are connecting more deeply with those they love. And this is a good part of this “new normal.”

As people of faith, we can take this one step further to ask: how is God at work and active in the chaos, disruption, and “new normal”? To see how God is at work and to see the ways that God is made visible and present to us, is to shift our focus ever so slightly. This deepens our trust in the one who promises to be with us always, who promises us a future with hope, and who promises good to those whom he loves.

In putting together the newsletter and working with various committees so far this fall, it is undeniable that God is at work through the power of the Holy Spirit in a myriad of wonderful ways, in unexpected and innovative ways here at Messiah. I see this in the connections being made possible for a campus ministry in PA, and in the way bible studies are being offered. I see God at work in worship that is going to be offered livestream at the same time as our in-person services. And there are more...read on, and you will see, too, how awesome and creative our God is, working in, with and through us.

This is good news for us as the season of Covid continues to unfold. Because as the days get shorter, the air gets colder, and we prepare for winter's hibernation, we can trust that even through this season and the seasons to come, God is acting for us, in the chaos, in Covid, and in the “new normal” to further God's mission to extend radical and abundant love and grace to all the world.

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

*Let all that you do
be done in Love*

1 Corinthians 16:14

MESSIAH CHURCH COUNCIL

Over the past months, Messiah Council has been guided by love and faith in God that sustains us during times of uncertainty and turmoil. We have been supported by Pastor Fran, the Saskatchewan and National churches led by Bishop Sid Haugen and Bishop Susan Johnson, and the Messiah congregation.

Meeting every two weeks for a time and then moving recently to monthly meetings, Council reviewed SK Health Authority and SK Synod guidelines related to worship services and operation of Messiah activities. A small task group came together in July to put together a checklist for in-person worship, the office and building, funerals, and baptisms. In addition, the Executive Committee has met before and between Council meetings to address current matters and to begin a review of the Messiah support functions.

Are all the decisions and processes currently being followed supported by the entire congregation; certainly not and Council understands there will be a range of responses. At each meeting of Council, we review by:

- discussing what has been shared by congregational members,
- checking SK Health Authority and SK Synod guidelines for updates / changes,
- looking forward to upcoming ministry plans and facility requirements, and
- confirming the current or revised direction.

Please know that even if the Messiah guidelines don't change, your voice has been heard and we thank you for your input. Council will continue to weigh the various opinions and feedback looking for the middle ground and balance, with the primary concern being the safety and care of our congregation, staff and volunteers. This is not done in a fearful and extreme manner, but Council makes its decisions on the side of caution and prudence. Messiah's ministry has continued to grow in unplanned ways even when some of the 'usual ways' we previously gathered in community and worship have not been possible.

There are so many people to thank during this time – Pastor Fran, Donna and Vimy, Merv Bender and Barry Mihilewicz for the service recording, accompanists and readers Colleen Bowen and Elaine Serfas, Alfred Kristensen for delivering bulletins for a number of months, and the ministry team members (worship, property maintenance, caring & community service, education).

Inside the building or not, we are God's church called to love the Lord with all our heart, mind and strength, and to love each other as ourselves. Thank you to the church family at Messiah for your ongoing support, stewardship of time and financial offerings, and your grace, patience and understanding.

With thanksgiving for God's blessings,

Cheryl on behalf of Messiah Council

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP

Messiah is back to worship!



We are following the guidelines of both the Saskatchewan Health Authority as well as the Saskatchewan Synod (ELCIC) which means wearing a mask during worship and whenever someone is in the church building, using hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving, dropping off offering in the narthex area, and maintaining a physical distance while in the space. Our max 1/3 capacity in the sanctuary is 78 (+a few more in the balcony). So, there is space and we hope with these measures that you will feel safe to come to worship again.

We're going LIVE!



That's right. Messiah worship services are now available for viewing on our YouTube channel (Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert) Live at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We'll still post the links on our website and Facebook pages. (Please note that in case there are technical difficulties, we still hope to have the service posted by 1 p.m. on Sunday afternoon).

UPCOMING WEEKS IN WORSHIP

October 4th - Bring your pet to church Sunday

**Bring your Pet
to Church Day**

We will have a Blessing of Animals as part of our worship service so you are invited to bring your pets (crated if possible) to receive a blessing. October 4 is the Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi who was a lover of nature, especially animals. It is a wonderful time to give thanks for and to give blessing to the special creatures with whom we share our lives.

October 11th Thanksgiving Sunday



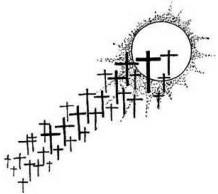
In this strange year of Covid we know that many things are different, but we still have so much to be thankful for! So, we're asking: what are you thankful for? We would love to include your responses as part of our worship service on Thanksgiving Sunday. To be included in time, please send in your responses to the church office by [next Friday](#) morning, Oct. 9th. Your name(s) won't be included, just your response. Thanks for participating in this project!

October 25th Reformation Sunday



We invite you to wear the colour red this Sunday, which marks the birth of the Lutheran Church (actually on October 31st). Why red? Red is the colour in the church that represents the Holy Spirit's fire which brought about the forming of the church (in Acts) as well as the reformation of the church by Martin Luther and the early church reformers.

November 1st All Saints Sunday



Lutheran theology recognizes that all believers are simultaneously saint and sinner. In worship on All Saints Sunday is an opportunity to acknowledge that we are all saints, but especially it is a time to recognize the "saints" who have died in the last year (or earlier). As part of our collective remembering, we will read the names of those who have passed as a candle is lit. If you wish to have your loved one included in this way, please send an email or call the church office.



Looking for volunteers! If you are able to attend worship, maybe you would consider volunteering to either read, usher, or run the power point. Call the church office if you are able to help in this way and thanks to those who already have!

NOTES FROM THE CARING MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM

Food Bank


For Thanksgiving Sunday, we will be collecting food items and financial contributions for the Food Bank. Please bring in your canned and dried goods by Friday, October 9, to be included in the Thanksgiving display. Donations continue to be needed by the food bank on an ongoing basis as well, so please consider giving a little extra to help those who rely on the food bank especially during Covid.

Campus Ministry Project

The Caring Ministry and Community Service Team recently submitted a proposal and funding was approved by the Saskatchewan Synod to begin a Campus Ministry Project in Prince Albert. Our hope is that this will evolve into an ecumenical ministry over time. Included in the project is funding for some training in Stephen's Ministry and Safe Kitchen, as part of what we hope to offer is a soup and devotion for post-secondary students. We have partnered with University of Saskatchewan and Sask Polytechnic Student Wellness, and plans will be underway for what this can look like in the time of Covid.

But as we prepare, one of the things we will do is have a number of people from Messiah certified in safe food training. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to make soup for the students, and thus receive the training as part of the Campus Ministry Project. If this is you, please contact Jean Meyers or Pastor Fran.

Lectionary Bible Study
At Messiah Lutheran Church




Each Wednesday @ 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Join by Zoom/online OR in-person

Call the Church office or email pastor.mlc@sasktel.net
to receive the Zoom link and/or to register.

In-person means:

- Wearing a mask
- Maintaining physical distance
- Using hand sanitizer

We will be following the Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatchewan Synod guidelines for in-person gatherings.



Scripture Readings for Sundays in October

October 11

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
: Matthew 22:1-14

October 19

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46



YOUTH & CONFIRMATION INFO . . .

There will be no confirmation on October 11 – Thanksgiving!

The next Joint Youth Activity will be on Saturday, October 17 from 2pm- 4pm. We will be going to the Corn Maze! Youth, watch your e-mail, Pastor Fran will have more information for you in the near future.

IN ADDITION TO MESSIAH'S WORSHIP SERVICES, OUR FAITH CAN BE SUPPORTED AND STRENGTHENED THROUGH:

➤ **Book Discussion Group: Expression of Interest.**



Do you like to read and talk about what you read? Would you like to meet once a month to talk about a book or a topic? The group will choose a book, a genre or topic, read and then have a discussion. We can read a book written by a local author and invite him/her to also participate. There are many ideas and opportunities. If you are interested, please contact Donna at the church office or Angie Hesje at ahesj2@sasktel.net or 306-763-6572.

- **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.
- **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.

FALL 2020
Adult Bible Studies

Join us on Zoom for weekly Bible Studies
Thursdays at 9am

Session 1
JOY
October 8, 15, 22, 29
Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

Session 2
Care of Creation
November 5, 12, 19, 26
Rev. David Saude

Registration is free, but we encourage you to make a donation to your local Bible Camp

Information and Registration at WWW.KURIAKOS.AB.CA

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Join with Lutheran Camps for an Adult Bible Study!

We are so excited to partner with our fellow Lutheran camps to bring you a weekly fall Bible study through Zoom!

Bible studies will be Thursdays, October-November, at 9 am Mountain time.

In October, Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen will guide us through delving into the meaning of joy.

In November, Rev. David Saude will take us on a journey through Leviticus.

Registration for this Bible study is free, but you are encouraged to make a donation to your home camp. We look forward to learning and praying with you, and hope that you will join us for this wonderful opportunity!

To register, and see full descriptions of the studies, visit Kuriakos' website.



This weekend, Canadian Lutheran World Relief's (CLWR) Board of Directors, leadership team and denominational leaders gathered for our annual September meeting. As we came together — completely online for the first time in our history — we were all forced to confront the fact that we are working in a new reality, one that is marked by change and new circumstances.

Everyone at CLWR is committed to meeting the challenges of this moment with humility and courage. We are steadfast in our responsibility to ensure CLWR can respond with integrity, efficiency and kindness in a time of soaring global need, and to make sure Lutherans in Canada can continue a tradition of working toward justice and peace for all people.

Based on those commitments, this weekend we made the decision to begin transitioning We Care, CLWR's long-standing and beloved commodity shipment program, with the intent that the shipping component of the program will be fully closed by the end of 2021. While many of us feel a deep, personal connection to this aspect of We Care, the decision was made with the unanimous support of everyone involved.

Despite some sadness in making this change, we are united in confidence that **this decision affirms CLWR's most deeply-held values, including responsible stewardship, shared learning and honouring the voices of those we are called to serve.** We are encouraged and optimistic at the commitment everyone at CLWR has shown to being the most responsible, effective organization we can be on behalf of Lutherans in Canada.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need experienced by our global partners has never been greater, and they are urgently calling on Lutherans in Canada to respond as generously as possible. The decision to revise the We Care program comes both in response to those calls, and as part of our deeply-held commitment to honour the kindness of our church communities, making sure to do as much good as possible.

We are proud of CLWR's long history of growth and adaptation as an organization. Since as early as the 1950s, the organization has continually adapted its efforts in response to shifting contexts, and especially to the voices of our partners. CLWR has always tried to exemplify the spirit of "*semper reformanda*" — always reforming — that has guided our faith tradition as Lutherans. Today, facing the prospect of a post-COVID world, we are united in our belief that we must not cease learning, growing and reforming.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new complications to We Care and has amplified existing challenges to a point where continuing the program in its current form would not be a responsible course. Shipping and travel restrictions have left our warehouse nearly dormant for months, despite significant donor dollars continuing to pay for the warehouse space. At the same time, the supplies provided by our We Care program are neither a rapid nor a cost-efficient way for CLWR to respond to the immediate, critical needs faced by so many around the world.

While earlier in the program's history, We Care filled a vital gap of needed items, in the world we now face, many of you have expressed growing concern about the climate impacts of shipping supplies from Canada, especially when they are available for purchase much closer to the regions where we work.

The communities and beneficiaries we work with around the world, in places like Ethiopia, Uganda and Jerusalem, have also continued to shape our understanding of their needs. Our work began evolving long ago in response to feedback from our partners, who have taught us to listen to those we serve, to help them build and rebuild livelihoods, and to work alongside them for justice. The transition of our We Care program continues this long and continual process of examining ourselves and our work.

The We Care program, in its decades of operation, has provided comfort and care to tens of thousands of people. **To our incredible community of faithful, loyal volunteers and churches, we want to say that we are inspired by you.** Your generosity has wrapped warm quilts around those who have lost their homes, has put supplies in otherwise empty school classrooms, and has given young mothers the very first clothes their new babies will ever wear.

Your efforts have made such a difference. You have our deep thanks. And we also want to say you are needed now — as much as ever.

Our warehouse will remain open for some time to allow for a transition period, and we expect one final shipment to go out this fall, with supplies that are already in the warehouse. If your congregation is holding on to supplies, we encourage you to reach out to local organizations in your community and ask what their needs are. Many are in need of these items right now. We have identified a number of local organizations who are eager for We Care items to support their critical work. We are well aware of how hard our own country has been hit by this pandemic, with food bank visits rising, many people out of work, and a cold winter coming. Please continue quilting, continue gathering supplies, and contact us if you need help finding an organization in your area who can put these supplies to good use.

Thank you for being a partner of CLWR, and of those we serve. We understand the changes to We Care will be disappointing for some, but we have heard from so many of you who cherish CLWR because of our commitment to faithful stewardship and to being responsible with the calling we have been given.

The need experienced by our global partners has never been greater or more urgent, and the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting those who already face hunger and poverty, with millions more being pushed into extreme poverty. In this context, particularly with ongoing restrictions, it is clear to our Board, staff, and the leaders of our supporting churches, that shipping supplies from Canada is no longer an effective nor a responsible way for us to respond.

As this work evolves, we will count on your continued partnership, and we pledge to continue in our commitment to do everything we can to be faithful and responsible partners in this ministry.

If you have any questions or comments about this decision, or about what to do with existing items, CLWR's Community and Donor Relations Director, Carla Blakley, is eager to hear from you. You can reach her at **204-230-1323** or carla@clwr.org.

We invite you to join us in prayer today for the ongoing ministry of our organization, for those we serve, and in gratitude for the incredible legacy of kindness that has reached across the world for so many years through We Care.

Deepest blessings,

Cheryl Bauer Hyde
President of the Board

Karin Achtelstetter
Executive Director