



MESSIAH MESSENGER

April 2018

Volume 39, Issue 4



Sunday Worship Times

9:15 am – Adult Class
9:45 am – Friendship Club
10:30 am – Sunday School
10:30 am – Worship Service
11:45 am – Coffee Fellowship

OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM - NOON & 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

CHURCH BUILDING WILL BE OPEN

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

SATURDAY

9:00 AM TO NOON

Clergy Corner



Grace to you and peace from God: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

We are witnesses...

Sunday, April 1st marks the day that we are all about: the day of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Each and every Sunday, the first day of the week, we continue to gather to bear witness to this crucial event for us and for all people. We gather to remember what God has done. We gather to give thanks and praise to God. We gather to receive what we need for the day and for our time in the world for the week. We gather to encourage and enable others in their faith walk that day and for the week to come. There is so much that happens to (and because of) us that spirals us towards death. We need to be lifted to life by God's forgiveness and love. And, as we experience this resurrected life, we become witnesses.

Again, we are all about Jesus' resurrection. We "see" Jesus' resurrection through what we hear and sing and pray and feel as we gather in worship and in service to God and others. We experience Jesus' resurrection as we are washed in the waters of baptism and as we eat and drink the meal that Jesus gifted his followers with. Then, as we see and experience Jesus, we are led to share what we have received; we become witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ for the world.

Our mission is to Share Jesus with All People. We have this mission because the good news of Jesus has been shared with us. In one respect, this sharing Jesus will be "automatic": we share because we have received. In another respect, we often don't know how to do this sharing. We become uncomfortable thinking that we may be imposing on others. (I suspect this usually comes as a result of feeling "imposed upon" by others – and not wanting to perpetuate that experience.) I would suggest that we try to view what we are called to do as "sharing" and then rely on the Holy Spirit to guide and claim and call others. Sharing comes as a result of another's need and not out of our own need. Sharing also comes in a reciprocal fashion – if we are open to hearing from another what their experiences are, then they often become open to hearing from us.

We may be uncomfortable thinking we don't know how to answer people's questions. We may even have questions ourselves and may feel these questions are "doubt" and don't want to inflict others with that. But our questions, along with our enduring faith and belief, are what people need to see. We have seen questions (and even doubt) in the first disciples and this may be an assurance to us that there is room for even us (I know it has been for me!). What we are enabled to do is to share how Jesus has impacted us. This is what God will use to affect other people.

You are a witness. I am a witness. Together, we continue to see what God is up to in our lives. Together we share our experience of the transforming action of God in Jesus. We do this in the things we say. We do this in the way we live. We do this in how we try to help. We do this in giving thanks. We do this in praising God for **all** that is.

May we be faithful witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

If you have questions, comments, concerns – anything:

Call me at 780-672-3444

Email me at: calvinskriver@gmail.com

Text or call me at 780-679-5976.

If I can't respond right away, I **will** get back to you soon.

Pastor Calvin

* See page 8

Clergy Corner



THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE CROSS...

*The journey through the cross...
moves us into a different place.*

*We ponder.
We reflect.
We wonder.*

*We meditate, re-evaluate, re-orientate,
understand our humanity...stand in it... even accept it.
We allow the cross to touch it;
to touch us in a real and human place within...
our deep heart.*

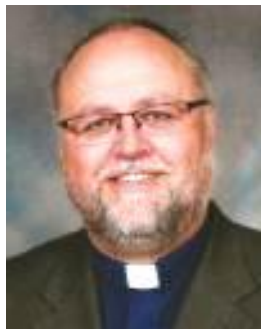
*As we do this in honest reflection
and authentic interaction with our Jesus,
we find ourselves;
received,
forgiven,
at a strange peace within...
and prepared for what is next...*

*A resurrection within comes when
we meet ourselves and are met by our Lord
and the two are intertwined...
honestly,
openly,
with nothing held back.*

*We find ourselves...
accepted,
loved without reserve,
held and renewed...
from the inside out.*

*As Jesus rises from the grave to meet us...
we move through the cross and we are made new.
...a fresh start
... a new beginning
... a new "knowing"
and we are free to live as Christ lives in us...*

*We are no longer the same...
ever moving through the cross...our journey continues...*



Dear Beloved of God –

I love the account of Jesus journeying on the road with two of his followers to Emmaus.

Their hearts are heavy with grief. As they walk they are talking with each other about all that had taken place, and while they were walking and talking, Jesus comes to them and walks with them.

“What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” Jesus asks. “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” “What things?” And the conversation continues. And then Jesus, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, interprets to them the things about himself

in all the scriptures.

Invited to stay with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...and they returned that hour to Jerusalem to the eleven and their companions. Then they shared what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

In our increasingly polarized world, amidst fears both known and unknown, Jesus our risen Lord continues to walk with us and to make His presence known in the breaking of the bread.

Eugene Peterson in his book, *Practicing Resurrection*, writes: “The practice of resurrection is not a do-it-yourself self-help project. It is God’s project and God is engaged full time in carrying it out. Grace is everywhere. God is Christ is actively doing for and in us everything involved in the practice of resurrection. So, what is there left for us to do? Receive. Receive the gift.”

May we, this Easter, once again recognize our Risen Lord, Jesus, walking with us – opening our hearts and minds to God’s living Word – and filling us with the hope and peace that surpasses our human understanding.

In Christ Jesus –
Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

*The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
Romans 15:13



Please join us for Messiah’s Easter Continental Breakfast on Sunday, April 1 at 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the Basement Auditorium. Messiah Lutheran Church Women will be serving a wonderful continental breakfast.

Free will offering will go toward the “New Basement Auditorium Chair Fund”. (This event is sponsored by a FaithLife Chapter. FaithLife will give a grant up to \$300 to match the income received from the Easter Breakfast free will offering.)

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:
Erin Joy Bilyk

Marriages:

Funerals:
Ruth Hagen
Dennis Olsen



Memorials

**Special Gifts since
last reported:**

In Memory of:

Adult Class Sessions:

We invite you to JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING

Time: Sunday mornings from 9:15 – 10:15

Place: Messiah Lutheran Church
Basement Auditorium

April 1 – EASTER SUNDAY – no Adult Class

April 8 – The Third Article of the Apostle's Creed
Presented by Pastor Calvin Skriver

April 15 - Friendship Club Ministry at Messiah
Presented by Nora Gilbertson and Team



In light of the February 6th, 2015 Supreme Court Ruling concerning physician assisted death, the ELCIC National Church Council in November of that same year, established a Task Force to encourage conversations across our church regarding the needs of people in times of death and dying. The ELCIC Task Force on Decisions at the End of Life prepared a four-session study guide for congregations to use in facilitating these conversations.

April 22 – Conversations on Medical Assistance in Dying
Session One: Where Are We Now? And How Did We
Get Here?
Facilitator to be announced

April 29 – Conversations on Medical Assistance in Dying
Session Two: A “Good Death”
Facilitator to be announced

Messiah Friendship Club Beginnings

In the beginning...about 30 years ago, a very **special** and **innovative** class was born! It began as a Sunday School class and evolved into...The Friendship Club!

It all began with Mrs. Morck (a member of our congregation) who had a burning desire for a class in Christian education that would be suitable for her son Robert and other people with special needs. In Camrose there was no class, so out of her vision they asked Jim Winters into teach and the class was born.

It began with three or four students in a small dark Sunday School room with one teacher, and today we have grown to 12 – 13 students, with up to four teachers (helpers). We also have room to accommodate the drivers who bring them.

When I began working with this class [with no knowledge or experience and no special materials] I was very tentative. I was alone for the first years and very insecure...but I have discovered that if you feel you are in the right place, **God provides on the job training!** If any of you are interested in helping with our class, no special training is required, except that you are willing to **Love and Care. And if you want to learn more about this class, we are presenting the Adult Education Class on April 15 – We even plan to invite you into our class for part of it.**

Nora Gilbertson

A REQUEST FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Sunday School kids really enjoy a little snack during Sunday School...Alas, the Snack Schedule has mostly blank spaces! Will you help out?

The Snack sign up sheet is at the back of the church, on the counter of the Welcome Center. Cookies, Rice Krispie or puffed wheat squares, granola bars, fruit, donuts...two dozen treats is perfect! Thank



"Aging Transitions: From Now to the End of Life" seminar will be on Saturday, May 5, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Centre. Facilitators: Pastors David Eriksson & Garth Wehrfritz-Hanson. Early registration by April 27, \$20 including lunch, late registration by May 3, \$25 including lunch. To register call Kathy Nelson, 780-855-3921 or email klkvill@hotmail.com.

Watch Sunday's bulletins for more detailed information on topics that will be discussed.

News from Rev. Brian Rude in El Salvador

(Herewith an extract of Rev. Rude's letter of March 9, 2018)



Democracy--More than an Occasional Vote

Pope Francis has legitimized Salvadorans' prophetic saint, San Oscar Romero, 6 March.

San Romero has long been a beacon of hope for the long-suffering Salvadoran people. We will commemorate his martyrdom on 24 March.

Politically, Election Day offered no such beacons of hope. Next year's presidential election offers one potential beacon of hope, at least to the majority of Salvadorans surveyed. He is the current mayor of San Salvador, Nayib Bukele, expelled from the FMLN party through which he was elected. His criticisms of his own party were not welcome. He plans to launch a new party for the elections of 3 February, 2019, drawing on his 1.5 million eager supporters. Will he have what it takes to lift El Salvador out of this quagmire, this deep, deep hole into which it has dug itself over the past decades?

In spite of high insecurity and travel warnings from the USA State Department, El Salvador continues to draw an encouraging abundance of solidarity from other countries. Whatever these visitors may bring to the country, they leave much enriched with all that their Salvadoran sisters and brothers give them, spiritually, socially, emotionally . . . faithfully and hopefully.

In the past few weeks, these visitors have included:

- 2 health brigades (20 + 30 persons), mostly from Wisconsin, holding full-day health fairs in 10 communities, hosted by several Lutheran churches (I was able to accompany 6 of these fair-days);
- 20 students and 3 faculty members from Luther College, Regina, SK, hosted by CRISPAZ (I met with them 3 times), plus numerous other delegations from the USA
- 50 election observers, from Canada (Edmonton and Ottawa, besides myself as one of the team coordinators for a week and a half), Sweden, Germany, the USA and El Salvador, leading up to the 4 March elections, hosted by CIS, besides numerous other teams of election observers, representing the ecumenical churches (FECLA), the European Union, and others;
- a delegation of a dozen UCChrist folk from a sister parish in Ohio, hosted by Resurrection Lutheran Church (met with them twice);
- BC firefighter delegation sharing the hotel with election observers.

These visitors do fill our beaches on occasion, and I get to tag along, enjoying all their good company. We also catch much of this marvelous Jazz Festival season, together with my Salvadoran friends.

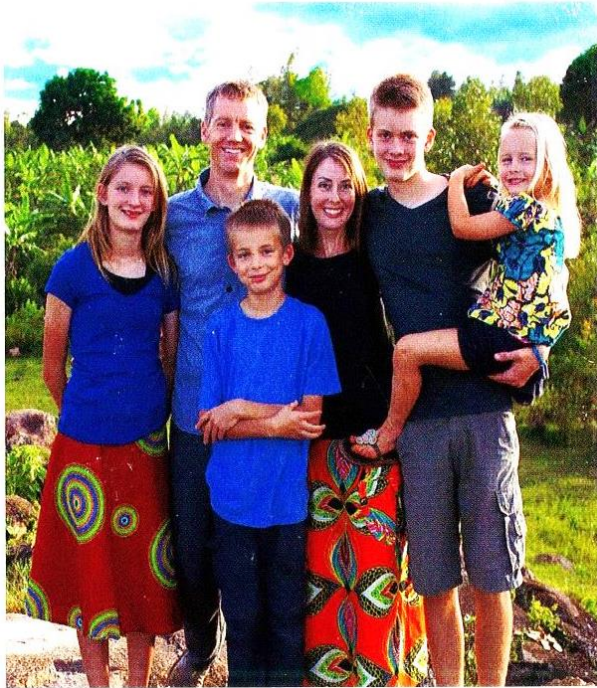
Awaiting more solidarity visitors, Brian

Rev. Brian Rude, DD,

"In Mission with El Salvador" / "*En Misión con El Salvador*",
Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC

Comment by Ray Blacklock, Chair of Messiah's World Mission Group: Looks like one of Rev. Rude's many ministry roles on our behalf is interpreter of the local scene for visiting groups-a role for which he is well suited, with all his experience there. Envelopes to facilitate your financial support of "In Mission with El Salvador" are available at the Welcome Desk at the rear of the sanctuary. Support to the end of February totals \$6,185 toward a goal of \$10,000 by the end of April.

From the Watts Family Serving at Kibuye Hope Hospital, Burundi, East Africa



As of today, our family has been in Burundi for three years. A little after 8:00 pm on March 6, 2015 we touched down at Bujumbura airport completing well over 30 hours of travel that took us from a place that had been as cold as -30 degrees in the weeks leading up to our departure. In some ways it is hard to believe it has *already* been three years; and in other ways, it's hard to believe that it has *only* been three years.

During these past three years, it feels like a lot of life has been crammed in. We have had to do things that I would have never thought we'd have to in our lives. We've experienced beauty and joy like we've never known before. We have taken on roles that neither of us ever thought we'd have: Susan in her role as child-life specialist where she spends time every day with sick kids up in the hospital, her work with the malnutrition program, and her constantly trying to advocate and look out for the mothers and children who she works with day after day, week after week, and many of them, month after month. My role with helping coordinate the financial needs of our team, our construction, and help the hospital administration find ways to improve the

hospital, as well as the Business as Mission work around East Africa – is sure not what I thought I was coming here to do. We have moved, evacuated, changed directions, thought things would change when they didn't, felt like we were living on the edge of something huge that never happened, and have been surprised by huge events we didn't see coming.

Three years in, we can honestly say that our family is thriving and we love the work we get to be a part of. It's definitely the hardest thing we've ever done – but the work that God is doing here is very worthwhile. The one constant that we have always felt is that this is the place that God wants our family to be at this time. I am no longer naïve enough to think that things can't change – even drastically and rapidly – in this environment. But this is where we feel we are to be – and honestly, we love it.

You – our supporters – have been an incredible and consistent source of encouragement. Many of you have expressed concern when things get tough, encourage us when things are hard and rejoice with us when things work out. We are fully, and constantly aware that we are not here alone – that all of you who have and do support the work that goes on here play a role that can't be overstated – without have a group of faithful people who are praying for us, encouraging us, and sacrificially giving for us to be here – the work we are involved in simply could not happen.

So thank you for being with us over these past three years – for the ways you support the work here in Burundi in so many ways.

George, Susan
Jonah, Matea, Micah & Alma

* April Fools!

Pastor Calvin will be back in place in the May Messenger. He said to me, "Can't you get a different picture?" So between Doreen and I we did. Pastor Calvin approved!!

Church Council Highlights

March 20, 2018

- Dave Larson reflected on favorites hymns, noting one of his is 'This is My Father's World.' Dave provided some of the history around the hymn, then played the hymn with an accompanying visual presentation. He spoke to his experiences with the amazing diverse moths in Costa Rica in 2012 to 2017. The beautiful detail and creativity in God's world is tremendous, and sometimes we overlook it. He concluded with a prayer. Council members shared/reflected on what is going on in their lives in the next little while.
 - Council approved that the Executive and Committee Chairs and/or Council representatives meet to review the proposed Budget and Designated Funds each year as part of the Budget preparation process. Pastor Calvin will also attend the meetings. This group will report back to Council. Odell will convene the meeting once each committee determines its representative.
 - **Messiah's 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held June 10.** Reports should be submitted at least four weeks before (May 14) so they can be distributed on May 25.
 - The Nominating Committee is continuing its work and has been making good progress.
 - The Telus proposal for free public Wifi proved more complicated than initially presented but there have been cost savings. Support encourages people to experiment with WiFi connections in various parts of the building. The Sunday School area in particular needs more checking.
 - No one contacted Odell about serving as a delegate to the Synod Convention June 14-16 at Augustana. Council recommended several individuals for Odell to approach about filling this role.
 - Pastor Calvin has offered to put his name forward as a delegate for the 2019 National Convention for consideration at the June Synod meetings.
 - Synod is holding a Congregational Life Event on Saturday April 14 in Red Deer: "No One is Immune" talk about mental health. Council will pay expenses for anyone who wishes to attend on Messiah's behalf.
 - The Learning Committee has learned that Grace Lutheran has already arranged for Rick Bergh to visit Camrose for presentations on the topic of 'Grief'. Messiah members are strongly encouraged to participate in this event on the weekend after Easter.
 - Dr. Clark Banack from the Chester Ronning Centre communicated with Messiah about supporting a grant application for a project about the integration of refugees into rural communities, in conjunction with the Camrose Refuge Centre. Council agreed to support the grant application.
 - The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The Next Regular Council Meeting is Tuesday, April 17, 2018.
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Bible Study & Fellowship Opportunity for Men of all Ages

A study of the lessons for the next day's worship service takes place each Saturday morning 8:45 to 9:45 am in the Basement Lounge.

**All Men Welcome for Study, Fellowship,
and Encouragement in the Faith**



No men's study on Saturday, March 31 due to Easter



MLW HIGHLIGHTS

Messiah MLW members continue to be blessed as we study the book of Esther. Esther's faithfulness and willingness to follow God's leading is an example to each one of us. God had a purpose in placing this true account of Esther's life in the Bible.

- 1) A special word of thanks to Lavona Broen for taking charge of the Messiah Easter Breakfast. Appreciation is also expressed to her team of Eleanor Kopperud and Carole Saugen plus other volunteers. The Easter Breakfast at Messiah has long been a meaningful tradition. Various groups have made it so down through the years!
- 2) Appreciation is expressed to the Messiah MLW members who took part in the World Day of Prayer, held at the United Church on March 2. We at Messiah are to host this event in March of 2019.
- 3) We wish to acknowledge the ladies who furnished refreshments and helped to serve after the Hastings Lake Bible Camp Fund raiser held at Messiah on March 4. The Potter's Clay Quartet was enjoyed by many.
- 3) Quilting Day is again the third Wednesday of the month which falls on April 18. Packing Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25. This is our last opportunity to enjoy a Quilting Day until the fall. See you at Quilting Day with your needle, scissors and bag lunch.
- 4) Next time you are in the lineup for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall in Messiah, look at the MLW Bulletin Board. Thank you cards from appreciative folk are posted on this Board after they have been shared at our MLW General Meetings.
- 5) We are appreciative to Pastor Calvin for conducting monthly Bible Study Briefings for us on the first Tuesday of the month, 3:00 pm, in the Fellowship Centre. We have asked our Pastor to lead these sessions and so we request that each one who is scheduled to lead the study in your circle attend these sessions. The sessions are extremely helpful – background culture, each question in our study discussed, etc. We appreciate the work our Pastor has done to make these briefings meaningful. See you there if it is your turn to lead a study!

God bless our MLW!

Messiah MLW Executive

Volunteer Recognition & Appreciation Sunday



Will be on Sunday, April 15. The Service Committee will be providing and serving cake at Coffee Fellowship. All are welcome!

Journeying Through Prayer (Lectio)...Mondays 10:30 am

Lectio cancelled for Easter Monday.

This group is for those of you who love to sit together in the silence and hear the "Word", sharing together how this Word reaches into your hearts and souls. Gather with us in the Lounge every Monday morning.

This is not a closed group. You may come and go as your schedule allows. All are welcome. For more information call Norma at 780-672-7902.



Worm Composting Workshop

Friday, May 4, 7:00 P.M. We will meet in the Fellowship Centre. Pastor Calvin Skriver will share his knowledge on starting a worm factory! Call Pastor Calvin (780-679-5976) if you are interested so he can have materials available that evening.

New
Pictorial
Directory



**When will the new
Pictorial Directories be available?
Update:**

All the pictorial directory information was mailed to IPC on March 2, 2018. The office is now waiting for a proof copy of the directory (usually 20-30 working days)
We are still aiming for the end of April to early May for the new pictorial directories.

Mark your calendar

Messiah's Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 10 following a potluck lunch

New Church Mailboxes:

Recently, the office added some new mailboxes. If you are looking for your 2017 donation receipt, please check your mailbox at the back of the church.



GRIEF SUPPORT

Grieving can be such a lonely process. Be it the loss of a loved one, loss of employment, loss of health, and for some even retirement – the loss of active engagement in work, the loss of a relationship to divorce, or a child who moves across the world, for others the loss of a pet can be devastating. If you have interest in a grief group to help support your grieving process, please call me at the office. If there is enough interest for another group to be gathered, we will do so. If you would just like someone to walk with you through your grieving process one on one, I am also very glad to do that. Please feel free to give me a call.



In peace... and the love of Christ,

Pastor Bev Swanson
780-672-3444

"The Holy Strollers": A morning out to visit with other parents while your children play.

We will meet in the Messiah Nursery on Wednesday morning from 10:00 am to noon on April 11 and 25. This is an informal group so just come as you are able!



holy strollers
a group for young families



FOOD BANK SUNDAY April 15

Remembering God's love for us, let us give generously and fill the empty cart with Love.



*On April 7, 2018,
Aaron Mokry and Karly Bakker
will be united in holy matrimony
at Abbotsford, BC!*

*We will 'shower' their marriage
the weekend of June 2 at Messiah .
Watch the newsletter and bulletin
for the date and time once it is confirmed.*

*Since they are no longer two but
one, let no man separate what God
has joined together.
Matthew 19:6*



LunchFEST April 8, 2018

Worship Committee in charge of
arrangements.



Everyone welcome!

Hastings Lake Bible Camp

COME CELEBRATE CAMP'S 80th ANNIVERSARY!

Saturday, July 7th, 2018

10am - Coffee

Noon – Lunch

Afternoon - Volleyball Fest, Self-Guided Tours, Bouncy Castles, Coffee

5pm - Celebration Supper

7pm - Celebration Service

9pm – Campfire

If you wish to share camp pictures please send them to:

hastings.program@gmail.com in .jpeg format, by May 5th

The 80th Anniversary Committee also invites interested families to:



Adopt-a-Cabin

and spruce it up before June 15th, 2018 so it can be ready for the Summer and the celebration! Arrange with Andrew Carlson, our Camp Manager by contacting the camp office at 780-662-2557 or by email at hastings.rentals@gmail.com

80 for 80 Club

The 80 for 80 Club is inspired by a recent generous pledge for capital projects in the amount of **\$100,000**.

To make the pledge a reality

we must raise \$150,000 by the end of 2019.

In celebration of the 80th Anniversary of Hastings Lake Bible Camp, please consider donating \$80 per month throughout 2018.

Mail 12 post-dated, \$80 cheques to:

Hastings Lake Bible Camp
#135-51268 Range Road 204
Sherwood Park, AB T8G1E9

OR donate online at www.HastingsLake.com

Donate Monthly (\$80 per month), or

Donate Now (single donation \$960)



Saturday, May 5, Spring Cleaning Party

Sunday, May 6, Spring Fling and Annual General Meeting

July 6-8, Hastings Lake Bible Camp is turning 80! Save the date: Come and celebrate the camp's 80th anniversary Hastings Lake Bible Camp touches the lives of hundreds of people each year and has been doing so since 1938!!

Synod of Alberta and the Territories Convention



"ARE YOU INTERESTED IN"

- great fellowship?
- inspiring presentations?
- learning more about our wider church, its many ministries and faith partners?
- amazing food?

If so, Messiah is seeking 2 lay delegates (plus 1 youth delegate aged 16-22) for the 2018 Synod Convention, June 14-16, held right here in Camrose at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus. The theme is "Faith, Hope, Love" and the keynote presenter is the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen. This is a great chance to be uplifted in faith and learn more about our mission, as the entire Synod comes to us. And, if you have ever attended any function at Augustana, you KNOW the food will be excellent!

If you have a burning desire to attend (or even just expressions of interest) please convey this to Odell Olson prior to the March 20 Messiah Council meeting."

NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SUNDAY

APRIL 22

The regular 10:30 service will be
emphasizing the work of

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Offering envelopes will be available to support this work to
show that WE CARE





Save the Date

April 24, 2018

**6:00 pm Program, Reception to follow
Jeanne & Peter Lougheed Performing Arts Centre
University of Alberta's Augustana Campus**



Do you recognize these photos? One is Uncle Miller. They have turned up at the Church office. If you are descended from any of these people you may pick up the photos at the Church Office.

Huge Church Garage Sale



**Just a reminder that Messiah will be
having a Huge Garage Sale in
May 2018!!**

**If you are moving and would like to donate
items, we can arrange for storage in the
MLW room.**

**The funds made at the garage sale will go
towards Hastings Lake Bible Camp
for their 80th anniversary.**

Congregational Life Event – Workshops



If you are interested in attending the following Workshop, please inform the Church office by April 6.

When we know the numbers we will be able to calculate the price per person.

Saturday April 14, 8:30 am to 3:45 pm

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 40 Holmes Street, Red Deer

Keynote: *Sanctuary in the 21st Century*

Rev. John Dowds, City of Edmonton

Chaplain

John was born and raised in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and immigrated to Canada in 1976. He completed a Master's Degree from the U of T which included a Chaplaincy at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto, and was ordained as a Minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada where he served from 1985-2006.

He began his work with the City of Edmonton as the chaplain for employees and their families in 2006. His work includes short- term counseling, crisis intervention, consulting and teaching, and involves promoting education and understanding regarding mental health and mental health problems. He is a certified Mental Health First Aid leader. He also offers workshops on stress, grief and meditation. He and his wife Morag McLean have a blended family of seven children and seven grandchildren. He recently received a True Compassion Award.

Workshops

#1 The Power of Hope to Deal with Mental Health Issues: led by Dr. Cheryl Nikolaichuck and Dr. Bill Chimich

#2 Handling Anxiety across the Life Cycle: led by Gail Mukaida RN BSN, Kermode Counselling Services

#3 Understanding Mental Health Issues for Older Persons: led by Diaconal Minister Sarah Rudd, Zetter Care Centre, Good Samaritan Society Edmonton

#4 Incorporating Mental Health Information and Activities into Ongoing Congregational Activities:

1. Integrating Mental Health Activities into Worship Services – led by Rev. Marty Tuer, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer

2. Ministering to the needs of our youth through our synod camps – led by Marg Daly, former Executive Director, Mulhurst Lutheran Church Camp

3. Preparing Secretary/Congregational Office Administrators for handling mental health issues in Congregations – led by Kathie Goertz Thompson, Professional Affiliate of the Alberta Psychologists Association

Schedule:

8:30 am: **Registration**

9:00 am: **Opening Worship**, Rev. Kathie Schmitke

9:25 am: **Bishop's Greeting**, Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop

9:30 am: **Keynote: *Sanctuary in the 21st Century***– Rev. John Dowds

10:45 am: **Break**

11:00 am: **Conversations with John Dowds:** Question and Answer session about concerns about mental health and addressing mental health issues in congregations

12:00: **Lunch**

1:00 pm: **Resources for Mental Health Programming**

Participants will have a choice to view a variety of mental health resources that could be used in their congregations

1:30 pm: **Workshops:**

1. ***The Power of Hope to Deal with Mental Health Issues***

There are many resources that help people cope with stresses, especially those associated with mental illness. Hope is a particularly strong resource for dealing with stress. This workshop will describe what hope is and how it works and give ideas about how to find, keep and build hope in one's personal life when mental health issues are being experienced by oneself or a person close to us

2. ***Handling Anxiety across the Life Cycle***

5% of the population experiences anxiety that causes mild to severe impairment. Anyone can experience anxiety. This session will discuss the nature of anxiety and how one might deal with anxiety at different stages of life.

3. ***Understanding Mental Health Issues for Older Persons***

Our congregations have an age distribution that is weighted toward older persons. We need to understand the mental health challenges that face older persons and their caregivers. This will focus on various dementia illnesses, depression and loneliness, and others but should have positive caregiving ideas for older congregational members and their caregivers.

4. ***Incorporating Mental Health Information and Activities into Ongoing Congregational Activities***

Some congregations are reluctant to focus on mental health issues because they are already overbooked with programs. This session will provide ideas and resources to address mental health in already existing programs in the congregation especially the regular service, camping experiences and resources for the office administrator.

3:00 pm: **Gathering and sharing**

3:15 pm: **Closing worship and sending**

Registration fee (includes coffee breaks and lunch):

- \$45.00 per person, up to 6 participants from one congregation/parish.
- \$35.00 per person if more than 6 people attend from one congregation/parish.
- Payments are via the registration form; payments will not be taken at the event.

Register here: Congregational Life Event 2018

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2017 Congregational Life Event – “Worship – When Ruins Rejoice”

From Roadside Signs Across America*

*Page 91

The Ten Commandments are not multiple-choice.

★

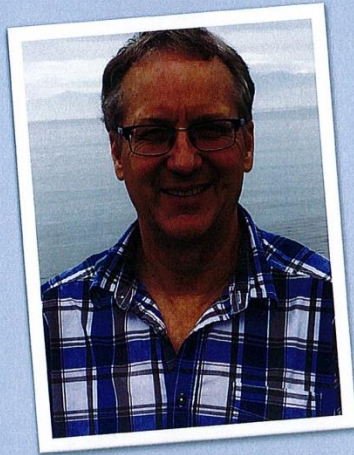
Prayer doesn't need proof – it needs practice.

★

Worry looks around. Faith looks up.

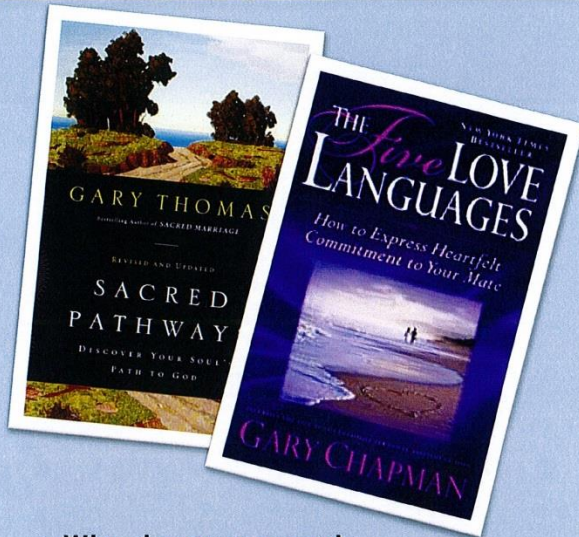
Grief Workshop

HOW You Grieve Is More Important Than WHY



Rick Bergh
Ordained minister, author & narrative therapist, will unpack 2 important components that affect a person's grief:

- Love Language
- Sacred Pathways



- Why do some people seem so empty following the death of a loved one, while others seem to manage quite well?
- Why do some people rage at God following the death of loved one, while others choose to draw closer to Him?

April 7, 2018, 9am-4pm (lunch included)
Grace Lutheran Church, 5306 50th Ave, Camrose, AB

To register, please phone (780) 672-2092 or email
office@gracecamrose.ca

A freewill offering will be taken in lieu of a registration fee.
Thank you to our sponsors Bugar Funeral Home and Weber Funeral Home

Join us on Friday evening at 7:30pm for the lecture,
Joseph and the Many Colours of Grief.

Priscilla SHIRER

SIMULCAST

Worship with ANTHONY EVANS

Saturday, **APRIL 28, 2018** 8:30am - 4:20pm

JOIN US!

\$25
(includes lunch)

Hosted by **Women of Rez**

at

Resurrection Lutheran Brethren Church

5601 Enevold Drive,
Camrose AB

Register at
rezchuch.ca or
780-672-0909



A Mindful Finale: Spirituality and Ritual at End-Of-Life

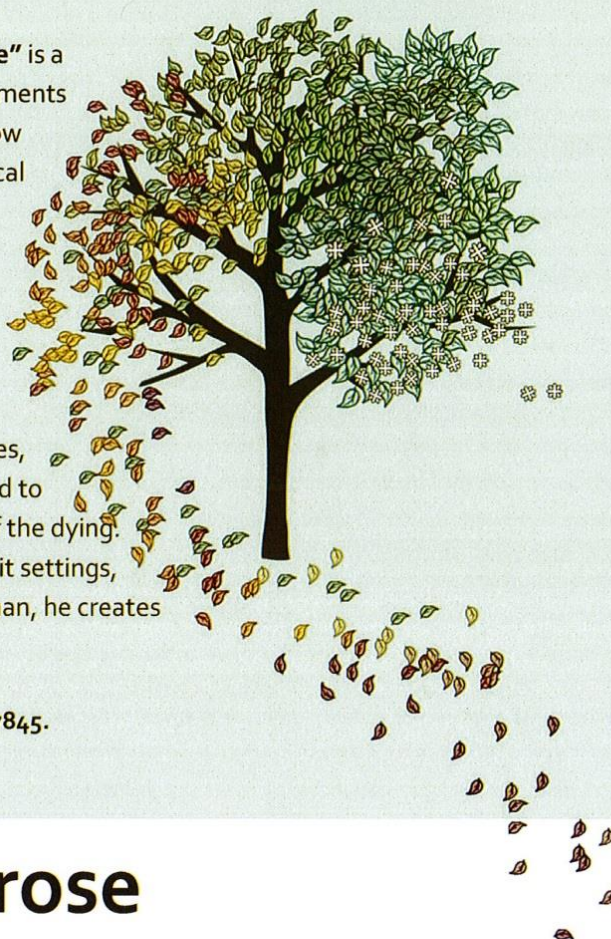
AHPCA
alberta hospice palliative care association

"A Mindful Finale: Spirituality and Ritual at End-of- Life" is a hands-on, full-day workshop that will help you foster moments of gratitude and joy during a challenging phase of life. How can spirituality help? You will fill your toolbox with practical rituals to help navigate complicated paths. Caregivers, family members, community volunteers, and healthcare professionals are all welcome.

Guest Presenters: Darrin Parkin and Blair Collins, B.A., B.Th., RSW

Darrin has provided spiritual care for 25 years on campuses, in parish ministry, in hospice, and in prisons. All he needed to know about life he learned in prison and at the bedside of the dying. Blair has worked for over 30 years in a variety of non-profit settings, including dealing with grief and loss. As a Hawaiian Shaman, he creates rituals appropriate to time and context of celebrations.

To register, go to www.ahpca.ca or call Theresa at 403 473 7845.



Camrose

Thursday April 26, 2018

The Norsemen Inn

6505 48 Ave, Camrose, AB

Workshop 9:00-4:00 pm. Registration and coffee 8:30 am. Lunch included.

Host: Hospice Society of Camrose & District

\$10 for current AHPCA members (register prior to March 31, 2018)

\$65 for new members (includes AHPCA/CHPCA membership to March 2019)

Please register at www.ahpca.ca

This workshop can be used for Continuing Education credits

Prayers of the People



Dear Lord, we give you thanks for the month just passed and for the one set before us. Thank you for the season of Lent that has prepared our hearts for the fullness of Easter

- Thank you for our Pastors, Calvin Skriver and Bev Swanson. Thank you for their ministry among us. Thank you too for our Bishops – Larry Kochendorfer and Susan Johnson and the assistant to the Bishop, Julianne Barlow. The work of our pastors and bishops is essential to the life and health of the Church and we pray your on-going guidance and leadership in their lives. Please watch over their families and bless and keep them;
- We ask your ongoing accompaniment with the Sunday School, youth group, confirmation class, adult class, bible study groups and the MLW as well as the ecumenical activities in which we engage that all may be done to your glory and honour; Help us to reach out in meaningful ways to newcomers in our community, to young and old, to refugees seeking a place to call home and to others transferring in for work or retirement. May we be an open and caring community; Please bless the work of the Refugee Centre here at Messiah, and that of the co-operating congregations;
- We pray for the staff: Sheila Becker, Doreen Brewer, Lowell Dahlman, Ruth Jensen, Lori Mokry, Carolyn Olson, Lloyd Olson, Tova Olson and Marlys Sorenson who manage the day to day tasks. Messiah is also blessed with many volunteers and we thank you for each and every one of them. All of these people, staff and volunteers bless and enlarge the work and ministry of Messiah.
- We ask your care for shut-ins and all who worship via Cable 10 and 310 TV, may they be blessed by Word and music. We ask for strength for the lonely, the emotionally and physically ill. Please be those who are grieving the loss of a loved one or other losses we are unaware of, you know Lord and you care;
- We especially ask you to be with the families of Ruth Hagen and Dennis Olsen who passed into eternity this past month, may the memories of these loved ones be blessed. We also give thanks for little Erin Joy Bilyk who was baptised into your name this past month. We pray for her family, parents and sponsors that she is brought up to know and love you;
- Father, our world is in need of you. Many are wounded by war, and bear deep scars, others have been physically abused and are in need of love, compassion and understanding; still others carry HIV together with its devastating fallout; others have different inner battles and heart's cries. Please be with these wounded and desperate ones. May they find peace and joy and love;
- Lord, we thank you for Brian Rude and the ministry in El Salvador. We ask your presence with the George and Susan Watts family in Burundi, we also lift to you Ryan and Siobhain with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Papua New Guinea. Keep all of them safe and bless their ministries. We pray your grace and love and protection for all who share your Word around the world. Thank you for them.

We offer our thanks, and praise in the name of Jesus,

Amen



Messiah Church Council

Odell Olson, President
Gail Stolee, Vice-President
Jonathan Hawkins, Secretary
Ivar Saugen, Treasurer



Members at Large:

Darlene Dahle
Sharon Gilbertson
Dave Larson
Carolyn Andersen
Art Pfeiffer

Liaising With:

Worship Committee
Learning Committee
Support Committee
Witnessing Committee
Service Committee

Messiah Lutheran Church

Sharing Jesus Christ with all People

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www.messiahcamrose.ca

messiah@cable-lynx.net

Pastoral Ministry Team

Calvin Skriver

Bev Swanson

Administrative Assistant: Doreen Brewer

Administrative Assistants, part time: Lori Mokry, Ruth Jensen

Audio Visual Ministry Coordinator: Lowell Dahlman

Bookkeeper: Sheila Becker

Record's Clerk: Marlys Sorenson

Custodians: Carolyn & Lloyd Olson

Worship & Music Ministry: Tova Olson

Youth: Bev and Dale Swanson

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To request email delivery or to submit articles by email,

Write to messiah@cable-lynx.net

Messenger Editor: Ruth E. Jensen, D.D.

Members, staff, committees and groups are encouraged to submit articles so that we are aware of who we are as a congregation, and where we are going in our congregation.

Next Issue: May 2018

Material due: April 17

Delivery date: April 27

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day 9:00 Easter Breakfast 10:30 Easter Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	2 Easter Monday Office Closed 12:00 Meals on Wheels	3 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 Meals on Wheels 7:00 MLW Bible Study Briefing	4 12:00 Meals on Wheels 2:00 Learning Committee 5:00 Witnessing Committee 7:00 ATP Musical Rehearsal	5 10:30 Handbells 12:00 Meals on Wheels 12:00 All Staff Meeting 7:00 Messiah's Choristers 7:00 Confirmation 7:00 Support Committee	6 12:00 Meals on Wheels 4:00 Kuimba Choir	7 8:45 Men's Bible Study
8 Easter 2 9:15 Sunday Morning Adult Education 9:30 Friendship Club 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 LunchFEST	9 Council Reports Due 10:30 Lectio 2:00 World Mission 7:00 Camerata	10 9:30 Worship Committee	11 10:00 Holy Strollers 10:00 Staff Meeting 7:00 ATP Musical Rehearsal	12 10:30 Handbells 7:00 Messiah's Choristers 7:00 Confirmation	13 5:30 Erickson/Martz Wedding Rehearsal	14 8:45 Men's Bible Study 1:00 Erickson/Martz Wedding 7:00 Sr. Youth
15 Easter 3 Food Bank Sunday Volunteer Appreciation Sunday 9:15 Sunday Morning Adult Education 9:30 Friendship Club 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	16 10:30 Lectio 6:00 Music Festival—Choirs	17 Messenger Articles Due 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:00 Church Council	18 9:00 Quilting	19 10:30 Handbells 7:00 Messiah's Choristers 7:00 Confirmation	20 9:00 Music Festival - Piano 1:30 Music Festival - Piano	21 8:45 Men's Bible Study
22 Easter 4 9:15 Sunday Morning Adult Education 9:30 Friendship Club 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	23 10:30 Lectio 7:00 Camerata	24 10:00 Staff Meeting	25 9:00 MLW Packing Day 10:00 Holy Strollers	26 NO Handbells NO Messiah's Choristers 7:00 Confirmation	27 Messenger Delivery 8:30 CLBI Graduation Rehearsal	28 8:45 Men's Bible Study 10:00 CLBI Graduation
29 Easter 5 9:15 Sunday Morning Adult Education 9:30 Friendship Club NO Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	30 10:30 Lectio 7:00 Camerata					