

Messiah Lutheran Church
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Office hours for essential Messiah business only: Tuesday - Friday 10am – 2pm
Masks must be worn at all times within the Messiah building

Worship for Sunday, February 13, 2022
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Year C
Service of Word and Prayer

In person services (livestreamed on the Messiah YouTube channel and posted on the Messiah website following the service) begin at 10:30am each Sunday. Holy Communion is suspended until at least the end of February. The wearing of masks at all times is mandatory. Covid vaccinations, social distancing, and hand sanitizing are encouraged. Please do not attend if you aren't feeling well, and make use of Covid testing if necessary.

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.



We would like to offer condolences to Elaine and Dennis Serfas on the passing of her sister Barbara Hirsch, on February 6, 2022. May God bring peace and comfort to all who grieve.

Today:

Today: Sunday School at 11:45 am, right after Worship Service on Zoom.

Today: Confirmation Class tonight at 7 pm on Zoom. Please note, there is NO Class on February 20.

To receive the Zoom links for either Sunday School, please call the Messiah office or Pastor Fran.

This Week:

Wednesday, February 16 at 7 pm – Lectionary Bible Study continues on Zoom only. All are welcome to join this study. For more information or to receive the Zoom link, please contact the Messiah office or Pastor Fran.

Thursday, February 17, service at Good Shepherd, TBD*

Upcoming:

Save the date for Ash Wednesday Service, on March 2 @ 7pm. This service will be available online on our live-stream as well as in-person.

Other Announcements:

Worship Ministry Team and Education Ministry Team have some upcoming meetings. If you are interested in serving on either of these ministry teams please be in touch with Pastor Fran!

We are looking for worship assistants to help on Sunday mornings by either reading or operating power point. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex, and thank you for serving in this way!!

Expressing Christ's Care for Others:

Stephen Ministers bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They express Christ's care for others by listening and comforting, calling on their training and employing the tools of faith. If this sounds interesting to you, please consider joining our next training class starting soon—contact Pastor Fran or Linda Moriarty to learn more.

March 2022 Seminars on Ecumenical Stewardship

You are invited to join the March 2022 series of Ecumenical Stewardship Seminars. We're thinking about the use of sacred buildings and properties in new ways. Join on Thursdays, March 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 3pm (SK time). All are welcome. This webinar 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. For further information, contact Archdeacon Cheryl Toth at stewardship@sasktel.net Registration required.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpduiurjluHdE69wl-4LGI5vIH00mGqViK>

LWF Statement on Ukraine

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) statement calls for prayer and action to find a peaceful solution for Ukraine. LWF is calling on the international community to take immediate action to avert further conflict and war between Russia and Ukraine. Go to <https://www.lutheranworld.org/news/peaceful-solution-must-be-found-ukraine>



February is Black History Month. Throughout this month, we will be sharing the work of the Eastern Synod's [Racial Justice Advisory Committee](#) and joining in their challenge to engage in learning, conversation and action. This week, as part of the #BlackHistoryMonth challenge extended by the committee, we explore the theme of "Culture."

To learn more, visit the Eastern Synod website: <https://easternsynod.org/bhm/>.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

GREETING and OPENING DIALOGUE: WOV, p. 46

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.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth. (John 1)

SCRIPTURE SONG: ELW#728 "Blest Are They"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Let us pray, living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings
Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW#172 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" 2X

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the sixth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵"Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "The Price is Right"

CHILDREN'S SONG: ELW#815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" vs. 1

SERMON: "A Level Playing Field"

Silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#710 "Let Streams of Living Justice"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION: WOV p. 49

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jude 21)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. Amen

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

(2 Corinthians 13:11)

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.

(We share a sign of that peace.)

PRAYER

God blesses us through prayer.

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#682 "To God, Our Thanks We Give" 3X

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Merciful God, in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness, we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayer Response: ELW #752 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; and so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made, praying God of grace and we sing as we pray, Lord, listen to your children praying...

A brief silence.

...

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Lord, listen to your children praying...2X

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray. 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

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ✠ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW#723 "Canticle of the Turning"

DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.