



Messiah Lutheran Church

Website: www.messiahluthpa.com

Facebook / YouTube: [MessiahLutheranChurchPrinceAlbert](#)

Pastor John Mayer Dut
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Messiah Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 11am – 2pm

December 14, 2025 @ 10:30am: Third Sunday of Advent

Worship Leader: Pastor John Mayer Dut

Musician: Colleen Bowen

Coffee in the Peace Chapel (9:45am) before the Worship Service;

No Sunday School today (December 14);

Hot Chocolate & Cookies after the Service (in the Peace Chapel)

The service is broadcast live at 10:30am and posted on the Messiah YouTube channel.

Prayers for Healing and On-Going Health Concerns:

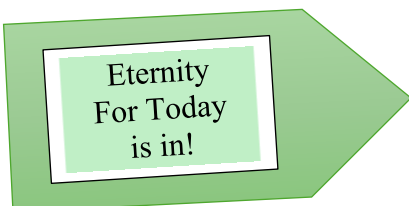
We pray for comfort and healing for all those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their time of need.



Condolences and prayers to Judy McCallum and family on the loss of **Ray McCallum** who passed away Tuesday, December 9th. Memorial celebrations TBA. *“Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.” Ps. 30:5*

UPCOMING @ MESSIAH

<p>Caring Ministry & Community Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food Bank & Christmas Hampers: donation suggestion lists in the Narthex; financial support welcome - Stepping Stones Shelter donations: drop off box in the Narthex for blankets, hygiene items, towels, winter jackets, mitts, toques, socks and underwear.
<p>Bible Studies In the Peace Chapel or via Zoom</p>	<p>Weekly on Wednesday at 7pm – Zoom ID: 885 6495 2469 & Passcode: 518446 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88564952469?pwd=yAY3S5UwbKXH7MLDyTJxTLN0lpkcrZ.1 Monthly on third Tuesday (December 18) at 7pm – Zoom ID: 859 1940 4343; Passcode: 210248; https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85919404343?pwd=t0A2kA5mg58xSGnD5lQpzOSeNfuNjR.1</p>
<p>Coffee & Conversation</p>	<p>An informal gathering on the first and third Thursdays – Come on December 18 @ 10am in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!</p>
<p>Confirmation Classes</p>	<p>Contact Pastor John (306.961.0877)</p>
<p>Christmas Choir</p>	<p>Choir meets Sunday, December 14 and 21, at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. Everyone welcome, come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Performances will be at the December 21 and 24 services.</p>



If you are on the **Eternity for Today list, please come to pick up your devotionals in your Messiah mailboxes. Thank you kindly.*

Around the Community, the Saskatchewan Synod & beyond ...

	<p>Canada Lutheran is the magazine of the ELCIC, providing information and inspiration to help our us deepen our faith, follow church news, find the relevance of Lutheran faith in today's complex world, and create positive social change at home and abroad.</p> <p>An annual subscription of 10 issues costs approximately \$22.00.</p> <p>If you would like a subscription mailed directly to your home, contact Cheryl at 306.961.2967 / cbauerhyde@gmail.com.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer 'Rooted in Faith, conversations Across the Church'</p> <p>The conversation on November 30 was recorded, and is available at this link - https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/fNhs66cAMnF6M_IY1eTBpmIQokV76Jo7xMH4qeDF3uYyF8I8MLf698D5WR8V9Y_0YSjF9Gr41RSBK5V or go to the ELCIC.ca website. The next conversation will be on February 22, 2026.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinkle Tour (6:30 – 8:30pm): December 20, 21, 31.</p> <p>Keep checking the website kinasao.ca for updates, and more information about Kinasao programs.</p>
	<p>Canadian Lutheran World Relief's <i>Gifts from the Heart</i> catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your Christmas gift list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world!</p> <p>Copies are available on the table in the Narthex, or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Thankful for 50 years of God's work through Stephen Ministries!</p> <p>https://www.stephenministries.org/CareMail/2025/Thanksgiving Week Message/Thanksgiving Week Message.html</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Slavic Children's</u> <u>Choir Concert</u></p>	<p>Slavic Children's Choir invites you to their <i>Christmas Music Performance</i> at the 'Slavic Gospel Church' on <u>December 13 (Saturday evening) @ 6pm</u> for the Christmas story, choir & instrumental music and group singing. Followed by fellowship and some Christmas baking. Bring your family and friends.</p> <p>Located south of Prince Albert, Hwy #2, turn right on Dairy Rd/#474 TWP Rd</p>
	<p>Prince Albert Concert Choir invites you to "Glow: A Christmas Concert" <u>Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 4pm, Calvary United Church</u></p> <p>They will be singing a mixture of classical Christmas carols, such as <i>Silent Night, This Little Babe</i>, as well as some other holiday favourites.</p>





**Advent Message
To Rostered Leaders and Congregations
of the Saskatchewan Synod ELCIC**

November 27, 2025

Dear sisters, brothers, siblings in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As we enter this holy season of Advent and draw near to the joyful celebration of Christmas, I write to you with a heart full of gratitude, hope, and deep pastoral concern. These past months and years have carried more than their share of uncertainty. We continue to witness global turmoil, wars and conflicts that fracture communities, financial pressures that weigh heavily on households and congregations, and the ongoing struggle of many of our congregations striving faithfully to keep their doors open. I want you to hear clearly: you are not walking this path alone. Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, is indeed with us!

Advent teaches us to wait, not in fear, but in expectation. Advent reminds us that God comes precisely into the world as it is: fragile, imperfect, longing for redemption. The Christ child is born not into comfort or stability, but into a world marked by sociopolitical tension, displacement, and danger. And yet, into that world the angels proclaim, "Do not be afraid." That promise still holds. Christ enters our uncertainty with courage; Jesus enters our scarcity with abundance; Christ enters our weariness with new strength.

I want to encourage each of you, rostered leaders, lay leaders, congregations spread across the vast geography of our synod, to trust that God is at work even in what feels small, stretched, or fragile. Your ministries matter however big or small. Your presence in your communities matters. Your faithful witness in these challenging times shines with the light that no darkness can overcome. Do not give up, but walk faithfully and boldly!

As you gather for worship, as you prepare Advent liturgies, as you offer care, compassion, and leadership amid real constraints, know that the Holy Spirit goes before you, beside you, and behind you. The One who promises to be Emmanuel, God with us, is steadfast by our side. The same God who has sustained the church through centuries of change will sustain us now and into the future. There is no doubt about that.

This Christmas season, may you glimpse again the profound hope that comes wrapped not in power, but in vulnerability; not in certainty, but in trust; not in abundance, but in a manger. May Christ's peace settle into your hearts and into congregations, faith communities and ministries of our beloved synod, strengthening you for the ministry to which you have been called.

You are held in my prayers and in the love of the One who is our Light and our Salvation.

Abundant blessings in Christ,

Bishop Ali Tote, MDiv, MBA, PhD
Saskatchewan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)

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

Call to Worship

Praise be to God

Who has made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them

Praise be to God

Who is watching over the strangers and upholding the downtrodden

Praise be to God

Who will transform our deserts to lush lands blooming with joy and singing

Praise be to God

Praise be to God, oh my soul

Opening Hymn: ACS#901 'Now the Heavens Start to Whisper'

Opening Prayer

God, you called Isaiah to be a prophet Paul to be an apostle, Mary to be a God-bearer, John to be a witness. Now you call us each to be holy. In our own unique way. Let it Be. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Beloved Saviour, Forgive us when we fail to be patient like the farmer Who waits for the precious crop from the earth ... Forgive us when our hearts weaken ... Forgive us when we grumble against one another and against you ... Remind us of James' teaching to be patient, to strengthen our hearts, not to grumble, and to remember the lives of the prophets and saints who came before us.

Words of Assurance

Modern day saints and prophets, take courage, for the coming of Christ is near.

Advent Candle Lighting

The hope candle reminds us of all the ways creation sings of God's hope for the world, The peace candle reminds us of how we are called to build God's dream of peace. Today we focus on Joy.

What do you think might be in this box marked Joy? What would you put in this box? What reminds you of Joy? Where would you like to share the gift of Joy?

Today we have a delicate egg.

Maybe joy is like a little egg that forces us to be in the world differently. A little egg that is full of surprises! And today we will light three candles – the candle of hope, the candle of peace, and the candle that we traditionally light on the 3rd week of Advent to remind us of God's gift of joy, in a world filled with brokenness.

May the gift of this candle's infectious flame, remind us of God's gift of joy.

Hymn: ELW#240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs.1-3)

Children's Time: Country Angel Christmas

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the

majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.]] Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Luke 1:46b–55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: ⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name. ⁵⁰ You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit, ⁵² casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. ⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy, ⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

James 5:7–10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hymn: ELW#249 'On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry'

Gospel: Matthew 11:2–11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Annunciation

Hymn: ELW#265 The Angel Gabriel from Heave Came

The Magnificat

Hymn: ELW#292 'Love Has Come'

Offering

The economy of this earth is not the economy of God's. What is great here can be considered among the least in heaven. Our ranking and class systems is meaningless in the world to come. Do not judge your gifts and offerings by this world, instead judge it by the world to come.

Prayer of Dedication

Let us pray, **For the opportunity to give freely, we give thanks. For the privilege to worship openly, we give thanks. For the blessings we have received, we give thanks. Accept these offerings God with our thanks and love. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayers

Let our souls magnify the Lord And our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour.

Let us pray, **Mighty One, look on us with favour, we beg, so that future generations may call us blessed. You have done great things that we name to you now in praise and gratitude ... Grant your mercy on those who have dealt wickedly with us and those we love alike ... Bless those who love you ... Show your strength on those who foolishly trust on their own pride and intellect, seeking complete independence and on those who attempt to lord over, dominate, exploit and control us and others. Bless the lowly in body and spirit with good things and put a hunger for justice in those whose bellies are full. Make us your workers and when we become weary remind us daily of your mercies and your promise to be with us always. We join these prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us ... 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.**

Sending Hymn: ELW#267 'Joy to the World'

Announcements

Benediction & Blessing

Go now, Magnifying the Lord and Rejoicing in God our Saviour who has done, and will continue to do great things. Receive God's blessing, feel God's favour and share it with all those you will meet along the way.

(sung) **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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