

FEBRUARY 2021 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

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

Website: www.messiahluthpa.com

Facebook:

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

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

2021 Council

Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chairperson

Merv Bender, Vice Chairperson

Jean Meyers, Secretary

Alfred Kristensen

Lois Manchur

Donna Meyers

Shannon Pettem

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."

You are invited:

The Wednesday evening Lectionary Bible Study will begin with a **Lenten Devotion**, starting on **February 24th**.



Lectionary Bible Study & Lenten Devotion

You are invited to join in study, reflection and prayer as we gather for our Lectionary Bible Study, **every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. and again at 7 p.m. on Zoom**. Call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran for the link and login information.

Please note: we will not meet for bible study on the evening of February 17th as there will be a service for Ash Wednesday.

Lectionary Readings for February 2021

February 7 – Epiphany 5

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

February 14 - Transfiguration

- 2 Kings 2:1-12
- Psalm 50:1-6
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- Mark 9:209

February 17 – Ash Wednesday

- Joel 2:1-12, 12-17
- Psalm 51:1-1-17
- 2 Corinthian 5:20b—6:10
- Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21 – Lent 1

- Genesis 9:8-17
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Peter 3:18-22
- Mark 1:9-15

February 28 – Lent 2

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13 – 25
- John 2:13-22

Happy Friendship Day

by Pastor Fran

¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.” John 15: 15

In Latin America, February 14th is known as the Día de la Amistad, or Friendship Day. There is more of an emphasis on the love and appreciation between friends than there is on the romantic love of Valentine’s Day that we celebrate here in North America.

This warrants some unpacking.

When I lived in Peru, Friendship Day became one of those holidays that I loved to celebrate. Why? Because it is inclusive. It doesn’t matter if you are married, divorced, dating, or single. This holiday celebrates the importance of the friendship relationship and acknowledges it is one of the most important relationships in our lives.

So it is no surprise, then, that Jesus calls us friends. The lyrics of a Richard Avery and Donald Marsh song, entitled “He Turned to Say, Come Follow Me” ends: no longer strangers, we’re sisters, brothers, friends. More than teacher/students, or rabbi/disciples, Jesus calls us friends. And in that friendship with Jesus, we are all united and share a common mission. We are called and welcomed into a community of friends, what we in the church refer to as the “body of Christ”.

In the church, we celebrate being friends of Christ in all kinds of ways. We worship, pray, study, serve, and grow in our faith and in nurture of our friendship with Christ and one another. It has changed during Covid with some of the usual activities being postponed. However, Jesus still calls us friends and has gathered us in different ways: in Online Worship (see the Worship Notes page); in our study of scripture in our weekly Lectionary Bible Studies (see the announcement with the Lectionary readings for February); as we start Online Sunday School for our children; and as we learn how to offer Christ-centered care (me and a member recently took a Stephen Ministries Bridge Training Course) and there are many others, as we call one another, pray for one another, drop off a meal or share a card or note..

We rejoice and give thanks to God for Friendship Day and for the gift of Jesus’ friendship with us, and for the love and grace of God that Jesus continues to reveal. May we be affirmed and empowered to share this same friendship in Christ with all we meet!

Your friend in Christ,
Pastor Fran.

Council News

“For we live by faith, not by sight.” – 2 Corinthians 5:7

Although Council does not presently meet in-person, we continue to meet at least monthly and more frequently as required. At the January meeting, it was decided that Messiah will continue with online services, and that we will continue to monitor Saskatchewan Health Authority and Saskatchewan Synod guidelines to determine when in-person services and gatherings will resume. We participate in the Synod town hall meetings to hear from Bishop Sid and Pastor Ali, and for conversation and guidance across our church.

Although a large number of people are watching or listening to the online services, we look forward to the day when we can gather again in community.

While the Messiah office will remain open Tuesday through Friday at this time, we ask that drop-ins be limited both in frequency and length. We want to maintain a safe environment for Pastor Fran, Donna, Vimy, and our financial volunteers as well as you and anyone else coming into the building. In addition, please remember that at all times masks must be worn, hands sanitized upon entry, and physical distancing maintained.

Our continued thanks for the financial and volunteer support over the past months. With the assistance of your donations, government grants, and reduced expenses in some areas (increased in others), the financial year ended close to budget. Volunteer assistance for the Worship Service, phone and other contact throughout the congregation, and contributions to the Caring Ministry & Community Service Christmas giving program are all greatly appreciated.

Please contact Donna in the Messiah office if you would like to help with or have questions about what’s needed for Worship Services (reading, PowerPoint).

Although the Annual General Meeting has traditionally been held in February/March, this year’s meeting will be held later in the spring (April/May). We are hopeful that this can be an in-person meeting. Council will be working on annual reports and the 2021 budget.

Exciting news about the beginning of on-line Sunday School. Please pray for the children and leaders as they embark on this new journey. Thanks to Shannon Pettem, Merv Bender, and Pastor Fran for their leadership. If you would like to get involved, please contact any one of them.

Council meets on February 23; please contact Pastor Fran or any Council member if you have any questions or comments.

Blessings and Peace,
Cheryl Bauer Hyde
On behalf of Messiah Council

Worship Notes-February 2021

Online Worship

We continue to worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. live-streamed on our YouTube channel, with links provided on our web-site & Facebook pages by 1 pm.

Ash Wednesday Service



Ash Wednesday worship service will be live-streamed on Wednesday, February 17th at 7 p.m. (Note: there will be no Lectionary Bible Study this night).

As we will gather online for Ash Wednesday, there will not be an imposition of ashes. However, as we remember that we are dust and to dust we will return, you will be invited to make a sign of the cross on your forehead. You may do that with or without dirt, as a substitute for ashes this year.

Lenten Devotions

The Wednesday evening Lectionary Bible Study will begin with a Lenten Devotion, beginning on February 24th. This is offered on Zoom; please contact Messiah office or Pastor Fran for login information to join us for this time of reflection and prayer.

Holy Communion



Celebration of Holy Communion will be February 14th (Transfiguration Sunday) & 28th

If you wish to partake in 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. This will continued until February 14, 2021.

Youth & Family Fun Day

Sunday, February 7th from 2-4 p.m. at Elkridge

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

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

Have fun, stay connected, enjoy the outdoors!

POSTPONED

Confirmation

Confirmation classes continue every Sunday

7 p.m. on Zoom

Note: no class on Sunday, February 14th due the Winter Break

Youth Retreat-at-Home!

March 12-13, 2021. A free program for ages 12-18!

Mark your calendar now! Registration will open at www.kinasao.ca Feb 1

We wish we could have you join us at camp, but having you join us from home is the next best thing!

Kinasao is partnering with Camp Kuriakos (Sylvan Lake, AB) to bring you all the goodness of a camp retreat, right in your living room via Zoom! Hang out with all your friends (and meet some new ones!) and the Kinasao & Kuriakos staff as we play games, reconnect, and grow in faith together. Bible studies will be led by Kinasao Executive Director, Darin Felstrom. Blessings! The Kinasao Leadership Team.

Please join us for:

Sunday School Online

with Messiah Lutheran Church



Learn and Grow... Together With Jesus

Sundays at 11:30 a.m. (approx. 15 mins)
(Online ONLY at this time)

To receive the Zoom link:
Call the Messiah Office, or
message Pastor Fran, or email:
pastor.mlc@sasktel.net



**Sunday School
Online!**

KINASAO NEWS:

Dear Pastor Fran and folks of Messiah, Prince Albert,

Thanks so much for your kind gift and continuing support of camping ministry at Kinasao!

As we know, 2020 was a year full of challenges and opportunities. With the help of our Kinasao community, we look forward to taking on whatever this year may bring and we trust that God will continue to lead us through it all.

Kindly let us know if there is any way Kinasao may serve you better and keep in contact with us so that we may let you know about ways to be involved throughout the year as a volunteer, program participant, and prayer supporter. We look forward to seeing you soon at Camp Kinasa of God's



**Peace and blessings for the New Year,
Darin Felstrom, Executive Director
Camp Kinasao**

Welcome to 2021!

Happy New Year, Kinasao Community!

A new year, a new beginning! We are looking forward to 2021 and all God has in store for us over the upcoming year. Although there were many challenges in 2020, we saw God's Faithfulness again and again at Kinasao!

We do not yet know what summer 2021 will look like exactly, as we are awaiting governmental approval for safe camping guidelines, but we are eagerly anticipating hosting many of you on site through Day Camps, Family Getaways, and Sunday Worship Services!

Make sure you stay tuned for updates from us, and keep connected with the many things that will be happening this year! Go our website to learn more about our 2021 Summer Staff Opportunities, A Youth Retreat-at-Home, and summer camping!

**Looking for the best job ever this summer!? You've found it!
2021 Summer Staff Applications are NOW OPEN!**

www.kinasao.ca

2/1/2021



To the Faith Communities of the Saskatchewan Synod

Dear friends

As February, 2021 begins, I write to inform our faith communities of the challenge we are facing in this latest phase of the pandemic including notes on the latest Health Directives to faith communities from the Sask Health Authority; and the updated Synod Guidelines for our faith communities in the synod, based on the Town Hall consultations late last week.

Where we find ourselves in this pandemic.

- Early in the spring of 2020 as the pandemic dawned, we found ourselves isolated in our homes. Our faith communities responded by closing down in-person worship while engaging in a number of innovations: engaging in virtual worship services, distributing printed orders of prayer with printed sermons, telephone-tree caring ministry, funding through increasing the use of PAR or e-transfer, and many others.
- Through the summer, we participated in the “re-opening” of Saskatchewan; gradually moving more freely in the province. In the late summer, after consultation across the synod via Zoom, Synod recommended returning to in-person worship where possible, while strictly following Health directives and Synod guidelines.
- In the late fall as COVID numbers across the province rose, Sask Health authority issued new Directives. Again synod gathered faith community leaders by Zoom in November for a consultation on the issue. The resulting synod guidelines recommended returning to virtual worship where possible until the end of January, 2021. (Where not possible, local faith community leaders who chose to continue in-person worship services were urged to rigorously follow Health Directives and Synod guidelines.)

Now, as January closed last week, synod gathered about 110 of our faith community leaders by Zoom. We met to attend to a presentation by Pastor Ali Tote on the state of the pandemic in our synod, and to confirm a decision that, given no change in Health Authority Directives, synod would continue with the current guidelines. **The Synod guidelines, then, will remain in place for the duration of the current Health Directives which are set to be reviewed Feb 19th. Synod will convene a virtual Town Hall Feb 19th to consider new Synod Guidelines.**

While it is not possible to confidently predict how the world will look in three weeks, the sense of Pastor Ali and the consultation, was that we will likely see similar Health Directives until the end of March. It appears likely that we will be in virtual services for Holy Week and Easter Day. **Anticipating that, Synod will be offering a series of virtual services for the week of Holy Week.** Look for details in coming Synod news.

Health Directives for Churches:

As we have said throughout the pandemic, Synod expects our faith communities to abide by the Directives of the Health Authority to ensure the safety of the people in our faith communities and of the communities we serve. Please continue to monitor the Sask Health link for any changes to Directives for faith communities. [Sask Health Directives for Faith Communities](#)

Synod Guidelines for Faith Communities

Please review these guidelines that were presented in November 2020 and reaffirmed last week.

1. General recommendation: **Do continue to be the church.** We urge you not to close down *being* the church. Do not close down worship. Do not close down faith formation. Do not close down caring for one another and for your communities. During a pandemic, people of faith are needed even more than in 'normal' life. During a pandemic, nurturing faith in our hearts and in the hearts of our children has never been more important.
2. **Specific recommendation: We urge you, wherever possible, to cease meeting for in-person worship until Feb 19th, 2021 when we will meet to review guidelines.**
 - COVID-19 is no longer something we read about. It is in the stores, in our workplaces, in the rinks, in the gyms, in our church buildings. The broad thrust of the Health Directives urges us to limit public outings to essentials. Yes, worship is essential for us. But we have proven over the last 10 months, that we can worship virtually, we can deliver worship orders and sermons manually. We can keep our communities safe and our vulnerable people safe by putting off gathering in-person during this phase of COVID.
 - If your church council and pastor together agree that in-person worship following Health Directives and Synod guidelines is the best course for your particular context, then do so. Having said that, synod guidelines need to be in the conversation. They are the distilling of the medical expertise of Dr. Ali Tote, and of our consultation with 110 church leaders.

For churches, the basics of the Directives remain:

- Limit gatherings to 1/3 of capacity to a maximum of 30.
- Mask when gathering indoors. Maintain a physical distance of 6 ft. Wash hands frequently.
- No singing.
- No sharing of food.
- Stay home if you have any COVID symptoms.

[Full text of detailed Synod Guidelines \(last revision Nov 27, 2020\) for in-person Worship](#)

Closing Remarks

I'm reminded in these pandemic days of an incident in Victoria some years ago. We left the hotel to head for worship but the exit from the hotel was blocked by a long line of runners completing a marathon. So we parked the car, stood on the sidewalk, and watched. It was amazing. Runners came around the corner—all weary, some clearly labouring—and were met by friends, relatives, and coaches. Some came right out on the street to run alongside them. What we heard was this: "Keep it up! You're doing great!" "You're almost there." "Just this stretch, around the corner, and you're home." What a message!

We have run this COVID marathon now since March 2020. It has been a challenging road, no question. And while the end may not yet be in sight yet, with vaccines gradually rolling out; better days seem to be 'around the corner'.

So, people of God: "Keep it up! You're doing great!" "You're almost there." "Just this stretch, around the corner and you're home." Or to put it in the word of Hebrews: "Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12)."

Peace, Bishop Sid

January 29, 2021

Consider Helping in our Community



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 306-930-13



It's Cold Out There February 20th, 2021

walk with us! #cnoy21

National CNOY is Saturday February 20th and we hope you will walk with us that day but the 100% covid19-safe virtual walk Prince Albert is hosting allows participants to walk your own route on an alternative day in February if you cannot join us on the 20th.

- Send pictures and/or video of your walk in Prince Albert such as the Rotary Trail, Kinsmen Park, Little Red park, or even around your own neighbourhood
- 2km to 5km options this year, there will be no entry fee, all money raised will stay in our community to help homelessness in Prince Albert
- 17 Years and Under - Raise \$75.00 or more and receive a toque
- 18 Years and Older - Raise \$150.00 or more and receive a toque
- Any donations are welcome to help this important fundraiser, this is a registered charity so any donations over \$20.00 will receive a tax receipt.
- Donations from businesses of goods, services, gift cards, etc will be entered as prizes for an online auction!



walk / donate / volunteer / share / cnoy.org






FREE Teen Burger
To The First 100 Participants
With Minimum of **\$20.00** Raised!

*Participating Prince Albert locations only.



Funds raised support
YWCA Prince Albert



PRINCE ALBERT
DAILY HERALD



www.ywcaprincealbert.ca

