

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Pastor Fran Schmidt

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Presiding Minister: Rev. Michael Diegel

Musician: Colleen Bowen

Reader: Linda Moriarty

Ushers: Cheryl Bauer Hyde
Wayne Hyde

PowerPoint: Petra Finnestad

Camera: Merv Bender

Pastor Fran is away this week, returning November 16. For immediate contact, please phone Cheryl Bauer Hyde (306-961-2967). The office is open on a limited basis for church related activity this week: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; 10am – 4pm. **Note: the office is closed on November 11.**

Hand sanitizer and masks are required everywhere in the building.

Thank you to Rev. Michael Diegel for leading today's service and sharing the sermon.

Worship for Sunday, November 8, 2020

23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Year A

Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. is in-person and LIVE on our YouTube channel. **Please pre-register if you plan to attend the in-person service** by phoning or emailing the Messiah office. SK Health and SK Synod guidelines regarding physical distancing will be followed. **The wearing of Masks is required.** If there are technical issues with the LIVE service, the recorded version will be available on the Messiah Facebook page and Website by 1:00 pm on Sunday.

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 Jana, Roger and Dasen Wilkie on the passing of Jana's grandmother, Katie Demkiw Basaraba on October 31. Please keep Wilkie / Demkiw Basaraba families in your prayers.

Announcements:

Canada Lutheran magazine: subscribe today! For only \$18.56 per year, you receive 8 issues of the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, which includes updates for each of the Synods and columns by each of the Synod and National Bishops. New for 2021 is that all subscribers will have access to a digital version. Check out the website – <https://canadalutheran.ca/>. If you would like to review a back issue of the magazine, one can be provided upon request. Please contact the Messiah office **by November 25**, if you have questions or are interested in renewing or ordering a subscription.

Meatballs: There has been a delay in preparing the meatballs, but plans are that they will be available in December (actual date to be determined). As in previous years, the cost is \$15 per tray, you can order either with sweet & sour sauce or plain by contacting the Messiah office.

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

Worship Services - Can you help? Volunteers are needed to read the lessons, usher/greet, and operate the power point. If you attend in-person, would you consider helping from time to time. Guidance and support for these tasks is provided. To sign up, call the Messiah office.

Lectionary Bible Study: Wednesday at 10am and 7pm every week. This study follows the lectionary (cycle of Scripture readings on Sunday mornings). The reading, study, and conversation happens either in-person or online using a zoom link (contact the Messiah office). **Note: On November 11, the study will be held at 9:30am and will be online only. However, the 7pm study will be both online and in-person at Messiah.**

Confirmation: No classes on November 8 and 15. Confirmation will resume on November 22 @ 7pm.

From the desk of Bishop Sid, SK Synod, ELCIC

– Excerpt from Update on Health authority directives for faith communities:

On November 3, new health directives came out from the Government of Saskatchewan. There seems to be some confusion as to how the new directives impact the life of faith communities. I did receive a clarification from the Faith Leaders Working Group representing faith communities with the provincial government, and have summarized their clarification below.

1. **New mandatory mask policy applies to all indoor public buildings in Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert.** Masks are required in all buildings, including businesses, places of worship, and all offices or other buildings to which the public has access. **Mask use is required in common areas of buildings, such as lobbies, elevators, and hallways,** but not private offices.
2. The government has also announced **changes to the number of persons permitted at an indoor private gathering.** The total number is restricted to 10 people, which only applies to religious gatherings (including weddings and funerals) when these are conducted in a private residence.
3. **These changes are effective Friday, November 6.** They have been issued as a public health order and have the force of law. Please ensure that your faith communities strictly abide by all of the public health orders and guidelines. See the Saskatchewan government website for all details.

In summary, masking at indoor gatherings which has been a Synod guideline is now a health authority directive for Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert. Throughout the province, the limit for an indoor gathering (other than a worship service) is now 10 people. This may impact our in-person council meetings, clergy clusters, Bible study groups, service groups, etc. This limit does not impact the ongoing worship service limit of 1/3 capacity across Saskatchewan (*note for Messiah, the limit is 70 people*).

Walking through this pandemic is feeling like a very long road, indeed. I have been struck this week with the Gospel text for this Sunday (in the Revised Common Lectionary): the parable of the 10 maidens (Matthew 25:1-13). The parable sounds so profound to me as we walk this pandemic through together. As we encourage each other to keep on being faithful as we wait and watch for God's new day—that is coming in God's own time. Peace on the journey, +Sid

**Worship for Sunday, November 8, 2020
23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

REMEMBRANCE DAY TRIBUTE

CALL TO WORSHIP

We begin our worship with a remembrance of those whose sacrifices during World War I, World War II, and subsequent military service means that we are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today. We remember those who lost their lives in these wars and affirm the call to peace as we gather today.
Let us remember.

“**The Canadian Soldier**” written by Rick Ronning

LAST POST

IN FLANDERS FIELDS – by John McCrae - presented by Linda Moriarty

LITANY

Pastor: We gather this day to pray,

All: for a world where no one will learn war anymore.

Pastor: We remember when guns once fell silent.

All: we gather to pray for peace to reign in every heart, home, and nation.

Pastor: We pray for hope.

All: we come before you, God, to remember all those who gave their lives so we could be free.

Pastor: In our worship and prayer, help us to catch a vision of how the world could live together in harmony.

All: And so, let us pray and sing for peace.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #887 – *This is My Song*

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 God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

A reading from Amos.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

A reading from First Thessalonians.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 188 “Alleluia

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Rev. Michael Diegel

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #765 – Lord of Hopefulness (Vs. 1, 3, 4)

APOSTLE’S CREED

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

In praise and thanksgiving to God, we offer our thanks for the gifts of time, talent, and resources that have been given to support all the ministries of the church.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, **maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need, praying Hear us O God, and responding **Your mercy is great.**

...

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, 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

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and Holy Spirit,

(Sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW #726 – *Light Dawns on a Weary World* (Vs 1 & 3)

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.