



February 2022 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."



Lectionary Bible Study & Readings

Lectionary Bible Study resumes on Wednesday evenings at 7pm on Zoom only!

Ask Pastor Fran for the Zoom link.

February 6, 5th Sunday after Epiphany

- **Isaiah 6:1-13**
- **Psalm 138**
- **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**
- **Luke 5:1-11**

February 13, 6th Sunday after Epiphany

- **Jeremiah 17:5-10**
- **Psalm 1**
- **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**
- **Luke 6:17-26**

February 20, 7th Sunday after Epiphany

- **Genesis 45:3-11, 15**
- **Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**
- **1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**
- **Luke 6:27-38**

February 27, Transfiguration of our Lord

- **Exodus 34:29-35**
- **Psalm 99**
- **2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2**
- **Luke 9:28-36**

March 2, Ash Wednesday

- **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**
- **Psalm 51:1-17**
- **2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**
- **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

From the Pastor's Desk

¹But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you. *Isaiah 43: 1-2*

These words of promise are ones we need to hear in this time of Covid case numbers surging because of the Omicron variant. We continue to live with great uncertainty. And we wonder how long, O Lord?

At the same time of this uncertainty and wondering, we give witness to God's Epiphany (revealing) through Jesus Christ. We testify to that light of Christ that has come into the world in so many ways. We welcome new faces at Messiah, we offer ministry to those in hospital and in need, we pray for one another and offer care and support. The bible study group are gathering goods monthly to donate, Sunday School continues to be faithful. Confirmation class is studying the New Testament. And there is a new monthly service at Points West in addition to the service at Good Shepherd Villas. The ministry of Messiah has a reach into the community. We witness to and share the light of Christ to a world in great need of it.

We are a people of faith and a people of the light. We give witness to the light of Christ that illuminates our world with God's love and grace, even now, in the winter's dark and cold, in the midst of a global pandemic. We do not fear, for God has called us by name. Our mission and ministry continue in unexpected ways during the pandemic. And we give thanks to God for carrying us, supporting and guiding us in this time!

May God's light of love and grace continue to shine in your life and radiate out into the world!

In God's grace and peace,
Pastor Fran.

Messiah Council Update ...

Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
Psalm 71 vs.3

As Kay Nussey writes in the January 28 daily scripture reading in Eternity for Today, 'in this psalm we are promised that God provides both the strong solidarity of a rock and the comfort of a safe place inside a fortress. God is both a great strength and a great comfort. What more could we need?'

In addition to our regular January meeting, Council met following the January Synod Town Hall to discuss the Covid recommendations. In person services will continue at 10:30am each Sunday, however Holy Communion will be suspended until at least the end of February. Covid vaccinations, social distancing, and hand sanitizing are encouraged. Please do not attend services or come into the office if you aren't feeling well and make use of Covid testing if necessary. The wearing of masks at all times is mandatory. All other Messiah activities will be held virtually at this time. Council will continue to monitor the pandemic situation and make adjustments as necessary.

Bishop Sid concludes the January 13 Covid update ...

But we hold this treasure in pots of earthenware, so that the immensity of the power is God's and not our own. We are subjected to every kind of hardship but never distressed; we see no way out but we never despair, we are pursued but never cut off, knocked down but still have some life in us. (2 Cor. 4.7-9)

This pandemic time has been a long road with no clear ending as yet. Like Paul, know that God is still at work, and we will walk through this together.

The Annual General meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, April 24, immediately following the worship service. The agenda will include election of Council members, approval of the 2021 Financial Statements, a review of the 2022 Budget, and reports from Pastor Fran, Ministry Teams and Messiah groups.

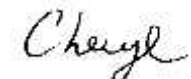
Council also approved a request from Diabetes Canada to put a Drop Box in the Messiah parking lot, as part of Messiah's community service ministry. The installation will likely take place this Spring/Summer.

Thanks to all the volunteers who decorated and participated in Christmas services, contributed to and delivered food hampers, clothing and other items to those in need, staffed the Christmas kettles, and for the generous financial support provided to Messiah. Your gifts of service and aid are blessings to our congregation and beyond.

Council meets again on Tuesday, February 15. If you have any items for discussion, please contact any member of Council.

And finally, in addition to what is noted elsewhere in the newsletter, our heartfelt thanks to Vimy Penner for her faithful service over the past years. Best wishes in your 'second' retirement, Vimy.

Peace & Blessings,



On behalf of Messiah Council

Worship Notes

Worship is In-Person and Online

Worship continues in a Hybrid format, both in person and online.

If you worship with us in person, please maintain a physical distance, wear a mask at all times, and be sure to hand sanitize as you enter the church and when you leave. Vaccinations are encouraged. An announcement page is available at the end of service for you to take home with you. Bulletins are also emailed, and can also be found on the website. Want to receive a bulletin? Please call the Messiah office to have your email address added to our weekly email list.

If you prefer, you can join the live stream at 10:30am, on the Messiah YouTube channel, or watch later. We are glad you worship with us whether in person or online!

Holy Communion

Holy Communion has been suspended until the end of February, as recommended by Saskatchewan Synod and in response to the surging Covid case numbers in the province. Council will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary.

Upcoming: Ash Wednesday, March 2nd at 7pm will be both in person and online.

Want to become a member?

Membership is not required for anyone to attend worship or be a part of Messiah. All are welcome here in our caring community of faith!

At the same time, we invite you to consider becoming a member of Messiah. You will be included in our Messiah Directory, you can vote at the Annual General Meeting and you would be eligible to serve on Messiah Council, as well as serve on wider Lutheran boards and committees. Ask Pastor Fran how you can become a member of Messiah today.

Property and Maintenance Ministry

On behalf of the Property & Maintenance Ministry Team and the Messiah Council, a huge Thank You and best wishes for the future is extended to **Vimy Penner** on her retirement at the end of December 2021 from providing cleaning services to Messiah. Over the past few years Vimy has provided us with professional cleaning services throughout the Messiah building with unwavering dedication, attention to detail as well as providing a watchful eye for any required or pending maintenance issues.

With assistance from Vimy, we welcome a new cleaning service, *Safeguard Property Maintenance and Mechanical Services*. Under Vimy's guidance, Safeguard staff have been hired, trained and assumed the cleaning function.

Caring Ministry & Community Service Team

It was a busy time for the Caring Ministry Team during Advent and Christmas:

- **Christmas Cards** were sent out to over 60 Messiah members. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to write on these cards.
- **Salvation Army Christmas Kettle** on December 4 at the Coop Grocery store in Prince Albert. Thank you to those who volunteered to help support this valuable ministry in our community.
- **Food Bank Donations**. There was an overwhelming response, and we are grateful to all who contributed. Eleven boxes of food and personal hygiene items were delivered to the Food Bank in December 2021.
- **Christmas Hampers**. Thank you to everyone who donated food and made monetary donations for the food hampers for families from Princess Margaret school.

Messiah Lutheran Women (MLW)

The Messiah Lutheran Women want to thank the congregation for donations to the *Mitten Tree Project*. The result of the project this year was a box of mitts, toques, scarfs and other winter clothing items. This year's recipient was Riverside School, and the items were delivered the first week of January 2022. Thank you to all who took part.

Pastoral Visits

Due to the high transmissibility of the Omicron variant, Pastor Fran will not visit in members' homes at this time. We can visit by phone, text, or set up a video chat. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a pastoral visit, please call Pastor Fran or the Messiah office to set up a time.

Stephen Ministries

Sunday, January 30, is our Stephen Ministries Sunday. We will share more about this life-changing ministry in a “Temple Talk” following the announcements. Learn how you can be a part of Stephen Ministries, either as a Stephen Minister or a care receiver.



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

We have two members of the congregation now trained in the 2020 updated version of Stephen Ministries. This is not a new ministry for Messiah, but it has not been active for a number of years.

We have been slowly reintroducing Stephen Ministries and soon we will be looking for Stephen Ministers, those willing to receive training in order to offer Christ-centered care in our congregation and community.

Once Stephen Ministers have been equipped and trained, we will be ready to implement this program to others, and will be looking for care receivers.

For more information, contact Pastor Fran.

Stay Connected

One way to stay connected with your Messiah church family is to join the “**Messiah’s Conversations**” private Facebook. 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...



Sunday School



You're invited to join us for Zoom Sunday School!

We continue to meet every Sunday after Messiah Worship Service at **11:45am** on Zoom. Don't have the link? Call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran. Resource packets are usually available the first week of the month, and email is sent to families when they are ready for pick-up. If you haven't been receiving our emails, please call Messiah office to update your contact information. And, if you are interested in teaching Sunday School or helping in some way, please contact Pastor Fran.

Confirmation

We continue with Confirmation classes on Zoom, Sundays at 7pm.

Note: No Confirmation on February 20.

Stay tuned for Upcoming Youth Events, as the Education Team will be meeting to do some planning for physically-distanced activities we can do together.

Men's Retreat – Kinasao 2022

The men's retreat planning group is pleased to announce that there will be a retreat this year at Kinasao. This retreat will be held Friday, April 1 – Sunday, April 3.

We will be led by *Rick Istifo* under the theme: The Birthplace of Faith and its relevance today.

Registration cost is \$115 plus GST.

For more information please contact:

Merv Bender 306-960-8346 or merv.bender@sasktel.net

Book Club Invitation

You are invited to join the “Lutheran Women Connecting” (LWC) Facebook group online to discuss the book “**Peace by Chocolate**” by Jon Tattrie. This remarkable book tells the extraordinary story of the Hadhad family — Isam, his wife Shahnaz, and their sons and daughters — and the founding of the chocolatier, Peace by Chocolate. From the devastation of the Syrian civil war, through their life as refugees in Lebanon, to their arrival in a small town in Atlantic Canada, Peace by Chocolate is the story of one family. It is also the story of the people of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and so many towns across Canada, who welcomed strangers and helped them face the challenges of settling in an unfamiliar land.

The book can be purchased or borrowed from the library. If the library does not have it, request a copy through inter library loan. Also check if a digital copy is available through the library.

The 90-minute discussion will be held on Zoom on **Friday, March 4 at 1pm**. Contact Angie 306-763-6573/ahesj2@sasktel.net for the zoom link if you aren't on LWC Facebook group.



Canadian Lutheran World Relief

On behalf of everyone at CLWR, our partners around the world, and the thousands of lives who were changed with your support this year— thank you!

2021 may have felt like a blur, so I wanted to close the year by reminding you of just how much your support accomplished this year. Your kindness became emergency food, clean water, and shelter after disaster. It provided a safe, supportive space for women in need of protection. It became the seeds and garden tools that grew into lush, productive gardens, and livestock that gave families both nutrition and income. With your support, women found new opportunities to access education and learn skills, developing their own source of income. And dozens of refugees found new homes and supportive communities here in Canada.

When disaster struck this year, from the earthquake in Haiti, to flooding in BC, or an overwhelming surge of COVID in India, your response was immediate and incredible. And in a year that may have felt like it was defined by uncertainties and restrictions, your partnership also enabled many new beginnings: an innovative new crop insurance program for farmers in El Salvador; new funding for a critical medical clinic in Caracas; and the introduction of brand-new vocational and technical educational programs for Palestinian women.

As the year turns to 2022, please accept our thanks for your incredible friendship, and for making all of this possible in 2021. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to do this work, and we look forward to continuing in partnership next year!

May God bless you and your family with health and happiness in the New Year.
Karin Achtelstetter,
Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Greetings from Kinasao

Kinasao is blessed with many acres of forest with kilometers of ski (classic and skate) trails. Trails are groomed throughout the winter and available for public use. Come out for the day or book a cabin for the weekend. This year, Kinasao is excited to announce two new skiing events; spectators are welcome: Loppet – February 4 – 6, and Biathlon – March 4 – 6. Go to the Kinasao website or phone 306.982.3327 to register for Loppet and the Biathlon, or to get more information about the ski trails.

Women's Retreat Friday, April 29 – Sunday May 1: A weekend to relax at the lake! Enjoy food you don't have to cook, fellowship with other women, crafts, worship and Bible study. Pastor Fran Schmidt from Messiah Lutheran will be the speaker for the weekend. Cost: \$115 + GST/person.

Registration is also open for all 2022 Summer Program! We only have a few cabins left for Family Camp accommodations, so if you're interested in checking out that program, sign up soon! There is also lots of room in the campground for Family Camp. Another great family adventure this summer is our Canoe Trips to McLennan Lake - a "glamping" trip with accommodation at Forest House Wilderness Lodge. Details can be found at www.kinasao.ca, or by contacting us at info@kinasao.ca.

World Day of Prayer 2022



Theme: I Know the Plans I Have for You
(based on Jeremiah 29:1-14)

Please join us for World Day of Prayer, a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. This year the service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of **England, Wales and Northern Ireland**.

People can access a video of the 2022 World Day of Prayer service **anytime after February 1** - just go to www.wicc.org and look for "World Day of Prayer 2022 Service Video".

It will also be shown on many local cable TV channels – check your listings for March 4.

If people would like to order a DVD of the service (\$20), they can call the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada office: 416-929-5184

