

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

Contact: Pastor John Mayer Dut	Lisa Haight / Messiah Office
Cell: 639-384-8745 (Local SK #)	Phone: 306-763-7374
Email: pastor.mlc@sasktel.net	Email: messiah@sasktel.net
Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday (11am– 3pm)	

Worship for Sunday September 24, 2023 @ 10:30am
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leader: Pastor John Mayer Dut

Sunday Worship Services are **at 10:30am**, in-person and livestreamed,
on the Messiah YouTube channel (posted for later viewing).

Wearing of masks is not required but Messiah is a mask-friendly environment.

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

- Coffee Time: **before** and **after** service. Please plan to stay after the Worship Service to visit, have a chance to catch up with the Messiah family, and/or get to know someone new.

- Messiah Choir Practice will begin @ 9:15am in the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact May Janzen 306-960-4140 or Colleen Bowen 306-763-7389.



Coming Up:

- **September 30 @ 10am: The Women's Group is meeting in the Fellowship Hall.** We're focusing on body mechanics; what works, what doesn't and what we can do about it. Very interesting, focused and personal! All women are invited for coffee, stimulating conversation and understanding issues with our bodies! Thanks to Denise Haugen, we are learning a great deal and having fun!! You're invited too! If you have questions please call Linda M. (306.941.9982) 😊
- **Tuesday, October 3 - Messiah Lutheran Women's Bible Study** – Hosted by Corrine Amyotte in the Peace Chapel @ 7PM. We will be going through the "Women of the Bible" series and discuss future possibilities.
- **Sunday School, Youth Ministry and Confirmation plans** are all in the works. Please if you would like to be involved or having any kids/youth who you would like to sign up to partake in all or either of these ministries, contact Pastor John at (639)-384-8745 (cell) / (306)-763-7374 (work) or pastor.mlc@sasktel.net / amukpiny@gmail.com.

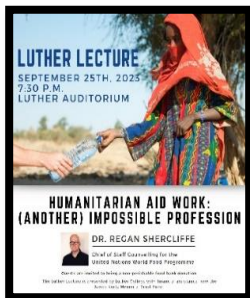
- **October 15th** – Confirmation classes will begin. We hope to have everyone signed up by the end of September in order to complete the confirmation year.

An Invitation to Pray, Advocate and Stand in Solidarity During World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

[The World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel](#) is being observed this year **from September 16 to 23**. [The World Council of Churches](#) (WCC) invites church organizations, congregations and people of faith to participate online or in-person to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land. This week also includes the **International Day of Prayer for Peace on September 21**. This year's theme is "No place to lay my head," and is based on Matthew 8:20. For more information and to download resources, please [click here](#).



Lutheran Campus Ministry Fundraiser supper: Saturday, September 23 at 6:00pm - Zion Lutheran Church. Come to hear how the ministry of post-secondary students has navigated COVID, evolved and grown, enjoy a great meal catered by Mulberry's, fellowship, entertainment and the opportunity to offer your prayers, stewardship and support. Please contact Pastor Mark Hedlin 306-715-0452 for tickets before September 19, as tickets will not be available at the door. If you cannot attend, we invite you to support this ministry with your prayers and stewardship. Call Pastor Mark and he would be glad to share with you more about the ministry. If you are moved to support with your stewardship, e-transfers can be sent to luth.chap@usask.ca or cheques made out to Lutheran Campus Ministry and sent to Lutheran Campus Center, 1302 College Drive Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W5



Luther Lecture on September 25; featuring Dr. Regan Shercliffe from the United Nations World Food Programme, speaking on ***Humanitarian Aid Work: (Another) Impossible Profession***. Guests can join in person or with the Zoom option. The Luther Lecture was established at Luther College at the University of Regina with the purpose of making a distinctive and stimulating contribution to the life of the University and the general community. Full details on Dr. Shercliffe's lecture are available at www.luthercollege.edu/university/alumni-friends/events/luther-lecture

Lutheran Theological Seminary is pleased to announce a visit by our companion synod IELU (the ELCIC in Argentina and Uruguay) President Wilma Rommel and Old Testament Professor Dr. Mercedes Bachmann.

Dr. Bachmann will be giving a lecture on "The Bible in Buenos Aires, Lutheranism and the Hebrew Scriptures" at Redeemer Lutheran Church on [Wednesday, October 4, 2023](#) @ 7:00 pm. We would like to invite your congregation to attend this special event either in person or live stream.



LUTHERAN
theological seminary
S A S K A T O O N



If anyone has lost a "house key" from last week after the potluck, it was found and will be in the office at Lisa's desk. The key found has a blue patterned fabric key chain attached. Please come by during office hours from Tues – Fri 11-3 if you want to retrieve it or call the office at 306-763-7374 to arrange pickup.

GATHERING

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

Introduction

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✝ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: ELW#583 'Take my Life, That I May Be'

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 / HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW#857 'Lord, I Lift Your Name on High'

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S LESSON

WORD

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

First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. ^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. ⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?" The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH CHOIR – "Come Let Us Sing" – Natalie Sleeth

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. ²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the

gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. The word of the Lord. **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 20:1-16

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor John – “What really matters? God's generosity to people who deserve Hell!”

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW765 ‘Lord of all Hopefulness’

APOSTLE'S 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors, saying: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

...

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. **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.**

PEACE: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** *We share a sign of that peace.*

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING HYMN: ELW#692 'We Are an Offering'

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. (sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW#538 'The Lord Now Sends Us Forth'

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

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