



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

Worship for Sunday March 5, 2023
First 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:

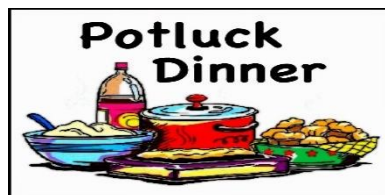
We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.



Prayers and condolences to Carl and the Klarenbach family on the passing of **Beverley Klarenbach** on Friday, February 24. A memorial service will be held at Messiah on Sunday, **March 5th @ 2:00pm** with lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall. She will be dearly missed.

This Week & Coming Up:

- **Women's Group Gathering - Saturday, March 4 @ 10am** in the Fellowship Hall – introduction to yoga and potluck brunch (muffins/fruit). If you would like to participate in the yoga introduction (15-20 minutes), please bring a yoga mat and wear comfy/stretchy clothing. No experience or previous knowledge necessary. Even if you don't want to participate in yoga, come for coffee and the potluck brunch. Bring a friend; all are welcome.
- **Potluck lunch, Sunday, March 5** - following the worship service. All are invited to bring a lunch item (cold finger foods such as sandwiches, vegetables/salads, and desserts) to join in a meal and fellowship. All are welcome to help with cleanup. We rejoice in this opportunity to come together.



- **Women's Bible Study Group (previously Naomi Circle)** - '12 Women of the Bible' series beginning on **Tuesday, March 7 @ 7:00PM** in the Peace Chapel. Join us and bring a friend.



Choir practice continues each week on **Sunday at 9:15am**, in the Sanctuary. All are Welcome! Please contact May Janzen or Colleen Bowen if you have questions or for further information.



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.



Daily prayers for Lent will start on Ash Wednesday. Praying together, encouragement and hope for today. If you would like to receive these daily prayers, please click on the link <https://mailchi.mp/telus/lent-2023-landing-page> to sign up.



The Saskatchewan Synod is sponsoring a Black History Month Town Hall with Saskatoon Police Chief Troy Cooper and Regina Police Chief Evan Bray to discuss issues that affect people of African descent and minorities in general. All are invited to this town hall with the police chiefs of our province's two largest cities.

Time: Tuesday Mar 7, 2023 at 06:00 PM Saskatchewan Time

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89363033554?pwd=VEMwZDAwbEIVOWhQbkpWM0FSSDg2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 893 6303 3554 ; Passcode: 559069

LuMinHoS **The Caregiver** March newsletter is available on their website. Please go to [LuMinHoS – Presenting the comfort of Christ to all Lutheran patients admitted to Saskatoon hospitals](#) 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 Live beginning March 1, so please let us know ASAP!

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; Merv: 306.960.8346/ merv.bender@sasktel.net

GATHERING WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us together acknowledge our failings and our sin which holds us back from our calling to honour God and care for the lives we encounter each day.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, You created this amazing world. May our hearts and lives grow in our gratitude and thanksgiving for all you have done, continue to do, and for your promises that secure the future. Throughout history you have searched for and guided your people. Through that humble entrance of Jesus into this world, you call us to live as your people. We confess that we often struggle and stumble and fail and sometimes with stubborn hearts, rebel. So we come again before you and ask for your forgiveness, so that, even more in this season of Lent we might see with new eyes, all you have done on the cross. May that cross remind us daily how You free us to continue our journey, and that your Word and Spirit might cause us to grow and live and seek to share your blessings with those we live among. To you we humbly pray. Amen.

Prayer of Absolution: In I John 1:9 we hear the promise of God “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” So together, as servants of our God and Father; as we have together confessed our sin; with confidence in the promises of God, we can be assured that “we are forgiven.” So let those balls and chains of regret and guilt which we so often drag through each day be left behind at the foot of the cross of Jesus.

So now oh God, we pray that we might continue our walk into each tomorrow with humility, with joy, and with the freedom to serve You our God, as we seek to care for the holy gifts of life we meet each day. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: ELW#445 ‘Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

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. **Dear God; You have called us through Jesus to be your children . . . your people. You invite us to follow in the paths that Jesus walked, so that we might see Him whom you sent into this world and learn from Him the things that make for life. We thank You our God that as we gather again in this holy place of worship, you have promised to be with us. As we journey through this season of Lent, help us to enter that amazing reality, that Jesus entered this world and on the cross, and help us remember His last words “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Help us to remember that He came because of Your love for your struggling world. Help us to remember that Jesus did not come to condemn, nor to licence rebellion and sin, but He came to redeem, that we might find in Him a new and eternal life, and that we might follow Him as your servants in this world so deeply loved. We pray that you would shape our hearts and minds through Your Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 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 3:1-17

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

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

SERMON:

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#336 'Lamb of God'

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, the world, and all of creation.

...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#481 'Come to the Table'

OFFERING PRAYER:

Let us pray. **God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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. 207) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, 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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Lord of life, our Creator and Redeemer; we thank you for this life giving bread and wine which frees us in the centre of our lives with your forgiveness, and allows us to live in that freedom as we are guided by your Spirit through life's journey. Sustain us in this Lenten season, that we may be drawn closer to You and to each other. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#660 'Lift High the Cross'

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POTLUCK LUNCH TABLE GRACE: 'Be Present At our Table, Lord'