

March 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

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."

HOLY WEEK



During Holy Week, Bishop Sid will be offering an opportunity to gather virtually as a synod for worship.

Holy Week services will run on Zoom, Wednesday through Saturday at 7 pm.

More details to follow.

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.

There will be a brief **Lenten Devotion on Wednesdays at 7 pm**. This will precede the Lectionary Bible Study. For the Zoom link, please call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran.

Lectionary Readings for March:

March 7th

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- John 2:13-22

March 14th

- Numbers 21:4-9
- Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
- Ephesians 2:1-10
- John 3:14-21

March 21st

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12
- Hebrews 5:5-10
- John 12:20-33

March 28th

- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 31:9-16
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Mark 14:1--15:47

Christ-centered Caring

by Pastor Fran

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13:34

Jesus speaks these words to the disciples as part of his preparation to leave them. He knows the events that will unfold: his suffering and death on the cross. And so, he treats Christian love and caring with so much importance that it is a new commandment. In our Lenten Journey and as part of our return to God (repentance) we are called to love one another.

Caring for others is a central part of our Christian faith and life. We are called to care for one another in Christ-like ways. Many of us do this intuitively, some of us having some training, and others maybe would like to be able to offer care but are unsure how. During this time of Covid-19 and throughout my years of ministry, I have seen how offering Christ-centered care makes such a huge difference. Not only in the lives of care receivers, the ones that myself or other lay people visit or call, but it is a blessing to those offering care. We meet Christ in the journey, as he guides and directs our deepening trust and faith.

We have many ways we already offer caring ministry. Stephen Ministries goes one step further, as we learned in our five-week training session to be Stephen Leaders. Stephen Ministries is an excellent way to intentionally train congregational members to be Stephen Ministers, who offer high quality, one to one, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care for people dealing with a wide range of life difficulties.

Since beginning the Stephen Leader training, I have heard numerous stories about how valuable a ministry this was for Messiah members many years ago. We pray God's guidance as we look to engage this ministry once again. We know that this caring ministry will have a beneficial impact both to individuals as well as to our faith community.

Over the next several months, you will hear more about Stephen Ministries as we will share the stories of those who have personally benefitted from receiving this specific spiritual and emotional care. And in the coming months, Stephen Leaders will be commissioned to begin to carry out this valuable program within our congregation. We look to your support and your prayers as we embark on this new journey together!

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Fran.

NOTES FROM MESSIAH COUNCIL

Romans 12:1: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

As we walk through this Lenten journey and a time of waiting, thank you to the Messiah congregation for your support of the ministry.

Council continues to evaluate the pandemic situation in our communities, and in-person services remain on pause. We are thankful for Pastor Fran's leadership and gift of music, Donna's organization of service details, musical accompaniment provided by Colleen and Elaine, Merv's faithfulness as camera operator, and the worship support volunteers.

The Annual Meeting is tentatively set for Sunday, May 2, beginning at 1:30pm in the Messiah Sanctuary. We are asking that annual reports be provided to Donna by March 15 so that the completed Annual Report can be available for distribution early in April.

Thanks to Garry for his work on the 2021 budget, and to the entire finance team of Morris, Harvey and Garry for their efforts during 2020.

Pastor Fran and another member completed the Stephen Ministries Leader training in January. Planning will take place over the coming months to implement this program which trains lay leaders to provide one to one Christ-centered care.

It's been exciting to hear about the children participating in the on-line Sunday School, with thanks to Pastor Fran, Shannon and Madison. Confirmation, the Lectionary Bible Studies and Lenten devotions are offered on-line as well.

As part of continuing education, Pastor Fran is beginning the Spiritual Direction program starting with a week in March and again in September.

Whether gathered in person or in spirit we are part of the Messiah family, and grateful for the many gifts that God bestows upon us.

On behalf of Messiah Council,

Cheryl

Worship Notes - March 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.

Holy Communion

HOLY Celebration of Holy Communion will be March **14th** & **28th** (Palm Sunday).



COMMUNION

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.

Lenten Devotion

This year, we will offer a brief Lenten Devotion on Wednesday evenings at 7pm on Zoom (prior to the Lenten Bible Study). Please call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran to receive the link.



Passion Reading on Zoom

As part of Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28th, we will share a virtual dramatic reading that will be recorded on Zoom. We need 15 volunteers to meet on zoom at the same time to share that reading that will be broadcast as part of worship Sunday morning.



Confirmation

Confirmation classes continue every Sunday

7 p.m. on Zoom

Note: no class on Sunday, March 21st.

Youth Retreat-at-Home!

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.

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

Mark your calendar now! Registration is open at www.kinasao.ca



Please join us for:
Sunday School Online
with Messiah Lutheran Church



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 Resource Packets for March now available!

These can be picked up at the Messiah office during hours (Tues-Friday 10am-4pm) or can be delivered, if needed.

Remember, children, to colour your "Alleluia" and put it away until Easter Sunday morning!

CLAY 2021 Registration Opens in April



Registration for CLAY 2021 begins in April. The National Planning Committee has been hard at work developing a one-of-a-kind online CLAY experience. Here are some of the highlights:

Registration and Cost

Registration opens April 2021.

In an effort to make CLAY 2021 as accessible as possible, the cost of participating will be pay-what-you-can. The suggested amount per participant is \$45.

Home teams that can pay beyond the suggested amount are encouraged to, in order to help assist with costs stemming from those who may not be able to afford the registration fee.

What will online CLAY be like?

Our National Planning Committee is committed to making this CLAY the absolute best it can be! It will be a gathering of hundreds of Anglican and Lutheran youth happening at the same time across the country.

There will be a three-hour group gathering time each day featuring: worship, workshops, and a large group gathering with the CLAY band, drama team, and our keynote speaker, Melanie Delva.

There will also be the Late Night Spots every day (a CLAY participant favourite) plus activities engaging with our National Youth Project happening outside of the group gathering times.

Home Teams will be encouraged to gather in-person if it is safe to do so, in accordance with local public health guidelines or participate online as a group. For more information, check out the website: www.claygathering.ca And please speak with Pastor Fran if you are interested in participating!

ELCIC Youth & Young Adults

Climate Justice - Call to Action!

If you are a youth (children and families are welcome!) or young adult who is passionate about the environment and climate change, please see the infographic below and click the link to participate in a brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDT8VPM>

The ELCIC is building a network of young adults and youth who would like to engage the church in some climate discussions and assist the ELCIC in working towards the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. Come and join the conversation!

If you have any questions, please contact climate@elcic.ca

**Calling all youth
age 30 and under!**

The Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada needs **YOU!**

The YAYA Committee is putting together a
group of youth to help inform the Church on
climate action to reach our goal of being
carbon-neutral by 2050!

**Are you passionate about
the world around you?**

**Do you see yourself as someone
who wants to make change?**

**Is being creative an
important part of your life?**

If you answered **YES** to the above
questions, check out the Survey
Monkey linked in the description!



Beyond Bequests: Exploring Giving Vehicle Options

ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation) and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa are pleased to present a FREE webinar on Legacy Giving.

We will be answering:

- What are some of the options for leaving gift to a charity?
- Can I leave the proceeds of a life insurance policy to a charity?
 - What is a Donor Advised Fund and how does it work?
- Can I name my church as a beneficiary on my RRSP or RRIF?
 - What is a Charitable Remainder Trust?
 - Who do I speak with?

Join us
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
11:00 am CST

To register or for more information, call the Synod office.
