

# May 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."



*We  
Need  
Your  
Help!*

Join us on Zoom for a time of prayer, study, and conversation in our Lectionary Bible Study. We meet on Wednesday evening @ 7pm. All are welcome!



### Lectionary Readings for May:

#### **Easter 5, May 2**

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

#### **Easter 6, May 9**

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

#### **Easter 7, May 16**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

#### **Day of Pentecost, May 23**

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

#### **Trinity Sunday & Confirmation, May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Looking for helpers for Sunday mornings in helping out with Scripture readings and PowerPoint. Please call the Messiah office if you are interested.

## *Greetings from the Pastor*

"Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live." ~ Ezekiel 37:5

Greetings and peace to you, sisters, brothers and siblings in Christ!

May often marks a change of the liturgical seasons in the church, from Easter to Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit comes with fire. The Holy Spirit breathes new life into our faith, into the weary bones of doubt and dismay. And into our dried-out bones, this breath of God gives new life.

As a child, we used to watch "Animal Kingdom" every Sunday night. In one program, researchers, accompanied by wardens of a reserve in Africa, followed a herd of elephants. Soon, one of the elephants, a mother, began to touch old elephant bones. As she picked them up, she began crying and was obviously distressed. The warden commented that she, the mother elephant, recognized those bones were her baby who had died shortly after birth, several years earlier.

Imagine. God knows us just this intimately. God knows our dried-out bones. Yet God does not leave us in this lifeless state. God breathes onto our bones, causing sinews, flesh and breath to enter our lungs. Our bodies are made alive by a living God, who transforms our lifeless form into animate, breathing, reasoning beings. Time and again, despite our unbelief, trauma, addiction, or whatever causes the bones to dry out. We are breathed into by the Spirit of God. We are changed and made new, brought to life again. Just as the Lord God did this for Israel after its exile, God breathes into us and we live.

Prayer

Thank you, O God, for knowing us intimately and breathing new life into us so that we may live in you. Amen.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Fran.

## NOTES FROM MESSIAH COUNCIL

**We begin this update with a personal note from Bishop Sid Haugen:** *This has been such a long journey for our congregations, ministries and synod. A year ago, I think we were more afraid than most of us wanted to admit of this virus that not even our medical experts knew how to handle. A year later, we are likely less fearful, but more weary of washing, masking, and keeping our distance. With brief periods of relief and then renewed restrictions, it begins to feel like an endless road. On the other hand, people of faith know that God is good, and that this is God's world. So do what you can. Wash, Mask, Physical Distance, Stay Home when you are sick. Get Vaccinated when your turn comes up. And most of all, I urge you -- as I urge myself in these days -- Keep the faith. God is already at work. Peace, Sid*

Bishop Sid and Pastor Ali Tote will hold a Synod Town Hall meeting for rostered and lay leaders after the expiry of the current Health Directives on May 10. The agenda will include summer worship planning: the state of the pandemic, the level of vaccinations, etc.

**April Council meeting highlights** (other items will be included throughout the newsletter):

- monthly applications for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy,
- designation of May 30 as Confirmation Sunday,
- development of a recruitment plan for office support,
- options for Advent paraments and banners, and
- replacement of windows in the Peace chapel and tree trimming.

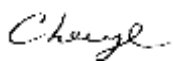
**Messiah's Annual General Meeting** has been moved to Sunday, June 6, at 1:30pm. It is hoped that this can be an in-person meeting, but alternatives will be considered if necessary. The Annual Report and proposed Constitution/Bylaw amendments can be found on the website or contact the Messiah office if you would like a printed copy.

**The Saskatchewan Synod Convention** will be held virtually on June 4 and 5. Messiah can appoint two lay delegates and if you would be interested in attending or would like more information, please contact Cheryl at 306.961.2967 or email [cbauerhyde@gmail.com](mailto:cbauerhyde@gmail.com).

**Council meets next on Tuesday, May 18.** If you have any matters for consideration by Council, please forward them by phone or email.

**Thank you for your continued generosity of spirit, relationship, finance and community** such as volunteering to assist with worship services; working with ministry teams; staying in touch with others in our congregation through a phone call or email; and your financial contributions to support Messiah's ministry.

God is with us,



Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Council Chair

## Pastoral Visits

Now that the weather is improving, there will be opportunity to have a pastoral visit in outside spaces. If you are interested in, or are wanting a pastoral visit, please call Pastor Fran or the Messiah office to make the arrangements. We will keep physical distancing, mask wearing, and hand sanitizing as an essential part of any outside in-person visitation.

## Stephen Ministries



## Stay Connected

One way to stay connected with your Messiah church family is to join the “**Messiah’s Conversations**” private Facebook group. You can post things that are interesting or inspirational to you, you can comment and start a conversation or post a prayer request. We hope this will be another way we can be connected with one another...

Stephen Ministries is a lay visitation program offering 1 to 1 visiting. It is Christ-centered caring for people, through people.

We have two members of the congregation now trained in the 2020 updated version of Stephen Ministries, and over the course of the coming months, we will continue to share more about what Stephen Ministries is, how it can enhance Messiah’s mission, and the kind of care that is offered.

After a time of sharing about Stephen Ministries, we will then be on the lookout for potential Stephen Ministers, who will be trained in the program, to offer Christ-centered care. With those care-givers in place, we will be able to offer this program and to potential care-receivers. It will take a few months for it to all unfold, and we hope that enthusiasm and excitement will grow as we look to offering care to/with/for one another!



## Worship Notes-May 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.

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.

### Holy Baptism



Do you wish to be baptized or to have your child/children baptized? We are still offering Holy Baptism at Messiah, it just happens in a different way. Email, call, or text Pastor Fran to ask more!

Confirmation Sunday - May 30<sup>th</sup> will be Confirmation Sunday at Messiah.



Please join us on  
Sunday, May 30, 2021

This will be a blended service of recordings and live-streaming Online Worship.

**Congratulations to:** Kylee Anne Hansen  
Jackson Henry Eric Hufnagel  
Graham Ray Lamontagne  
Carson Scott Schewaga  
Kylee Joy Schewaga  
Ashton James Tanchuk  
Lucas Michael Alexander Walters

*God saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.  
Titus 3:4-5*



## Sunday School

We have had so much fun in our Online Sunday School the last few months!! With the long-weekend and summer approaching, though, we have planned that our last Sunday will be **May 16<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you to parents and children for your interest & participation!!

Resource packets for May can be picked up in the Messiah office or delivered, if needed.

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## Messiah Youth

Without being sure about the safety of gathering, we are unable to plan a small group experience around the CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) Online event being held this summer: August 20-22, 2021. At the moment, then, it will be up to youth if they wish to participate online at home. And if it happens that we can gather safely as a smaller group, we might look at making some additional plans together closer to August. For more info, check out the CLAY website: <https://claygathering.ca/enroute/>

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## **Signs of Life in the Local Church: May 2021 Webinar Series**

Join in this series to explore signs that new missional perspectives are bringing life to local congregations.

- Each Thursday in May, starting May 6 at 3pm (Saskatchewan) on Zoom.
- 2pm BC, 3pm Alberta, 4pm Manitoba, 5pm Ontario & Quebec, 6pm Maritimes, 6:30pm Newfoundland

Free registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqf-ytqzosGdVoDhE6gNcveFr2JjU4-WCd>

For further information, contact Archdeacon Cheryl Toth at [stewardship@sasktel.net](mailto:stewardship@sasktel.net)

### **May 6: Unmasking the Post-Covid Church**

with Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart (Dean of St. Andrew's Hall at UBC, Professor of Mission Studies at Vancouver School of Theology). *Churches have been through a prolonged period of adaptive leadership challenges over the last year with Covid-19. What has God taught us through this experience about what it means to be church? How will this experience shape and change the nature of our witness and shared life together in a post-pandemic world?*

### **May 13: Fabulously Flourishing in the Local Church**

with Canon Dr. Neil Mancor (Congregational Development Coordinator, Anglican Diocese of Montréal).

*Before we start talking about money, we need to get the conditions right. In the same way that we prepare the ground for planting our gardens, we need to do the same in our churches. Research has consistently flagged two key characteristics of flourishing congregations: a lively spirituality and an outward focus on the community. In this seminar, we will explore these two characteristics and how they impact financial generosity in the local Church.*

### **May 20: Blessed to be a Blessing ... The Stewardship of Opportunity**

with Rev. Dr. Tim Beadle (co-founder of the Rural Church Pastors Network & Missional Engagement Team Lead, Foothills Alliance Church, Calgary) *In our time together we will lean in together and explore how we can steward the opportunities God entrusts to us and our faith community based on Matthew 25. We will unpack a B.L.E.S.S. model that will offer practical steps to engage you in reaching out to those around you. A book summary will be supplied. Participants will be exposed to a free resource in which they will determine their S.H.A.P.E. (S – spiritual gifts / H – heart-passion / A – abilities / P – personality style / E – experience) for use in being stewards of the opportunities around them.*

### **May 27: To The Regions Beyond: Spiritual Care in Under-served Areas**

with Rev. Dr. Robin Haensel (Director of Church Development, Canadian Midwest District, Christian & Missionary Alliance Church) *Dr. Haensel will introduce his recent D.Min. project (Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon) helping him fulfill God's calling to equip the church to serve those often ignored because of the logistical challenges of shrinking rural populations. His greatest desire is that the church would be able to fulfill her calling to the world, but especially to those communities that face the challenge of diminishing resources.*

# MannArtGallery

Tuesday - Friday, 10am - 5pm. Saturday, 12 - 5pm.

## They Didn't Know We Were Seeds

Carol Wylie

April 16 - May 29, 2021

On April 29 a remote conversation, moderated by Marcus Miller with Robbie Waisman, Eugene Arcand and Carol Wylie will be posted on the gallery website, YouTube channel and Facebook page.



*Eugene Arcand #781, oil on canvas, 36 x 48", 2017*



*Robbie, oil on canvas, 36 x 48", 2018*

This exhibition consists of eighteen portraits of Jewish Holocaust and Indigenous residential school survivors. In Jewish tradition, eighteen represents the word 'chai', which means life. Themes including trauma, ongoing recovery, shared pain, and the indomitable human spirit, are central to this work. With numbers of Holocaust survivors dwindling, and the same eventual loss of residential school survivors, these portraits remain and continue to reflect the strength and courage of these individuals.

Carol Wylie has had an active art practice for thirty years, working exclusively with portraiture and figuration. She holds an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts, a BFA in studio art and BA in psychology from the University of Saskatchewan. Carol resides in Saskatoon where she teaches drawing and painting and works as an art educator at the Remai Modern.

In 2002, a scandal over racist and anti-Semitic statements made by the former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, prompted Indigenous leaders to reach out to the Canadian Jewish Congress in an attempt to repair the damage. This led to a flourishing relationship that saw survivors of the Holocaust and the residential school system giving talks in remote communities and across Canada. Robbie Waisman and Eugene Arcand became important figures in a deepening cultural association that continues to this day.

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