

Messiah Lutheran Church
1796-15 Avenue East, Prince Albert, S6V 8A1
Website: www.messiahluthpa.ca
Facebook and YouTube: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert)

Pastor Fran Schmidt
Cell: 1-306-716-3954
Email: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net

Lisa / Office: 306-763-7374
E-mail: messiah@sasktel.net

Office hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am – 2pm; Messiah is a mask-friendly building
Pastor Fran will be away on Study Leave from March 23-29, returning on March 30.
In case of a pastoral emergency, please call Cheryl Bauer Hyde at 306-961-2967.

Worship for Sunday, March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent; Lenten theme: *"We're Goin' on a Journey"*

Worship Services begin at 10:30am each Sunday (in-person and livestreamed on the Messiah YouTube channel, and posted on the Messiah website following the service). **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.

Council Notes from March 22 meeting: In considering the Saskatchewan Synod guidelines, Messiah Council continues to take an approach of care. That said, it is Council's prayer that the congregation will be able to return to pre-Covid worship practices and activities by this September. Currently, plans are being made for coffee time prior to and after worship service, Holy Communion in April, serving hot cross buns and coffee between services on Easter Sunday, and a Family Fun Day in conjunction with worship service at Kinasa on June 12. We will continue to share the peace with a handwave / smile and collect weekly offering at the entrance to the Sanctuary. The Messiah Annual General Meeting will follow the worship service on Sunday, April 24. If you would like to talk about this update or anything else, please contact any member of Council. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

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 offer our condolences and prayers to **Ann, Roger & Darcy Mayert** and family on the passing of their mother and grandmother, **Rose Batiuk**, on March 16. May God surround all who mourn with peace, love and grace.

Congratulations on the birth of **Emma Laine** on March 13, 2022, to Jessica and Brian and proud new grandparents Pastor Dennis and Elaine.

This Sunday:

- **Welcome All Singers!** Well-known Choral Director, May Janzen, is directing an Easter Choir/ Ensemble! Interested singers are invited to practice for the next three **Sunday mornings at 9:15am (sharp!), March 27, April 3 and 10.** Wearing of masks is preferred as we join together and sing to the Lord!
- **Please Note: NO Sunday School or Confirmation** today! We will resume on April 3 with **Sunday School @ 10:00am** and **Confirmation @ 7:00pm.**

This Week:

Mid-Week Lenten Service on Wednesdays through to April 6 at 7pm, both in-person and on Zoom, using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89247766302?pwd=VHRwT1czZGITYUNYUDJhd1ptdVFfsQT09>.

Meeting ID: 892 4776 6302, Passcode: 665871. The theme is "Turning Toward God's Abundance".

Next Sunday:

- **Coffee's On** before and after the Worship Service.
- **Youth & Family Bowling at 3pm** - \$5/participant. Let Pastor Fran or Shannon Pettem know if you plan to attend, to ensure that enough lanes are booked.



✚ Easter Sunday flowers – April 17. If you would like to donate flowers in memory or honour of someone, please plan to have them to Messiah by Wednesday, April 13. Contact the Messiah office if you would like your loved one's name added to the Easter Sunday Worship Bulletin.

Kinasao: Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Sunday, April 10, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Saskatoon @ 3pm.

The meeting will take place both in person, and over Zoom. Our congregation is a member congregation of Kinasao Lutheran Bible Camp. Therefore, all Messiah members are included in the membership of Kinasao, and eligible to vote at the AGM. Please plan to attend and join the discussion on important upcoming issues – details are provided in the Annual Report, which will be available on Kinasao's website by March 27.

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". Registration Deadline - April 15. Register for either retreat on Kinasao website: <http://www.kinasao.ca/camp-kinasao/weekend-retreats>

The Moral Dimension of Climate Change

As the indicators of climate change become more alarming, the search for solutions has also become more urgent. However, the nature of the challenge also raises questions that go beyond straightforward scientific or policy fixes. Engage with the Canadian All Party Parliamentary Interfaith Caucus to explore the values that should inform Federal climate policy. **Wednesday, March 30 at 4 – 5pm SK time (6 - 7 pm EDT).** Please register at: <https://bit.ly/3qgNyPu>

Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Please consider making a donation for the "Ukraine Appeal" either through Messiah or 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 mail 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#512 “Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil”

OPENING DIALOGUE

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

Grant us grace to know and understand your will,

for all that we are in body and soul is a gift from you.

Lord, you are the everlasting Truth,

the one who speaks the words of eternal life.

Open our hearts, Lord, to behold your laws.

Teach us to walk in your commandments.

(Based on Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471, The Imitation of Christ, trans. Richard Whitford, ca. 1530)

SCRIPTURE SONG: OSB#157 “Open Our Eyes Lord”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray, **open our hearts, Lord, and fill us with your love. Grant us strength and courage, remove our hard-heartedness, and turn us always to you. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return — I speak as to children — open wide your hearts also.

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

PSALM

¹To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me, for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

²Hear the voice of my supplication, as I cry to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

³Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who are workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbors, while mischief is in their hearts.

⁴Repay them according to their work, and according to the evil of their deeds; repay them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward.

⁵Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, or the work of his hands, he will break them down and build them up no more.

⁶Blessed be the LORD, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

⁷The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

⁸The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

⁹O save your people, and bless your heritage; be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

SECOND READING: Acts 16:11-15

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW#446 "I'm Goin' on a Journey" vs. 1-3**GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to

him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'

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

SERMON: ELCIC 'Sermons by Email' – Pastor John Boyd

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#606 "Our Father, We Have Wandered"

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

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.

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”**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.**

...

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. **Three-Fold Sung Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#749 “O God of Love, O King of Peace”**DISMISSAL**

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