



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9am - 4pm

**Worship for Sunday, December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent**

Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:30 am in-person and livestreamed/posted on the Messiah YouTube channel. **Wearing of masks is not required but Messiah is a mask-friendly environment.** Covid vaccinations, social distancing, and hand sanitizing are encouraged. **Due to water main issues, the building is without water, with limited access to washrooms (some water is available for emergency flushing purposes).** All are welcome to join in pre-service coffee time in the Peace Chapel (and sometimes George brings cookies!!!).

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.

Sympathy and condolences are extended to:

- **Colleen and Taylor Berge and family on the death of their husband and father, Barry,** on November 28. Barry's funeral will be held on Saturday, December 3, at 10am at Gray's Funeral Chapel.
- **Maude Neudorf, Judy and Ray McCallum and family on the death of their nephew and cousin Dwayne Neudorf** on November 27. A celebration of life will take place, August 2023.

Please hold these families close in your prayers that God will bless and comfort them as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

ADVENT CHOIR

If you are interested in singing during Advent; practices are held Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Please contact May Janzen or Colleen Bowen for further information.



Women of Messiah - Christmas gathering on Thursday, December 15 at

7pm in the Peace Chapel. To enjoy a time of fellowship, refreshments

(chocolate fondue – bring fruit for dipping), **and Christmas carols, please RSVP by**

Monday, December 12, to the Messiah office [306-763-7374 or messiah@sasktel.net] so

we have a general idea of how many people to expect. But if you forget to RSVP, come

anyway! We promise to have a little extra chocolate.



Food Bank Sunday December 11, and throughout Advent: Food and other items are being collected for donation to the Food Bank. These items can be **dropped off on Sunday mornings or during Messiah office hours.** A list of food suggestions is provided in the Narthex.

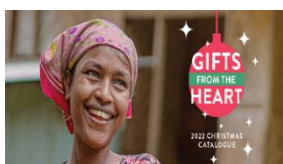
Christmas Hampers for Families in Saskatchewan Rivers Schools: Help is welcome through monetary gifts and donations of food items to fill **at least seven** hampers. Drop off food items in the designated box or the Messiah office. Monetary donations can be dropped off or e-transferred. If you are donating, please do so by **December 15**, for assembly and pick up/delivery prior to the school Christmas break. Further details will be in the Christmas Newsletter. Thank you!



Christmas Service Poinsettias: if you wish to donate a plant, please drop it off at the Messiah office no later than Wednesday, December 21, by 12 noon. If you are donating a Poinsettia in memory of someone, please phone (leave a message) or email the Messiah office by noon, December 20.

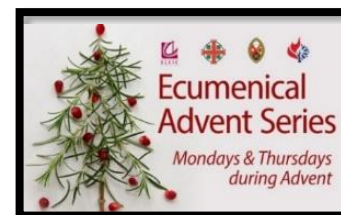
Mitten Tree: Messiah Lutheran Women have set up two boxes as a “mitten tree” for the collection of mitts, toques, scarfs and gloves, in the Narthex and another in the entry by the Messiah office. Most years, these articles are given to a community school for children and families without these necessities.

Memorial Christmas Tree: ★★☆☆ 🌲 REMEMBERING: During Advent a decoration, a STAR, is provided for you to hang on the Memorial Christmas Tree. You can write the names of those you wish to remember on the star. After Christmas the star will be available for you to take home. If you would like a star to be hung on the tree, but will not be in church, please contact the office with your information. REMEMBERING. ★★☆☆ 🌲



Canadian Lutheran World Relief's new Gifts from the Heart catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are available at Messiah, by emailing clwr@clwr.org or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH.

EVERY MONDAY DURING ADVENT, the national church leaders of The Anglican Church of Canada, The Evangelical Lutheran in Canada, The Presbyterian Church in Canada and The United Church of Canada will release an ecumenical Advent meditation reflecting the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love, and challenges facing the Canadian churches. **EVERY THURSDAY**, join in a live discussion, via Zoom, with one of the leaders on that week's Advent theme. To receive the meeting link for each event and receive email reminders of each week's upcoming events, visit Advent2022.ca



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people. Turn us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. **Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: ACS#908 'In a far off place, Jesus Comes'

1. In a far-off place, Jesus comes to earth. Sheep and cattle grace the site.
As the angel songs begin, like the whisper of the wind, nature's hope awakes again;
Jesus comes.
2. For the poor in heart, Jesus comes to earth. Humble shepherds start the news.
For each homeless infant born, for the meek and those who mourn, for the weary and the worn,
Jesus comes.
3. In our deepest night, Jesus comes to earth: radiant star to light our way.
Summer's heat or winter's chill, with a warm and loving will, to a world that needs him still,
Jesus comes.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

In the settle and stir of a burnt-orange sunrise, in the lilting laughter or memory of a table full of friends, in the flash of clarity that turns on the light of insight and leads us towards wisdom, we find the peace that passes all understanding. But there are things we need to understand. Help us hear you in the stories of those who struggle. Peace is what the prophets foretold. Peace is what is sacrificed when we miss the great message of God's love.

We light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to live it.

Two candles are lite.

In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace. Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive, search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for the coming of the One who is the Prince of Peace.

We light a candle for peace. May it light the way.

ADVENT WREATH HYMN: ELW#240 Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah (vs 1-2)

GREETING (ELW p. 184)

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.

KYRIE (ELW p. 184) (meaning, Lord have mercy)

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

**For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

**For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW#253 'He Came Down'

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
²**that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**
³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴**Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
⁶**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**
⁷In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

SERMON: Pastor Dan**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#264 ‘Prepare the Royal Highway’****APOSTLE’S CREED (ELW p. 189)**

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.

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare to celebrate again the birth of Jesus into this world, let us pray for all the people of the world that they might know the new gift life He brings.

(Lord in your mercy, and responding, “hear our prayer”).

...

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING SONG: ELW# 692 'We Are An Offering'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to celebrate your forgiveness as we share in this sacrament of grace and in remembrance of all You have done. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 190) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC: Instrumental

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, and as faithful followers of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#266 'All Earth is Hopeful'**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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