



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

**Worship for Sunday March 12, 2023**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**

Worship Services are 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.

**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.



**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL CALL MEETING – Sunday, April 2**

The Messiah Call Committee (Chair David Bragg, Lorne Christopherson, Harvey Jacobsen, Lois Manchur, Madison Pettem-Mark, Shannon Pettem) are pleased to recommend **Pastor John Dut** for call to Messiah. **A special congregational meeting of call will be held immediately following service on April 2.** Bishop Sid Haugen will be in attendance. Please direct inquiries to any member of the Call Committee

Note: Nineteen (19) voting members are required for quorum, proxy / absentee voting is not permitted, and approval of the call requires approval by two-thirds of the voting members in attendance.

**choir practice**



**No Choir** practice this Sunday. Join us on Sunday, March 19 at 9:15!

**choir practice**



We are looking for **Worship Assistants**. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex for the various assisting roles during Sunday morning worship. Please have a look and sign up to read, usher, operate powerpoint or assist with communion. Thank you in advance for serving in the body of Christ.



**LOVE LIFE**  
**LIVE  LENT**  
**TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD**



**Lutherans Connect: Before the Cross** invites you to make space in the Lent and Holy Week journey for a new devotional series. This Lent, we will reflect on the events in Jesus' life which can be thought of as 'stations' of his story - moments of teaching and ministry in which Jesus or others signal what lies ahead. In addition, we will visit the contemporary stories of individuals and communities around the world whose lives involve acts of resistance to empire or a permanent commitment to the wilderness.

If you would like to subscribe, please send an email to [lutheransconnect@gmail.com](mailto:lutheransconnect@gmail.com), or follow Lutherans Connect on Facebook.



Thank you from Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) for your immediate response and support in the aftermath of the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria. Please continue to pray for the millions affected in the region, for those on the ground responding and for those grieving loved ones. For updates and to find out how you can help, please visit the CLWR website: <https://www.clwr.org/>



LuMinHoS The Caregiver March newsletter is available on their website. <https://www.luminhos.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/March-2023-Caregiver.pdf>

Please go to and download the issue which features:

1. Messages from Chaplain Richard Engel and Chair Gord Martens
2. Spiritual Care appreciation notes from two care recipients
3. Invitation to **Katie Liu Café** happening THIS month on Sunday March 26
4. Thank you to LuMinHoS generous donors
5. **In Remembrance** of Joan Meyer and Diana Fast



## Attention : Youth

### CLAY GATHERING – AUGUST 2023



"Our stories and faith journeys are a lot like fire. There's the hard stuff, ashes. There are exciting parts, sparks. There are chaotic times, flames. And there is the quiet and calm, embers. Each of these are holy and vital parts of life. Whatever place you find yourself in, God is right there with you." <https://claygathering.ca/whatisclay/>

**CLAY is now open for registration!**

CLAY is open to youth ages 14 – 19. Please contact Lisa at the Messiah office or Merv Bender if you are interested in learning more about participating in the CLAY gathering in Waterloo, ON.

Lisa: 306-763-7374/ [messiah@sasktel.net](mailto:messiah@sasktel.net); Merv: 306.960.8346/ [merv.bender@sasktel.net](mailto:merv.bender@sasktel.net)

## GATHERING WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your Holy Word; too often our lives are so absorbed in our own needs that we do not see the needs of others. Forgive us and help us find new directions where we need them for we often worship the fabrications of the material world and do not worship You, the Creator. And Father, there are so many paths that we can choose, and other people can choose that can be so difficult and harmful to ourselves and others. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow You in the life you call us to live. **Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that whoever believes in Him, might not perish but have eternal life. This promise is for you! God embraces us with divine mercy, forgives us in Christ's name, and revives us through His Word and the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

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

**GATHERING SONG:** ELW#456 'Baptized in Water'

### GREETING (ELW p. 203)

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 / HYMN OF PRAISE:** 'Beneath the Tree of Life' vs.1,2,5 (Marty Haugen)

Refrain: **Come and gather beneath the tree of life. Come and gather beneath the tree of life – root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release. Come and gather beneath the tree of life.**

1. **Here we raise the saving cross of Jesus, singing praise to him who leads us on from death into new life.**  
Refrain
2. **Flowing from this tree of grace and passion, Oh how sweet the taste, how deep and rich the well-spring of your love.** Refrain
5. **Rooted in the rich earth of your Gospel, may we bear the fruits your Word has planted deep within our hearts.** Refrain

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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: Exodus 17:1-7

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question — “Is the LORD among us or not?”— received a very positive answer.*

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 95

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand. Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

<sup>8</sup>**“Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, ‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore in my anger, ‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

### SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (ELW p. 151)

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

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

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." <sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: OSB#43 'Fill My Cup, Lord'**

**APOSTLE'S CREED** (ELW p. 206)

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**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, and for the hosts of people among whom we live.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and we seek your guidance and wisdom that we might be instruments of your grace in a very troubled and confused world. **Amen.**

**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.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

We share a sign of that peace.

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING HYMN:** ELW#840 'Now Thank We All Our God' (vs 1)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. **God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel and the honouring of your name. Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** ELW#613 'Thy Holy Wings'

**DISMISSAL**

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