

Messiah Lutheran Church

1796-15 Avenue East

Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca

Facebook page and YouTube channel: **MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert**

Pastor Fran Schmidt	Musician:	Colleen Bowen / Elaine Serfas
Cell: 1-306-716-3954	Reader:	Pastor Dennis Serfas
Email: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net	Lighting of the	
	Advent Candles:	Elaine Serfas
Administrative Assistant, Donna Deobald	Gift of Music:	Colleen Bowen, Jordan Feher, and Tracy Feher
Office: 306-763-7374		Garry Miller
E-mail: messiah@sasktel.net	Monologue:	Finnestad Family
	PowerPoint:	Merv Bender
	Camera:	

Donna will be away on vacation, returning to the office January 5, 2021. The Messiah office will be closed, but phone message and emails will be checked daily. In case of emergency please call Pastor Fran or Cheryl Bauer Hyde (306-961-2967).

We thank you for your financial support throughout this very challenging year. Financial donations for 2020 can still be made up to and including December 31. If you wish to drop off your donation to the church office, please contact Pastor Fran.

Please note that the use of hand sanitizer and wearing of masks is required for anyone entering the office.

Worship for Sunday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve - 7:00 p.m.

As we are not worshipping in-person at this time, online Worship Services continue live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. You can view this live by going to the Messiah Lutheran Church Prince Albert YouTube page and look for "live" feed. If there are technical issues, the recorded service will be available on Messiah Facebook page and Website by 1:00 p.m. 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.

Poinsettias are in “Loving Memory” of

♥**John & Barb Meyers & Janet Wahn**
~ parents of Craig & Sue Meyers

♥**Ruth Jensen and Adita Torres**
~ friends of Pastor Fran

♥**Jolene Mayer**
~ infant granddaughter of Donna Deobald

♥**For family members that have gone before us**
~ Dick & Debbie Honch

♥**Theresa & Paul Weinberger and my father William Richter**
- parents of Kevin & Joy Weinberger

♥**Darren LaMontagne**
~ nephew of Rose Statz



“Wishing you a merry, simple, and safe Christmas”

★
JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU

**Worship for Sunday, December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve – 7:00 p.m.**

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Today we light the candle of faith.

This year we have prayed for faith.

This year we have prayed in faith:

That we are not alone.

That our needs will be met.

That we will experience the love of God.

Today we pray with faith.

We know that God is with us in moments of faith and questioning.

We know that God is with us.

(All the candles are lit.)

GATHERING SONG: ELW #267 - “Joy to the World” (vs. 1& 2)

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: ELW #279 – “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1)

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.

A reading from Titus.

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW #289 “Angels We Have Heard on High” (vs. 1)

CANDLE-LIGHTING AND GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

MONOLOGUE: "THE INN IN BETHLEHEM" - By Garry Miller

GIFT OF MUSIC - "Silent Night" sung by Colleen Bowen, Jordan Feher, and Tracy Feher.

OFFERING and OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, **in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS

Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.
Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.
Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity. Be present with those we name aloud or silently now who need our prayer . . .
Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of 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

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this night, in the name of the Father and of the Son, † the Word made flesh, and the Holy Spirit.

Sung Three-Fold Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW #290 -"Go Tell it On the Mountain" (vs. 1 & 3)

DISMISSAL

Christ is born!
 Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Thanks be to God.