

# JANUARY 2021 Newsletter

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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## 2021 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."**

### Mark 1:9-1-11

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

<sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Lectionary Bible Study continues on **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** and continues each Wednesday morning on ZOOM . Call the Messiah office for the log-in information

### Lectionary Readings for January 2021

#### January 10

- Genesis 1:1-5
- Psalm 29
- Acts 19:1-7
- Mark 1:4-11

#### January 17

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
- Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51

#### January 24

- Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Psalm 62:5-12
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- Mark 1:14-20

#### January 31

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111
- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- Mark 1:21-28



# Hope is Born

by Pastor Fran

*‘For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.’ Jeremiah 29:11*

The calendar has flipped, yay!! It is 2021. And although it appears that not much has changed yet, in relation to Covid, we flip that calendar with hope and expectation. We have hope that in 2021 and as Covid vaccines are administered that there will be a return to “normal”. And the largest part of that normal that we long for is the return to being together with family, friends, and our church family.

We long for that connection, for visits not just with faces over Zoom or Facetime, but with three- dimensional people, to shake hands or share a hug. We long for a time when we do not have to wear masks, physically distance, or be concerned about testing positive for this virus or what it might do in our bodies. That freedom from worry, and that hope of a return to life as we knew it is on the horizon.

But really, our hope has never been lost for our hope is in Jesus Christ, the baby born to save us and the world. And this Christ-child is God’s ultimate sign of love, hope and promise. Hope is what is born at Christmas and that gives us reason to look forward to the future God is preparing.

Some of God’s activities within and amongst us into 2021 include, but are not limited to:

- regular online worship (please consider reading or operating Power Point, just call the Messiah office to volunteer.)
- a return to Bible Study and Confirmation classes
- discerning an online Sunday School and ways to have online youth activities
- a youth-led service at the end of January
- asking for **YOU** to write prayer petitions for the Prayers of the People through the Season of Epiphany (see the announcement)
- regular prayer and visitation with our members, mostly by phone right now, with either myself or a member of the Caring Ministry Team
- a rejuvenation of our Stephen’s Ministries program. Two leaders are receiving this training that we will extend to the congregation this year. We are such a caring community already and we know this ministry will continue to bless us all.
- And certainly God’s caring love is shown by those who donated to the Mitten Tree, to food hampers, to time at Salvation Army kettles, in the Christmas card writing project, and in countless acts of service and care in our community at Christmas and throughout the year!

How else do you see God at work in the church, in the community, or in your life?

As Jesus’ identity is revealed in Epiphany, we look to the ways that God is revealed among us too and we discern the plans God is preparing for us through Christ our Lord. We have a hopeful future, not because of a vaccine (although that will help!), but most especially because God is with us and for us, and this sustains us and empowers us with grace upon grace.

Happy New Year and may God’s love and grace be with you today, tomorrow, and always,

**Pastor Fran.**

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# Worship Notes for January 2021

## Online Worship

We continue to worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 live on our YouTube channel, with links provided. A link to the service will be available on Messiah Facebook page and Website by 1p.m. on Sunday.

## Holy Communion

Celebration of Holy Communion will be January **10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**



If you wish to partake of communion at home, you are invited to create a special place at your table and perhaps use a special table cloth, plate and cup. You can have the elements prepared ahead of service: bread (gluten-free wafer) and red wine (or grape juice). You may wish to light a candle as the service begins. If you do not wish to partake at home, then know that God is with you, as you hear the words of promise and faith in the Eucharistic Prayer and the Words of Institution.

## 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.

## January 31<sup>st</sup> is a Youth-led Service!

We are looking to include our youth in various ways this Sunday. You will be contacted or feel free to call Pastor Fran/Messiah office to affirm your involvement.

Youth Led  
**WORSHIP**  
Service

## Confirmation

Confirmation classes resume on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>  
7 p.m. on Zoom

(a winter calendar will be emailed next week)

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## Youth & Family Fun Day Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. at Elk Ridge

Lots to do out there and we can still physically distance!

Tobogganing, skating, hockey, curling, snow shoeing, crokinole,  
and cross-country skiing.

Have fun, stay connected, enjoy the outdoors!

### A couple of notes:

- rides are not available so you have to travel in your family groups.
- you will have to provide your own beverages/food, the restaurant is open
- you are responsible for your own rental of equipment, if needed.

**Need more info: ask Pastor Fran.**

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## Coming Soon-Online Sunday School

More info will be available as to the date, time, and Zoom link, but we are looking to start an Online Sunday School program for our **children**, K-grade 6.

Resource packets will be available for pick-up the last week of January which includes all the materials you will need for Sunday School for the month of February.

Keep an eye out in the bulletin & web-site for more info to come **SOON!!**

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*Thank  
you* 

A special thank you to those who helped make our Advent and Christmas seasons so special this year: Debbie; Dick; Linda; Elaine; Colleen; Tracy; Jordan; Craig; Dennis; Merv, Garry; those who wrote Christmas cards: Marion, Hazel, Donna, Pastor Fran, Linda, Vimy, Lois, Janet, Cheryl, Angie, Jean; those who read and operated power point through Advent and Christmas; and those who donated poinsettias and contributed to the hampers and mitten tree.



## THANK YOU!!!

Thanks for the great congregational support for the meatball fundraiser. Special thanks to the meatball team – Willi & Sheila Baessler, Anne & Roger Mayert, Wayne Hyde & Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Marion Primeau, Hazel Schultz, and Donna in the office for her assistance.

We raised just over \$1,300 which is a significant contribution to our Messiah finances. At the time of writing this thank you, there were 12 packages of meatballs for sale – please phone 306.961.2967 or phone/email the Messiah office if you are interested.

## THE PRAIRIE CENTRE FOR ECUMENISM AND THE REGINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

### SAVE THE DATE!

Please consider participating in Saskatchewan's first ever **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity virtual 8-day Bible study** sponsored in partnership with

#### The Prairie Centre for Ecumenism and the Regina Council of Churches

This year, due to the pandemic, we are not able to hold our regular events and so the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism and Regina Council of Churches have decided to partner and hold an 8-day virtual Bible study series based on the themes for Week of Prayer 2021 which will run Monday January 18<sup>th</sup>- Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:15-1:00pm daily over Zoom.

The theme for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021 is "*Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit*"(John 15:5-9) and materials have been prepared by the *Monastic Community of Grandchamp* in Switzerland. This theme is developed through a series of reflections which extend over eight days and will be the basis of the Bible study. Each day will be led by a different denominational leader.

The daily themes are as follows:

Day 1 - Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>: **Called by God**: "You did not choose me but I chose you" (John 15:16a)

Day 2 - Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>: **Maturing Internally**: "Abide in me as I abide in you" (John 15:4)

Day 3 - Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>: **Forming One Body**: "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12b)

Day 4 - Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>: **Praying Together**: "I do not call you servants any longer...but I have called you friends" (John 15:15)

Day 5 - Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>: **Letting Oneself Be Transformed by the Word**: "You have already been pruned by the word..." (John 15:3)

Day 6 - Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>: **Welcoming Others**: "Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16b)

Day 7 - Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>: **Growing in Unity**: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (John 15:5a)

Day 8 - Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>: **Reconciling with all Creation**: "So that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11)

Further details and registration information will be released early in January.

