

October 2021 Newsletter

Messiah Lutheran Church

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2021 Council

Cheryl Bauer Hyde, Chairperson
Merv Bender, Vice Chairperson
Jean Meyers, Secretary
Randi Arnot
Alfred Kristensen
Shannon Pettem
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."

October Lectionary Bible Study & Readings

Our Lectionary Bible Study continues Wednesday evenings at 7pm both in-person and on Zoom. Join in anytime.

Ask Pastor Fran for the zoom link!

October 10, Thanksgiving Sunday

Joel 2:21-27

Psalm 1126

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Matthew 6: 25-33

October 17

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 24, Youth Service

Note: texts used on Sunday morning may differ from the lectionary readings.

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Psalm 126

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52

October 31

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

The Gift of Κρίσις – by Pastor Fran Schmidt

The time in which we find ourselves as a province is critical. Covid cases numbers are climbing, ICU beds are filling up, health care staff are burning out, procedures are being “postponed” and no end to this pandemic seems to be in sight. I was saying to someone last week, that we are in worse shape than we were at the beginning of this pandemic, when the shock of lockdowns and an impending reality of an unknown virus was upon us. We might be in a different place in some ways. We have an 80% vaccination rate and climbing, we know more about Covid now, and we have learned about its transmission. Yet in another sense, we still in the midst of the trauma, in the midst of the crisis.

This drew me back to look over some of the devotions I had posted on the Messiah Facebook page in those first months of lockdown. At the time, I hoped that a Scripture verse each day and a short devotion and prayer would be helpful and grounding as we tried to make sense of what was happening in our world. This month, I offer this devotion from March 30, 2020, and pray it gives comfort and hope once again. And I pray a safe and blessed thanksgiving for each of you. One that is grounded in our hope in the Lord and the promises of our God.

Scripture

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29: 10-11

Reflection

We are in a time of crisis. I think we can say that now, without it causing panic. We have come through the period of shock, denial and disbelief. By now, we have heard some of the science, we have grown in our awareness of Covid-19 (how it spreads, and how it could overextend our health care capacity), and we follow the advice of our health authorities and governments. As these days and weeks unfold, we trust in God and do our part to flatten the curve. But the world as we knew it has changed and may not be the same after this time of crisis.

We may grieve some of what changes, but there is also an opportunity. The Greek word *κρίσις*, crisis, after all, distinguishes a time of discerning, deciding, and separating out. Both as individuals and as a society, we are in this process of separating out, of sifting through our lives. How is this crisis shaping you, shaping us? What are we learning about ourselves, one another, and our world?

And as people of faith, we may ask other questions: how is God wanting you, wanting us, to use this crisis? Who is God calling us to be, in this time and beyond?

Similar to Israel in exile, the prophet Jeremiah speaks God's word of hope to us today. God has a plan for our welfare, to give us a future with hope. But we are not going to be the same when we come out of this crisis. And so, what is God teaching us, how is God calling us to live into this new reality? Some things will be sifted out and some will stay. God prepares us even as God prepares the future for us.

Prayer

O God of hope, when we feel overwhelmed, grieved, and afraid of what the coming days and weeks will bring, remind us that You go ahead of us to prepare the way. You call us to see new possibilities, new ways of being in the world, and perhaps even to let go of other things, as we discern Your call in our lives. Use this time of crisis as a wake-up call to all you would have us be, as individuals, as a society, and as a community of faith. Lead us, guide us, and direct our days, for we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Introducing our New Administrative Assistant, Lisa Haight!

Messiah Council is pleased that Lisa Haight has stepped into the role of Administrative Assistant.

Lisa previously worked as a Physical Therapy Assistant and Business Owner/Operator. She is a Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute (LCBI) graduate, has a BA in Youth Ministry from Briercrest College, and a Rehabilitation/Physical Therapy Assistant diploma.

Lisa has volunteered with youth & children's ministry and gatherings, student mission trips, camp counselling, choirs, coaching, drama, and currently with equilibrium therapeutic riding. She also enjoys singing, playing rhythmic instruments (drums & guitar), acting, working with various mediums (clay, wood, plants, and formats of colouring). The closest thing to her heart are her kitties "Darla & Smokey", and well of course, let us not forget her husband Dave!

Welcome, Lisa!

News from Church Council

“‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37b-39

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “stewardship”?

- Budgets and spreadsheets?
- Money?
- A grateful response to God?

What about love? How are your gifts and talents being used in love of neighbour?

For many, stewardship means “the church asking for money” or it means nothing at all. If it draws to mind anything, it is a financial request that happens to ensure there is enough money to pay the current year’s expenses. While the annual financial request may be wrapped up in religious language, at the end of the day it is about the need of the congregation to receive rather than the need of the giver to give.

Stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is a way of life. It calls for integration between our faith and the way that we live our lives — we are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life.

Stewardship is a mindset, a culture and a discipline that can never be contained in an annual financial request. Stewardship is everything we do after we say, “I believe.” It is the way in which we use all of the resources that God has entrusted to our care to show our love for God and for our neighbour. ***Stewardship is about love.***

And so, the question, what are the gifts that God has entrusted to your care? Are you using them to show your love for God and your neighbour? Thank you to those who are faithfully stewarding the gifts that God has entrusted to your care both inside and outside of the congregation.

Prayerfully read and consider the requests in this newsletter for worship assistants and Education Ministry Team members, the Stephen Ministry program, contributions for Thanksgiving Sunday, and other and upcoming activities and special events.

Messiah Council also asks for your prayer consideration of the financial needs of our church. Access to federal programs during this time of Covid have helped but are coming to an end, and overall congregational giving has decreased. We realize these times have put many stresses on our congregational family, combined with virtual services only and now concerns about attending in-person services has impacted giving.

*So, with grateful hearts,
we say thank you for your ongoing financial support asking
that you continue to hold Messiah in your hearts and prayers,
responding to our congregational needs as you are able!*

Worship Notes - October 2021

Worship is In-Person and Online

We are so pleased to welcome everyone to worship in person on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Wearing of face masks is again required, not only for worship services but anytime you are in the Messiah building. While proof of vaccinations or a negative Covid test are not required, they are certainly encouraged for anyone coming into the building and attending Worship Services.

We will continue to live-stream our Worship Services on our YouTube channel (10:30 a.m. Live), with links provided on our website and Facebook pages by 1 pm each Sunday.

October 10: Thanksgiving Sunday

Please bring your canned and dry goods to donate to the Prince Albert Food Bank!

October 24: Youth Sunday

We give thanks that some of our youth in Confirmation will take on some leadership roles in our worship today. This will be a fun, creative service...a little outside the box.

October 31: Reformation Sunday

In addition to being Halloween, did you know that October 31 is also Reformation Sunday? It is the day that Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. To celebrate what became the birth of the Protestant movement and our Lutheran Church, you are invited to wear red, in celebration of the Holy Spirit, which sets our faith on fire.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be offered during worship services on **October 10, 24 and 31**. For Communion distribution, we ask members to come to the front in a continuous, physically distanced line. We are required to wear masks in service at all times, except as you receive the communion elements, you may briefly move your mask. Pastor Fran will distribute either a wafer, or gluten-free wafer, and assistants will have pre-poured wine and grape juice in individual, spaced, glasses, which you select yourself.

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 tablecloth, 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.

Looking Ahead

November 7: We will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of CLWR with a special service.

November 14 All Saints Sunday: If you would like us to remember and name a loved one who has passed, please send your request to Lisa in the Messiah Office. (306)763-7374 or messiah@sasktel.net

Consider Volunteering

One of the ways that a congregation stays vibrant and healthy is by working together as the body of Christ to share our time, talent and resources. This happens in lots of ways. The following are just a few ways you can serve and share your gifts with the Messiah congregation:

Worship Assistants

We are looking for volunteers to assist in the various roles in worship: ushers, readers, communion assistants, operating power point. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you could call or email the Messiah office to sign up for a specific role. Thank you for sharing your gifts with the church!

Education Team Members

Messiah's Education Team is looking for additional members to be part of the planning and dreaming for Sunday School, Youth, Confirmation and Adult Christian Education ministries. If you are interested or would like further information please speak with Pastor Fran, Merv Bender, or Shannon Pettem.

Call for SK Synod Delegates for National Convention 2022

At the 2021 Synod Convention, the process was approved for nominating delegates to the ELCIC National Convention (2022 Assembly – Let There Be Greening) to be held in Calgary from July 12 – 15, 2022.

Saskatchewan Synod can send a total of 31 delegates: 12 rostered and 19 lay. Of that number, National Church requests that at least 1/5 or 6 delegates be between the ages of 16 – 30 as of the first day of convention.

If you are interested in attending as a Synod delegate, have any questions or to request the Delegate Job Description and biographical (nomination) form, please contact Cheryl – cbauerhyde@gmail.com or 306.961.2967. Messiah Council will consider nominations received at our October 19 meeting, prior to forwarding them to SK Synod Council.



Who's Involved in Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Leaders are church staff, lay leaders, and pastors trained to provide ongoing leadership for their congregation's Stephen Ministry. Linda Moriarty and Pastor Fran are Messiah's currently trained Stephen Leaders.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by their Stephen Leaders to offer care to people who are hurting. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver at a time and meets with that person once a week for about an hour.

Care receivers are individuals in the congregation or community who are going through a crisis or life difficulty. Potential care receivers first meet with a pastor or Stephen Leader, who assesses their needs for care and matches them with a Stephen Minister. The caring relationship lasts for as long as the need persists.

What Is Stephen Ministry?

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2, NRSV).

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

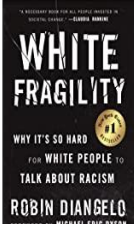
The Blessings of Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry multiplies blessings throughout the church and community.

- Congregations carry out Christ's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12 RSV) in a powerful and practical way.
- Pastors have a team of gifted, trained, and committed lay caregivers ready to minister to hurting people.
- Laypeople nurture and use their gifts in meaningful ministry, growing spiritually as they serve others.
- People who are hurting have a caring Christian presence to provide emotional and spiritual support.

In short, Stephen Ministry helps carry out the mission of the church.





October 26 Book Discussion: “White Fragility” (Robin Diangelo) will be discussed via zoom on Tuesday, October 26, at 7:00 pm. There’s still time to read the book and join us. Contact the Messiah office for the zoom link. If you are interested in reading a different book after Christmas, contact Angeline Hesje (ahesj2@sasktel.net) or the Messiah office. Suggestions of possible books to consider are welcome.

Sunday School ... is starting again on Sunday, October 17! YAY!

We will meet on Zoom, after Worship Service from 11:45am to 12:05pm, every Sunday except for holidays and long weekends. An email with the Zoom link will be sent out to families or contact the Messiah office. Call Pastor Fran for more information. Resources packets are pending; we’ll let you know when they are ready for pick up!



Messiah Youth

We had so much fun on October 3 at the Corn Maze. Thanks to all who came out and those who drove their youth to help make it a great day!

Heads up: Youth will help lead worship on **Sunday, October 24!** You will be contacted so please think about how you would like to contribute.

The next Youth event is **Sunday, November 21**, for an online “House Party”. Mark your calendars today!

Confirmation- we continue with Confirmation classes on Zoom, Sundays at 7 pm. Note: No Confirmation on Thanksgiving Sunday.

Campus Ministry

Post-secondary students are invited to drop-in for

Coffee & Donuts

after class on Tuesday, **October 12, from 3-4:30 pm**

at

Messiah Lutheran Church (enter in main doors)

1796 15 Avenue East



A time to connect, share, and hang out...and have free donuts!



For more information, contact Pastor Fran Schmidt

pastor.mlc@sasktel.net or text: 306-716-3954

A little bit about some of our Saskatchewan Synod Partners . . .



LuMinHoS is a Lutheran Christian ministry in the hospitals of Saskatoon. The historical (and official) name of this ministry is "The Lutheran Care Society of Saskatoon." Now we are better known as LuMinHoS, which stands for "Lutheran Ministry in Hospitals of Saskatoon." For anyone currently in hospital in Saskatoon, depending on Covid restrictions, visits can be provided by LuMinHoS? Contact: Chaplain Richard Engel; 306.229.1663, chaplain@luminhos.org



LutherCare Communities strives to provide excellence in care, shelter, and support in a nurturing Christian environment for all entrusted to their care. They offer a wide range of services primarily in Saskatoon, but also two apartment residences in Outlook and Estevan. Whether looking for an independent retirement residence, intermediate or long-term care, LutherCare has a community to call home. Contact: 306.664.0300, info@luthercare.com



Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) is a ministry of the ELCIC SK Synod. Since 1959, the Lutheran Campus Centre has been a "home away from home" for students in Saskatoon from all over the province, the country, and the world. Gathering for the spirit of community that is created through worshiping together, eating together, and sharing together in our life on campus. From their earliest days, they have been rooted in the Lutheran tradition but open to all. LCM seeks to provide a Christian presence on the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon campus in cooperation with other denominations who share similar purposes and goals; and also works with people of other faith traditions, learning together how to live in a pluralistic world, demonstrating not only how to tolerate the differences in God's creation, but how to celebrate them. Contact: Chaplain George Hind, 306.653.2509, luth.chap@usask.ca



LUTHERAN
theological seminary
S A S K A T O O N

Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Saskatoon, invites people of all and no Christian backgrounds to investigate Christian ideas and activities. This is an inclusive school, encouraging people of all colours, genders, and heritages to follow a journey of discovery. LTS specialize in flexible delivery format courses because today's world offers a variety of new and powerful ways to learn and enter into community. Some courses are purely on-line, while others are built around intensive format participation on campus for one – two week periods, combined with distance-learning projects and conversation. Contact: 639.398.2637, office.lts@saskatoontheologicalunion.ca
