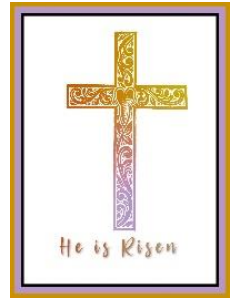


Messiah Lutheran Church
1796-15 Avenue East, Prince Albert, S6V 8A1
Website: www.messiahluthpa.com
Facebook and YouTube: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](#)



Contact: Cheryl Bauer Hyde	Lisa Haight/Office Admin
Cell: 306-961-2967	Phone: 306-763-7374
Email: cbauerhyde@gmail.com	Email: messiah@sasktel.net

Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 12 noon – 3pm

Worship for Sunday May 7, 2023
Stephen Ministry Commissioning Service with Holy Communion

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.



Today: We welcome the Stephen Ministry Team to commission three individuals to become Stephen Ministers who will serve others in and around their congregations and community.

Randi Arnot, Lisa Haight, Linda Jarock

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

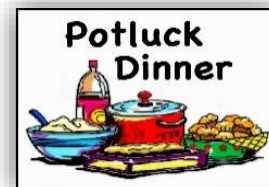
What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called *Stephen Ministers*—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.



ACTIVITIES & HAPPENINGS – Messiah and Community

- **Wednesdays @ 7pm: Lectionary Study** each Wednesday until June 14. We meet in the Peace Chapel or by Zoom. Just let Lisa, at the Messiah office, know your preference. Everyone is welcome!
- **Saturday, May 6 @ 10am: Messiah Women’s Group gathering** in the Fellowship Hall. Denise Haugen will provide information about relaxation (stress reliever) techniques and then we’ll enjoy coffee/potluck brunch. Join in for conversation and fellowship; friends are welcome.
- **This Sunday, May 7: Messiah Sunday Service – Stephen Ministries Commissioning Service**, followed by a Potluck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to bring a lunch item (cold finger foods such as sandwiches, vegetables/salads, and desserts) for food and fellowship, and to help with cleanup.
- **Sunday, May 7 @ 2pm: ‘Watsonairs Spring Concert ‘Moving Forward’** at St. Mark’s Church (581 – 9 Street East). Concert proceeds go to the Rose Garden Hospice furnishings and equipment. Tickets are \$20 and available (phone 306.960.4140, at Canadian Tire, or talk to May Janzen). Request information about Watsonairs’ patron program by emailing: watsonairs@gmail.com.



“**Churches Being a Healing Community for Men**” is an opportunity both men and women, to get together and hear from experts what works for churches to heal men. When our men heal, our families and communities heal. Register by going to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/churches-being-a-healing-community-for-men-tickets-606772401587>

LCBI Graduation Invite

The **2023 Graduating Class** would like to formally invite you all to celebrate their special weekend with them on May 13 - 14! **All ceremonies will be live streamed as well.**

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it” John 1:5 [NIV]

Saturday, May 13, 2023 – Grand March 7:30pm with Talent Show to follow

Sunday, May 14, 2023 – Worship Service 10:30am/ Commencement Ceremony 2:30pm

Spring Seeds & Planting: Prince Albert After 5 Connection invites you to join them: **Monday May 15, 7-9PM @ Coronet 3553 2 Avenue West** for Dinner and a Program \$22.00. See PDF inside weekly email for details. Reservation Deadline: Thursday, May 11.

Contact: Susan Prakash @ 306-764-7021, susanprakash@sasktel.net.

Colleen @ 306-961-6925, ca2315@hotmail.com

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! Thank you .

GATHERING

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Introduction of Stephen Ministries)

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, turning 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: ELW#377 'Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!'

GREETING

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. 203)

1. **Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**
2. **Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**
3. **Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

HYMN OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)

1. **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**
2. **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**
3. **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he 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: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Hugh Farmer

HYMN OF THE DAY: WOV#758 ‘You are the Seed’

APOSTLES’ 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.**

COMMISSIONING SERVICE

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, saying
Hear us, O God, and responding **Your mercy is great.**

...

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal
God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING: WOV#732 ‘Create in Me A Clean Heart’

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your
presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and
uphold me with your free Spirit.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with
blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to
praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, 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.

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.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION MUSIC: Instrumental

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. 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. *(Sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#619 'I Know that My Redeemer Lives!'

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

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