

Messiah Lutheran Church
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Pastor Fran Schmidt

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Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am – 2pm
Messiah is a mask-friendly building

Worship for Sunday, March 6, 2022

First Sunday in Lent

Lenten theme: "We're Goin' on a Journey"

In person services (livestreamed on the Messiah YouTube channel and posted on the Messiah website following the service) begin at 10:30am each Sunday. The wearing of masks is not required but please respect each individual's choice. 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.



Today:

Sunday School will be changing its time to begin at 10:00 AM prior to worship, option of in-person as well as on Zoom for participation. Please call Messiah office or Pastor Fran to receive the Zoom link.

- Confirmation Class at 7pm.

This Week:

- Mid-Week Lenten Service on Wednesday, March 9 at 7pm, both in-person and on Zoom, using the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89247766302?pwd=VHRwT1czZGITYUNYUDJhd1ptdVFsQT09>.
Meeting ID: 892 4776 6302, Passcode: 665871. The theme is "Turning Toward God's Abundance".
These Mid-Week Lenten Services will continue every Wednesday until April 6, 2022.

- Worship Service at Good Shepherd Villas, Thursday March 10, at 2:30pm, Pastor Fran.

Other Lenten Offerings:

- All are Welcome to participate in the Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1401 4th Avenue West) on Fridays at 7pm: March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8.

‘Do you want to fast this Lent’

Fast from hurting words ... and say kind words; Fast from sadness ... and be filled with gratitude; Fast from anger ... and be filled with patience; Fast from pessimism ... and be filled with hope; Fast from worries ... and have trust in God; Fast from complaints ... and contemplate simplicity; Fast from pressures ... and be prayerful; Fast from bitterness ... and fill your hearts with joy; Fast from selfishness ... and be compassionate to others; Fast from grudges ... and be reconciled; Fast from words ... and be silent so you can listen! Pope Francis

Upcoming:

TO LEADERS OF VARIOUS MINISTRIES:
PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MARCH 22 IS THE DEADLINE
FOR AGM REPORTS TO BE SENT INTO OFFICE/LISA.
THANK YOU!



The Caring Ministry and Community Service Ministry Team is planning to send out Easter cards to every family of Messiah this year and for this to happen we need your help. Can you spare a few minutes to write 10 cards? If so, please let us know by calling the Messiah office by March 15. Also please let us know if your contact information has changed so that we can keep our Church Directory up to date. Call the Messiah office for any changes/additions.

Stephen Ministries: Giving Back: Many of us have been cared for by another person during a difficult time, or blessed by the compassion of others when we needed it the most. You may have been wondering about how to give back. One significant way is by serving as a Stephen Minister to offer care and compassion to someone else going through a difficult time. A new training class is starting soon. Contact Pastor Fran or Linda Moriarty today to find out more about this ministry, or plan to attend our Stephen's Minister Information Event on Sunday, March 20 @ 3pm.

Mark your calenders: Sunday, April 3 @ 3pm Youth & Family Bowling, \$5/participant. Let Pastor Fran or Shannon Pettem know if you plan to attend, so we are sure to have enough lanes! More info to come.



Worship assistants (readers, ushers, power point operation) are needed to help on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or call/email the Messiah office to volunteer!!

Ecumenical Offerings during Lent:

In Conversation: Perspectives on Ecumenism, Reconciliation, and Pathways for Renewal with Bishop Chris Harper, Anglican Bishop of Saskatoon and Archbishop Don Bolen, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Regina. The 2022 De Margerie Ecumenical Lecture will be held Tuesday, March 15 at 7pm at St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan. Two bishops -- one Anglican, the other Roman Catholic, one Indigenous, the other from a Settler background -- will enter into dialogue and share their journeys towards reconciliation. While confronting the truths of the past, they will reflect on their interrelated commitments to ecumenism and reconciliation. Together, they will help us dream new pathways forward. To register: <http://bit.ly/bishops2> Attend in-person or view on livestream.



Ecumenical Stewardship Seminars:

Think about the use of sacred buildings and properties in new ways. All are welcome on Thursdays, March 10, 17, and 24, at 3pm. For further information, contact Archdeacon Cheryl Toth at stewardship@sasktel.net Registration required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpduirjluHdE69wl-4LG15vIH00mGqViK>

Doctrine of Discovery: As part of your Lenten Spiritual Practice, please join the BC Synod every Thursday at 9pm until April 7 for an in depth look at the Doctrine of Discovery, a document that has shaped western attitudes towards indigenous people for the past five centuries. To register, go to: <https://bit.ly/3IQ3peD> or for more information go to the BC Synod website.

Mark your Calendars; for more information and to register go to the Kinasio website: ([Kinasio Lutheran Bible Camp | Weekend Retreats](#)):

- Men's Retreat: April 1 - 3 with guest speaker Rick Istifo.
- Women's Retreat: April 29 - May 1 with Pastor Fran on the topic: "Sacred Journeys".

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

As the crisis unfolds in Ukraine, Canadian Lutheran World Relief together with its partner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada is calling on Canadians to pray for peace, and to give generously in response to urgent humanitarian needs in the region. CLWR joins its partners and millions around the world in calling for an immediate end to violence in Ukraine. Early estimates are that millions of people could be rapidly displaced, leading to a widespread humanitarian crisis. Our partners in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries are closely monitoring the situation and are preparing to respond to immediate humanitarian needs with food, shelter, emergency supplies and trauma support. With your help, we can act quickly to protect families and communities threatened by this violence, keeping borders open and creating safe pathways, and providing refuge for those fleeing the conflict. If you wish to support relief efforts please donate as follows:

- Make a designated offering donation for "Ukraine Appeal" through any ELCIC congregation.
- Call CLWR at 1-800-661-2597 to donate by credit card or go online at <https://www.clwr.org/product/E-104/ukraine-crisis>.
- Send a cheque made payable to CLWR and mailed to CLWR, 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R#B 0W5. Please indicate that you wish to contribute to "Ukraine Appeal."



GATHERING

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN THEME INTRODUCTION

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#793 "Be Thou My Vision"

OPENING DIALOGUE

We look but do not see. Lord, open our eyes.

We stumble at noon as in the twilight. Lord, open our eyes.

God turns our darkness into light. Lord, open our eyes.

We are not forsaken: look up and see! Lord, open our eyes. (Based on Isaiah 59:10; 42:16-18)

SCRIPTURE SONG: OSB#157 "Open Our Eyes"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray, open our eyes, Lord, to perceive your desire for the world. Remove those things that block our vision and widen our gaze to encompass all you would have us see. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:5-9

A reading from Isaiah.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

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

PSALM 119:17-24

¹⁷Deal bountifully with your servant, so that I may live and observe your word.

¹⁸Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

¹⁹I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.

²⁰My soul is consumed with longing for your ordinances at all times.

²¹You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments;

²²take away from me their scorn and contempt, for I have kept your decrees.

²³Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.

²⁴Your decrees are my delight, they are my counselors.

SECOND READING: Acts 26:4-18

A reading from Acts.

⁴All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. ⁵They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived as a Pharisee. ⁶And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, ⁷a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, that I am accused by Jews! ⁸Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises

the dead? ⁹Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. ¹¹By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities. ¹²With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, ¹³when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. ¹⁴When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. ¹⁷I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles — to whom I am sending you ¹⁸to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW#446 "I'm Goin' on a Journey" vs. 1

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

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

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "How Strong Are You?"

CHILDREN'S SONG: OSB#52 "God Is So Good"

SERMON: "Sweet Temptations"

Silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

ART VIEWING: We will take a few moments to reflect on 3 images and see them with a new vision.

PRAYER DIALOGUE

Lord of all life, when we cannot see the beauty of your creation, open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.

When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving, open our hands to do your work in the world.

When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst, open our ears, that all will know your love.

When we are hardened against our neighbor, open our hearts and heal our resentment.

When we are closed to the grace you long to give us, open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.

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.

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#692 "We Are an Offering"

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need, praying Merciful God, and responding, hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

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Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life bless you now and forever. Three-Fold Sung Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW#808 "Lord Jesus You Shall be my Song"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember Jesus journeys with you. Thanks be to God.