

Messiah Lutheran Church

1796-15 Avenue East

Prince Albert, S6V 8A1

Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca

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Pastor Fran Schmidt

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The Messiah office is opened Tuesday – Friday from 10am – 4pm for limited church-related matters. Note the use of hand sanitizer and wearing of masks is required for anyone entering the building.

Worship for Sunday, January 31, 2021

4th Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

Youth-led Worship Service

**Readers: Neveah
Graham
Gillian and Jackson
Dustin**

**Children's Message: Lucas and Eric
Musician: Colleen Bowen
PowerPoint: Walters Family
Camera: Merv Bender**

As we are not worshipping in-person at this time (see announcement on page 2), online Worship Services are live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. 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.

This Week

- **Confirmation** on Zoom, Sundays at 7 p.m.
- **Lectionary Bible Study** continues **Wednesday morning @ 10 a.m.** and **Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. on Zoom.** Call the Messiah office for the log-in information.

Announcements:

We will be starting Online Sunday School on Sunday, February 7 at 11:30am (right after church). There will be a time for sharing a bible story, a video, singing, and an activity. A resource pack is being prepared for pick up at the church next week (during office hours) and the Zoom link and other details will be emailed to families with Sunday School-aged children. Call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran if you have any questions or wish to contribute!

Coming Up! Sunday, February 7 from 2 - 4pm, the youth (and family) will gather at Elk Ridge for a fun day of outdoor and physically-distanced. For more information, see the announcement in the January Newsletter.

Prayer Petitions: Please consider writing a prayer petition! Prayers are inspired by all the ways that God is revealed to us. And as we are in the season of Epiphany, which means revealing, we would like to ask you to write a prayer petition that will be included in Sunday worship service. These "Petitions" are usually 2 sentences and reflect a need in the world, the church, or in the community. Please have them to the Messiah office by Thursday at noon to be included in the following Sunday during the month of January.

In-Person Worship: At the January meeting, Council determined that there continues to be a need for caution with respect to meeting in-person, therefore online Worship services will continue. Council will meet again on February 23, and will review guidance from the SK Synod and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. The decision to remain with virtual services and phone/electronic connection only is not an easy one, and we ask for the support and prayers of the Messiah congregational family. Please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Fran or any member of Messiah Council if you have questions or concerns.

2021 Offering Envelopes & Donation Options

For those people who would like 2021 Offering Envelopes, contact the Messiah office to make arrangements to pick them up or have them sent to you. Please note that your offering number doesn't change from year to year so you can use envelopes left from 2020 and previous years, or write your name and number on a plain envelope. If you are not sure about your envelope number, please contact the office.

E-transfer is an option for those who have online access to their bank account, as well as automatic withdrawals from your financial institution or Canada Helps. Please phone or email the Messiah office for information on these ways of donating.

Thank you for the ongoing financial support. The Messiah ministry relies on these contributions in addition to the numerous volunteers that contribute their time and talents.

Call for winter clothing donations; emergency shelter at capacity as deep freeze continues in P.A.

Amid frigid temperatures, Prince Albert Grand Council Urban Services has put out an urgent call for men's warm winter clothing. "It's important we look after our vulnerable people," PAGC director of Urban Services Geoff Despins said. "We need to do whatever we can to keep them warm. I know today is the call out for [urgent] help but let's keep this going as long as we can. As well as proper footwear we're looking for toques and mitts." Anyone wishing to donate items should contact Natalie at 306-930-1339.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD: TIME AFTER EPIPHANY (read by Neveah)

Holy God, Light of the universe, Teacher of truth, Giver of goodness, we hear your Word in the scriptures, proclaiming to us your wisdom and inviting us to follow your call. For speaking this Word, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

Your Word came among us in Jesus, our brother, who preached your righteousness, healed the sick, and revived the broken-hearted. For giving us this Word, we worship you, O God.

We worship you, O God.

By your Spirit, bless all who receive this Word, that upheld by the mystery of the body of Christ, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. For sustaining us with your Word, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Blessed are you, holy God, around us, with us, and in us, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #819 - "Come All You People"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray,

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (read by Dustin)

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 (read responsively by Gillian and Jackson)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD, pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding.
God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (read by Dustin)

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do

not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW #172 “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to Mark in the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – Lucas and Eric

SERMON: “Spoiler Alert”

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #612 “Healer of our Every Ill” vs. 1 & 4

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER

God blesses us through prayer.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray, **Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each prayer petition, we will sing **ELW #752 "Lord, Listen to your Children Praying"**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, saying let us pray, and responding as we sing, **Lord, listen to your children praying.**

...

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, 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

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you;
 and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.
Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW #726 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Shine the light of Christ everywhere.
Thanks be to God.