

April 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

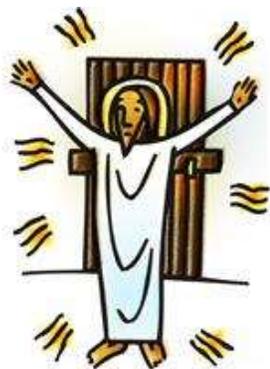
Shannon Pettem

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."



John: 20:31

But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Lectionary Bible Study & Lenten Devotion

Lectionary Readings for our Worship Services through the Easter Season

Please note that the Lectionary Bible Study will meet at 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. on Wednesdays online ONLY at this time. Please call Pastor Fran or the church office for the Zoom link to join us online! All are welcome.

Lectionary Readings for April:

Easter 2, April 11th

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133

1 John 1:1--2:2

John 20:19-31

Easter 3, April 18th with Holy Communion

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Easter 4, April 25th

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

ETERNITY TODAY

Eternity for TODAY (daily scripture reading for reflection and prayer): a few copies of the April - June 2021 edition are available by contacting the Messiah office, which includes contributions from both Pastor Fran and Pastor Iris.

**If you are wanting a copy, please call Messiah office and your name will be put on a list for you to receive one! Next issue will be available end of June beginning of July.

Easter Greetings

by Pastor Fran

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed, Alleluia!

Easter greetings and blessings to you, beloved of God. It is with joy that the long Lenten journey to the cross, the place of Jesus' suffering and death, is over. Easter's empty tomb greets us. Death is swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the heart of the Good News that we hear and give witness to ourselves: Jesus is risen from the dead. And by our baptism into Jesus Christ, we too are inheritors of this resurrection promise of everlasting life. It is this resurrection hope which grounds us in our life and in the ministry we share as the people of God.

Our resurrection hope does not disappoint. Despite the challenges this global pandemic has brought, despite not gathering in person for many months, and even in the midst of losses and sorrows, it is this good news of Jesus Christ and of his resurrection that keeps us going, that gives us strength, resilience, and persistence. This resurrection hope, Jesus Christ, does not let us go even as we, ourselves, struggle. For it not only a promise and hope in the life to come, but that which breaks into our world, our present reality.

My prayer for you, for us, in this Season of Easter is that we might look around us to see the myriad of ways Jesus brings about even small, transformative changes and resurrection life. Maybe we see this in days with longer sunshine, or in relationships rekindled. Maybe we see this in nature as the snow thaws to reveal green grass, and crocuses. And maybe we see signs of resurrection hope in our neighbourhood, or through a stranger, in acts of kindness and generosity, or a seed of faith that grows, among countless others. In all of this, we know that the risen Christ is God's good news for us at Easter and always!

God's abundant blessings in this Easter Season!

Pastor Fran.

NOTES FROM MESSIAH COUNCIL

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." Revelation 21:5

It is with regret that Council received a letter from Donna Deobald this week indicating that she is retiring from her role as Messiah Administrative Assistant effective June 30. Donna has been very faithful to her position, and to the ministry and people at Messiah. She will be missed in the office, but we can look forward to seeing her in the congregation when services and gatherings resume at Messiah.

Sunday, May 2, is the tentative date for the Annual General Meeting. A decision will be made prior to the end of April whether it will be held that date or postponed for a few weeks based on the pandemic situation and restrictions. The Annual Report will be available next week in printed or electronic format. The Constitution and Bylaws have been revised to reflect the ELCIC model constitution and bylaws. Copies of the proposed revisions will be available by contacting the office.

The three tall windows in the Peace Chapel will be replaced over the next few weeks. Unfortunately, the frames cannot be repaired, and one window has been broken.

Council meeting minutes are available upon request as they aren't posted on the bulletin board at this time. If you would like a printed or emailed copy of the March minutes, please contact the office. Council's next meeting is Tuesday, April 20.

Repeated from April 4 News/Worship Bulletin - Messiah Council met twice during March. Information from Bishop Sid Haugen (as outlined below) was reviewed, and the current and ongoing situation discussed. While we are eager to return to in person services and especially hoped to be able to gather on Easter Sunday, we are very concerned about the widening spread of the Covid variant. **While this is an extremely difficult decision, we will continue with online (live-streamed and recorded) services at this time.** If you have any questions or feedback, please contact any member of Council.

Background: Two weeks ago, a Messiah Council member participated in a meeting with Rev. Dr. Ali Tote (many will recall Pastor Ali was an intern at Messiah, and an epidemiologist), Bishop Sid and just over 100 faith leaders, lay and rostered, from across the Saskatchewan Synod. We gathered in Word and prayer, listened to Ali's presentation on the state of the pandemic in our province, and engaged in a conversation about the possibilities and risks as a synod. Pastor Ali and Bishop Sid met following the meeting and, based on the state of the pandemic and on the consultation with synod leadership, present a summary of provincial Health Directives for faith communities, and Synod recommendations for our faith communities.

Provincial Health Directives as of March 19, allow for faith communities to meet in worship with a limit of 30% of capacity (maximum of 150) while rigorously following Health Directives. With the COVID variants suddenly appearing in Regina, that has been amended to restrict Regina faith communities to a hard cap of 30 participants. Synod supports provincial Health Directives as a non-negotiable basic standard for our faith communities.

Synod guidelines throughout the pandemic, based on our consultation with synod leadership, have been more rigorous than Health Directives. The church of Jesus is a place of healing. We take that call seriously in the pandemic. We would err on the side of keeping our faith community safe, and avoiding finding our faith communities as a place of COVID outbreak.

Synod recommendations on the current phase in the pandemic:

1. Faith communities in Regina and Saskatoon (and communities with a majority of members whose work takes them regularly into the two cities) to continue with Virtual services at least until new Health Directives come out.

2. Faith communities outside of the Saskatoon and Regina region either to continue with virtual service or to worship in person with a cap of 30 participants. A sudden influx of worshippers in these faith communities including family members from Regina and Saskatoon ‘coming home’ could bring Regina / Saskatoon COVID problems to other areas of our synod. For the same reason, Synod advises against supply ministers based in Regina and Saskatoon agreeing to lead worship in other synod faith communities at this time.

Bishop Sid’s prayer for our church: Lead us, loving God, as we continue on a journey that sometimes seems endless. Provide us with ‘manna’, just enough daily blessing to get us through each day in this strange time. Manna that will sustain us until we can once again ‘plant our fields’. And by all means, O God, hold us close in these days, so that we that may together walk the remainder of this pandemic journey in the wilderness trusting that your New Day is coming. Amen.

Worship Notes – April 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



Celebration of Holy Communion will be: April 4th and 18th. 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.

Amazing Opportunity for YOUTH!

WCC invites youth to Stewards Programme for 11th Assembly in 2022

The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites ecumenical youth to be stewards at the 11th Assembly in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 2022. The Stewards Programme brings together a group of 160 young people from all over the world, from 21 August to 10 September 2022.

Stewards are young people between the ages 18 and 30 years old. The deadline for applications is **April 10, 2021**. The Stewards Programme includes: an on-site ecumenical formation, participation in the Ecumenical Global Gathering of Young People, and work at the 11th Assembly.

As a diverse community, stewards bring their faith, experiences and visions to an ecumenical experience of togetherness and friendship, with English as the working language of the programme.

If you are interested and wish to apply for this amazing opportunity, please speak to Pastor Fran asap!!

Confirmation

Confirmation classes continue every Sunday 7 p.m. on Zoom

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 April now available!

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

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!

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Saskatoon (LCM) - come and “catch up” with the ministry by tuning in to their Appeal-ing Evening. Go to **Facebook page (Lutheran Campus Ministry at Usask Saskatoon)** at **7:00 pm on Saturday, April 10**. There will be music, fun, learn how the ministry has been faithful during the time of COVID, and opportunity to partner in the ministry by presence with and presents to LCM-Saskatoon. Students past, present and future from around the world (really!) will provide music and testimony to inspire; two beautiful wall-hangings will be available for auction and Chaplain George Hind will share more on life and ministry on campus. LCM-Saskatoon gives thanks for so many who pray for them, encourage students to be a part of the community and offer stewardship to the ministry by their giving. Email prayers, names of potential students looking for a place to worship and belong, or e-transfer financial support to luth.chap@usask.ca

LumHinOs (Lutheran Ministry in Hospitals of Saskatoon) Ministry:

For the latest newsletter about this valuable ministry of Christian care-giving, you can find it using this link: <https://www.luminhos.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/March-2021-Caregiver.pdf>



Upcoming Ecumenical Opportunities

LAURC Covenant Study

You are invited to join a discussion about the new LAURC Covenant between the Lutheran, Anglican, Ukrainian Catholic, and Roman Catholic churches in Saskatchewan. What is a covenant? Does this mean that we are becoming one church? What will change because of the covenant? What should change?

These and other questions will be explored **Monday evenings, 7pm, on April 12, 19, and 26** with Nick Jesson and members of the LAURC Covenant Committee.

Register now at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkc--tqTgiHdGy0YPCZ_Cji3kmw4Yy9fmd

Engage Difference! Introducing Intercultural Ministry Workshop

Identify and explore tools and attitudes for leading and facilitating organizations, churches, and communities in reflecting on intercultural ministry across difference. This introductory workshop recognizes intercultural ministry as a life-long project. It offers some common language and questions to encourage deeper exploration for the art of intercultural ministry. **Thursday, April 22 and 29 from 6:30 to 8:30pm Registration: \$40 includes both sessions (maximum 30 people)** To register, email Nick Jesson at njesson@archregina.sk.ca

This 2-part workshop is planned in the spirit of the LAURC Covenant by the Ecumenical Stewardship Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle, the Saskatchewan Synod of the ELCIC, and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina. The workshop will be facilitated by the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning of the Canadian Council of Churches.

Conversations About Race, Gender, Poverty and Social Change

On four Saturday afternoons, at **4:00pm EDT/2:00pm in Saskatchewan: April 17, May 15, June 12 and June 26.**

<https://www.interculturalleadership.ca/programs/conversation-circles>

These interactive conversations will be led by the Forum for Intercultural Leadership and Learning (FILL) of the Canadian Council of Churches, an ecumenical agency with 26 member denominations representing 85% of Christianity in Canada.

2021 Saskatchewan Prayer Breakfast

Visit <https://www.ltgov.sk.ca> for details about this free online event on **Wednesday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m**

