

Messiah Lutheran Church

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The Messiah office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; 9am – noon.
Emails and phone messages to the Messiah office will be checked regularly.

Worship for Sunday, August 29, 2021

14th Sunday after Pentecost, Year B

Sunday Worship Service, in person and live broadcast on-line, begins at 10:30am. Pre-registration is not required and the wearing of masks is optional. Hand sanitizing is encouraged, and offering is collected as you enter the Sanctuary. The service is taped for later viewing on the Messiah Facebook page and website.

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns:

We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.



Condolences to Arlene Wagner on the death of her sister-in-law, Alma Wagner

Roberts, on August 22. A funeral service honouring Alma's life was held on August 27 in Saskatoon.

Please keep Arlene and the Wagner family in your thoughts and prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS – THINGS TO NOTE

ARE YOU INTERESTED in learning about ministry and leadership to help Messiah better include people with disabilities? DID YOU KNOW that you are now able to upgrade your skills by taking a course or



enrolling in the 4 course certificate program offered by Martin Luther University College. You can take one, two or three courses without committing to all four courses. The first course in the Certificate in Disability, Inclusive Ministry and Christian Faith program is called

Questioning Ability. It begins in September. Registration is now open through Wilfrid Laurier University's continuing education department. For details and to register, visit

<https://luther.wlu.ca/news/2021/spring/disability-certificate.html>

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) invites you to pray for the people of Haiti, and to consider making a gift as CLWR and ELCIC join leading Canadian aid agencies – through the Humanitarian Coalition – in launching an appeal to raise funds and rush emergency assistance to those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Please pray for those affected and for the partners and community members who are rushing to bring help and comfort. Donate by designated offering for 'Haiti Crisis' through Messiah, online at clwr.org/Haiti, phoning the CLWR office at 1-800-661-2597 (Monday to Thursday, 9:00 – 16:00 CDT) or by mailing a cheque to 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5.

Lectionary Bible Study: will start again on Wednesday, September 8 at 7pm on Zoom. Call, text, or email Pastor Fran to receive the link. All are welcome to join in the conversation and study!

The Scripture readings for:

September 5, Pentecost 15 - Isaiah 35: 4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2: 1-17; Mark 7: 24-37

September 12: Pentecost 16 - Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 116: 1-9; James 3: 1-12; Mark 8: 27-38

Book Discussion: There's still time to read the book "WHITE FRAGILITY". In October there will be a discussion on Zoom. The book can be borrowed from the local library or from Cheryl Bauer Hyde. It is also available to order from Amazon.ca, or to purchase in bookstores in Saskatoon.



3rd Annual WALK-A-THON – Saturday, September 18
 Gather at Zion Lutheran, Saskatoon, at 10am or do a virtual walk;
 additional details to follow.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#824 "This is My Father's World"

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. And also with you.

KYRIE: ELW, p. 203

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW, p. 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray, O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. ⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? ⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbour.

⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honour those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behaviour. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW, p. 205

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Holy Gospel according to Mark in the seventh chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' ⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." ¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Rev. Dennis Serfas, Assistant to the Bishop, Saskatchewan Synod

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#512 "Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil"

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

God blesses us through prayer.

OFFERING HYMN: WOV#783 "Seek Ye First"

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray, blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, praying Lord, in your mercy and responding, hear our prayer.

...

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: WOV#753 "You are the Seed"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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