



MESSIAH MESSENGER

December 2018

Volume 39 Issue 11



2018 Christmas at Messiah Lutheran Church



Sunday, Dec. 9

9:30 am

Friendship Class Christmas Pageant
Basement Auditorium

Sunday, Dec 9

10:30 am

"Hope"

Christmas Festival Program

12:00 pm

Christmas Potluck Lunch
Fellowship Centre

Monday, Dec. 17

11:00 am

Special Christmas Communion & Lunch

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Dec. 24

4:30 pm - Candles, Lessons & Carols

9:00 pm - Candlelight Service with Communion

Christmas Day Dec. 25, **10:30 am**

Christmas Service with Communion



REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 am – Adult Class

9:30 am – Friendship Class

10:30 am – Sunday School

10:30 am – Worship Service

11:45 am – Coffee Fellowship

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

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

CHURCH BUILDING WILL BE OPEN

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

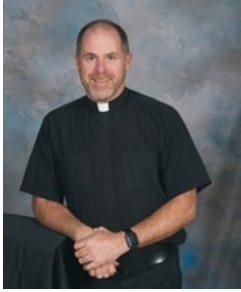
8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

SATURDAY

9:00 AM TO NOON

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 24 TO JANUARY 1.
Re-opening Wednesday, January 2 at 9:00 am.**

Minister's Message



***"May you be infused with strength and purity,
filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father
when our Master Jesus arrives."***

1 Thess. 3:13 (The Message)

It is the Christmas season. There are already secular Christmas songs on a few radio stations; I tend to switch stations. Why am I so "bah-humbug"? Part of me rails at the commercialization of this time of year. I know it's an important time of year for many retail businesses – but have we taken the idea of "gift from God" and run too far with it? Have we buried the "God" part?

It is good that we remember the gift of "God-with-us" in the baby/person of Jesus.
It is good to reflect that giving by giving gifts ourselves.

It is also important to continually re-connect the Christmas message with Jesus. Not in a judgmental way that says commercialization is "bad", but in a way that reminds people of the ultimate root of this time of year.

Jesus came not as a rich or powerful person, but one who in humility gives of himself for the sake of others. Jesus entered into the whole of our lives: the best and happiest and the worst and most difficult. Jesus remains to give us hope for the future. Jesus is coming again - not as bad news judgment, but as good news promise.

In this time, let us each reflect the deep joy and peace that is ours because of Jesus.

We need not be "bah-humbug" people. But can we be open to those for whom this time of year is difficult? Can we also be comfortable with others who see Christmas as a great opportunity for family connections, celebrations and general happiness to help get through the short, dark days of winter?

To that end, we need strength, purity and confidence that come from God to prepare us for life now and the life to come in Jesus.

May you be blessed.
May you be a blessing.

Merry Christmas!

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



Minister's Message



Advent...Waiting...Opening...Empty

Advent is perhaps one of my favorite times in the church year...as it is a time of spiritual opening.

There is something spacious about opening our souls...our hearts...our beings...to letting something new rise up within us bringing transformation. This is the season where we might ask ourselves some deep questions as we open the space of our souls, questions we may not otherwise ask.

What is it that I am waiting for?

What is it that I am hungry for? What do I need...I mean really need deep within?

Well...what is it for you? What do you expect to be re-birthed in you? Where would you like Jesus to meet you...within your deeper heart?

I think it is important to make use of this season to ask ourselves these questions...to let ourselves truly be with our heart questions and to be...empty. We spend so much of our lives filling up the waiting spaces with stuff...activity...busyness...when truly we need to let the empty be just that..."empty"

We run from thing to thing...activity to activity...shopping...buying...running some more...concerts... there is so much this time of year...when truly what this season calls for is for us to have the guts to let the empty waiting be just that.

Emptiness is quite frankly not a great feeling and we don't like "not great" feelings so we quickly fill up the moments. Then we won't have to FEEL the empty waiting. The trouble with this is that when we do not allow the empty moments to be...we also don't seem to allow the one who truly wants to fill them to enter in. We are already too full. There is no room in the inn of our hearts...for what God truly wants to do with us...in us.



And so we wait...and we are empty if we are honest. And Jesus says..."Be still and let me be the one to fill you."

Ephesians 3:19 says...

"May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."

Lord give us each the grace and the courage this season of waiting to sit with our emptiness so Jesus can fill us with God's love.

Peace to you this season...Be open...Be Empty.

The one who can who can fill you is coming...

With you in the waiting....

Pastor Bev



Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Bishop's Message For Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –



We are taught by the morning newspaper headlines and by the evening news broadcasts to know names like: Donald Trump, Theresa May, Emmanuel Macron, Kim Jong-un, Vladimir Putin, Emperor Augustus, Quirinius - governor of Syria. Important people. Politicians, some of whom use power, who keep records - who announce that the world should be registered - and the entire world moves at their command - even the poor and the pregnant!

Rome reaches out its long arms to the little towns of Nazareth and Bethlehem and tightens its grip on its subjects through taxation and military might and population control – the empire-building business!

But the name Augustus meant more than just an inconvenient government decree for an imperial document carved forever in marble heralded the birth-day of Augustus as the birth-day of a god! Set in stone, this declaration announced the birth of Augustus as good news to the world! As emperor he was called *soter*, which means, “savior.” He was: “god on earth in human form, protector of the state, cause of peace and of blessing in the inhabited world!” His laws were presented in official propaganda as, “good tidings of great joy.”

The official party-line proclaimed that if you want to see deity at work look to the Emperor, savior, god, the rising star, the bringer of peace, the one who brings “good tidings of great joy!” And yet, what the record tells is of organized violence, militarism and exploitation of the poor. Of an emperor - a savior - who killed three of his sons and one of his wives, and a number of close advisors because he feared their disloyalty.

This is how the Christmas gospel begins - with a word of power - a decree - with powerful, important people in the powerhouse cities of Rome and Jerusalem. But the gospel writer doesn't stop there instead the writer tells of a bunch of politically powerful nobodies - like Joseph and Mary from the backward town of Nazareth - in a stable, in a dot-on-the-map-town called Bethlehem, surrounded by a group of scraggy low-life shepherds who lived in the fields and who, likely as not, smelled to high heaven!

The gospel writer invites us to listen carefully and to look closely as the stone-cut declaration about Emperor Augustus is countered with another word - this one delivered by heavenly messenger rather than Roman decree.

This gospel writer, you see, is busy re-arranging and contrasting our ideas about power, about history, about good news of great joy - in this child lying in a manger - heard against the backdrop of empire builders, power brokers and census takers.

To people suffering under unbelievable oppression, under the thumb of imperial Rome - Luke proclaims that they will hear and see truly good news not in imperial decrees, but in a manger - in this “good news of great joy for all the people” - in a birth announcement which calls forth worship and adoration, amazement and awe, wide-eyed wonder and running feet - and hope.

If we are not stunned by this declaration, perhaps it is because we fail to see what God is up to for when God chooses to challenge the empire and the idolatry of imperial power God comes as a helpless infant; when God chooses to bring hope God comes not as a declaration cut into marble but as a babe wrapped in strips of cloth; and when God chooses to embrace us and all of humanity with the gift of love God comes not as a decree but in flesh.

This gospel writer invites us to ask the very real questions. The very real questions during the candle lighting and the gathering with family and friends, with strangers and friends; in the midst of our very real grief, and our very real concerns for our family and friends and for this world: who saves and who gives peace? And who claims our ultimate loyalty? And who is it that brings good news of great joy?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom,
+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)

Pastoral Acts

Funerals:

James Hunter
Erna Storvick

Baptism:

Drew Nester



Membership Transfers Out:

Kathy (MacInnis) Rickard
Logan Brewer
Lukas Brewer
Ben, Ruth, Jesse, Luke,
Ethan & Micah Wyatt

Memorials

Special gifts since last
reported in loving
memory of:

Marie Olson
David Wold



We recognize the monthly baptismal anniversaries
of the children in the *Splash* program:

Harvey Gjesdal - December 3

Kinley Bolding - December 13

Rya Bolding - December 13

*Let your light so shine before others that they may
see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*



NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!!

Friends and Family of Sylvia Engen-Espe

will be helping her celebrate her 90th birthday
(Yes! You read correctly-90th!!) on **Saturday,**
December 8 at 2pm in the Fellowship Centre.
All of her beloved community at Messiah
Lutheran Church are invited for cake and cheer.

...from Messiah's Learning Committee...

Sunday Morning Adult Class

Time: 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Place: Messiah Basement Auditorium

Sunday, December 2:

"Climate Change in the Age of Reconciliation" presented by Rajan Rathnavalu
(Note - This session will take place in the Fellowship Centre.)

Sunday, December 9:

FRIENDSHIP CLASS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT (Note - The Pageant will begin at 9:30am.)

Be sure to come see this delightful presentation which has become a much loved tradition during the Advent season at Messiah. ALL are welcome!

Sunday, December 16:

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Christmas stories shared by a panel of Messiah friends.

Sunday, December 23: No Adult Class

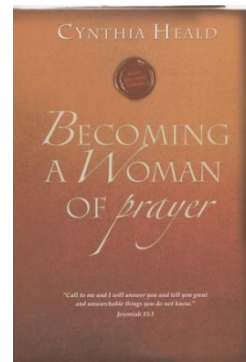
MLW Highlights

Blessed Christmas Greetings to all Messiah members from our MLW! December 3, 7 pm, will find us celebrating Christ's birth with a special Christmas program presented by Joy Circle. Grace Circle is serving refreshments. They have instructed us not to bring our own Christmas baking but to enjoy the goodies these Grace Ladies are baking for us.

MLW yearbooks for 2019 will be distributed at our December Christmas meeting. Contact our Treasurer, Diane, if you have not yet received our new Bible Study book, "Becoming a Woman of Prayer" by Cynthia Heald. These books cost \$12.00 each.

We will soon replace our 2018 calendars with a new 2019 version. New beginnings for our MLW consist of a new Bible Study, several executive replacements, and only three General Meetings planned for 2019. May God bless our meeting together. May each of us be drawn closer to God and closer to one another as we study His Word each month!

Sylvia Espe for MLW Executive



2018 Donations

Please note that the office will NOT be open between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. If you wish to make a donation to be receipted in 2018, you will be able to donate in the offerings on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or on December 30. You will also be able to drop off your offering to the office by 3:00 pm on December 21 – or the mail needs to be clearly postmarked 2018.



Church Council Highlights from November 20, 2018

- Carolyn Andersen opened with a devotion focused on goals and goal-setting. She started with a quote from Barack Obama, that Christian faith requires deeds and action, collectively not just individually – this is imperative in a just society. There is always so much to do, not enough time, and needs for direction and focus – as such, having goals is necessary Carolyn read an excerpt from Henri Nouwen on disciplined living – Olympic athletes succeed by focusing on goals. It is easy as Christians to get distracted from our goals, but we can keep our eyes on the prize through prayer; seek time to return to God, which helps keep the sight of our goals clear.
- Council agreed to convene a follow up gathering from the Fall Planning meeting, to be held on Sunday February 10, 2019. The meeting will involve a summary of the September meeting and then goal-setting based on the topics raised in the previous discussions, as well as offering a time to share progress on how Committees have been working on goals for this year.
- Members of Council who attended the Area Gathering in Bashaw reported on the event. It was noted that the number of congregations in the Synod is shrinking and many of those which remain feel that they are 'struggling'. One goal highlighted at the event was to try and find ways for congregations in the Area to work together and support each other.
- Council reviewed the work of the Mortgage Payoff Celebration Planning Group and approved its recommendation that 'during the evening of May 4 or 11 we will hold an Event at the church which will include a catered dinner in the church auditorium followed outside by the planting of a Dropmore Linden tree, the burning of our 'mortgage' and singing around a fire pit. This will be followed on Sunday morning by a celebratory worship service.'
- Moland Cemetery has been mowed by Gord Myrehaug and Milt Gilbertson. It is about 3 acres in size. There are 6 gravesites – 3 marked with headstones, and 3 had wooden crosses which have now disintegrated. The graves were date from 1903-1906. Ivar obtained several documents about the cemetery – all in Norwegian. Further work can be considered in spring.
- Odell will begin discussions with Calvin and Bev about an Associate Pastor job description. Council was asked to think about how we might encourage the congregation to consider our congregational Mission and Vision.
- Council asked Committees to make recommendations for changes to positions reporting to their committees including recommending abolition of those no longer needed.
- Ivar circulated information about ELFEC investments in Eastern Canada, with a request that Council review it and consider possibilities for different investment opportunities.
- The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The Next Regular Council Meeting is Tuesday January 15, 2019

Youth Connection

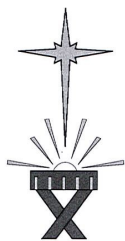
Senior Youth: Friday, December 7, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Centre
Christmas Cookie Baking & Decorating



You are invited to our annual **Christmas Potluck, Sunday, December 9** following the Christmas Festival Program. We will meet in the Fellowship Centre. Please bring a casserole or salad and a few Christmas goodies to share. See you there!

Take Back Christmas

Have you ever asked your children, spouse, parents or friend what they wanted for Christmas? And in turn, did they ask you the same thing?



Do we then start trying to think of something we want and don't have? We get caught up in what we don't have and sort of imagine what things that we might need or want.

The Christmas season actually seems to make it worse. When we are asked to come up with things we don't need so that people will know what to get us seems counter-productive to the meaning of Christmas. We forget that most people we know have many things, but we buy them more because it's Christmas.

Why not bring back the real reason for the season? At Christmas we celebrate a gift of immeasurable worth. In giving us Jesus, God has given us everything: life and hope, salvation and deliverance, joy and peace. Our response can only be to give in return — to God, to one another, to the furtherance of justice, to the cause of peace, to the betterment of the world.

Instead of wracking our brains to think of something that we don't need, let's find out what others *really* do need.

This season can be a time of great spiritual openness as people get in touch with their hunger for something substantial. Often it takes very little to make a big difference in the world.

Resist the tide of commercialism and take back Christmas.

Want to more fully explore the meaning of "Stewardship?"
Call your Synod Office



Quilt Auction for CLWR

is up in the Link area until December 15.



FOOD BANK SUNDAY December 16



Remembering God's love for us, let us give generously and fill the empty cart with Love. Your gifts of groceries and other daily needs products will be much appreciated.



Chancel Care

Are you a creative person who enjoys working with other creative people such as Pastor Bev to create a worshipful atmosphere in our sanctuary during the various seasons of the year?



Well, you are in luck!

Pastor Bev wants you to contact her if you are willing to assist her in preparing the sanctuary for one of the upcoming seasons: Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost.

(Sorry, this year's Advent and Christmas Seasons are already spoken for.)



**Submitted by
the Worship Committee**

Volunteer Opportunities at Messiah:

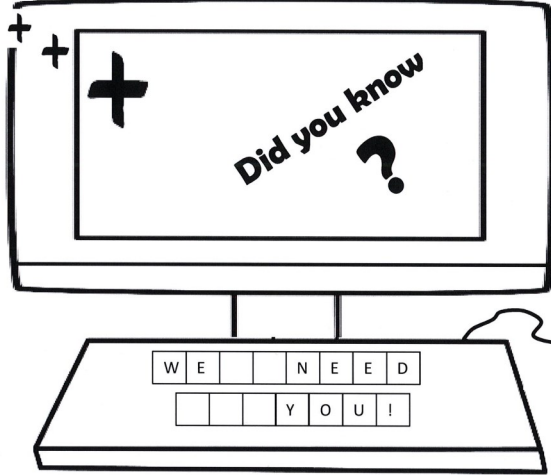
*Assist with lock-up of the Church buildings on a rotation with other team members. Contact Ron Foshaug at 780-678-9386



*View worship services on YouTube, with closed captioning, to screen for accuracy in translation and for any inserted advertisements. Contact Dale Swanson at 780-678-7831

*TO
GOD
BE
THE
GLORY!*

Sharing Jesus Christ in a very interesting way...



Every Sunday morning requires 3 or more A/V technicians – people to help with sound, video, screens, and YouTube/Cable broadcasts

If interested, please contact Rosanna (rosannas@telus.net) and we will set up training sessions and mentoring.



Please contact the office if you have lost a:

Pearl earring - found beneath the east side sanctuary pews

Man's ring - found in the washroom

'V' shaped pendant - found in the Fellowship Centre

earring / pendant - Beads with Chains

Our Missionary (Rev. Brian Rude) looks back on thirty years as a son to his mother

(An extract from the full message)



Thirty years ago today, Mom (Gladys Rude) turned 59. My birthday present to her was to be no-longer-present (in Canada)—a farewell party at the airport. I was flying south with the Canada geese, inspired by the elusive hope that I might be able to spend an entire year in war-torn El Salvador. Having led two awareness-raising delegations to Central America, in 1985 and 1987, I had this vision of accompanying the Lutherans as they accompanied their war-afflicted compatriots in this long-suffering nation of "The Saviour". Mom celebrated her 60th birthday in Nicaragua, just before visiting me in El Salvador. Considering the tension and uncertainty in El Salvador at the time, I didn't accompany this Alberta delegation in Nicaragua, concerned that I wouldn't be allowed back into El Salvador. A couple weeks after their visit, I was exiled back to Canada for the entire year of her 61st birthday. I missed her next 23 birthday parties, since, as God works out and through our lives, I stayed on in El Salvador for many more years than I had anticipated. As it turns out, in two years, if I am still here, I will have spent half my linear-time life in El Salvador.

My role in this chaos evolves and diversifies as regularly and radically as the chaos that surrounds us. No two days are alike, let alone ever-changing ministries. I consider myself a "*facilitator*", seeking to connect North American and European folk with Salvadoran teachers and prophets (and, as of late, a Cardinal and a Saint!).

There came a time when the ELCIC decided it no longer needed El Salvador. Funding for our 20-year prison program was cut in mid-2011 (CLWR). Over the next year, the entire ministry was abandoned. My conviction was to stay on, even independently. The Synod of Alberta and the Territories was of like mind, so set up an arrangement where I would be called as non-salaried staff, reliant on donations received from individual and congregational donors. This arrangement began in 2013, and is still in effect.

My parents were my most faithful allies (among so many). From day one, they encouraged me in innumerable ways. Though fully aware of the risks, and anticipating a long-distance relationship, they never tried to dissuade me. They were faithful members of the Messiah ELC, Camrose, Mission Committee, which shared their enthusiastic, faithful support. Mom and Dad did the mailing list, printing, and mailing for my newsletters for a few years, back in those hard-copy, snail-mail days. Mom arranged the Alberta segments of my speaking tours, and Mom and Dad often accompanied me. Besides the logistical assistance, their moral support over the decades was immeasurable. I can't even imagine the extent and depth of their prayer support through the decades. And their homes were always a haven to which to retire and relax and renew and rejuvenate.

Today we'd be celebrating Mom's 89th birthday. Living so far from home for so many years, I learned to take Mom with me in spirit, so her physical death perhaps didn't impact me as much as it did those who lived and loved her close by. I hardly needed phone or facebook to feel like I was chatting with Mom. Her change of abode, from this life to the next, means less change for me in our "means of communication". With Mom, it's not prayer, simply "conversation", now as always (almost).

So, 30 years . . . So much has changed. I'm no longer the only one with a vehicle (hearse / ambulance / taxi) or a camera. Too much hasn't changed. El Salvador is not at war—at least not a declared war, though prolonged social warfare is proving to be just as brutal and deadly—so many friends and friends' brothers lost to bullets. Accompaniment of prison inmates, inhumanely overcrowded in abysmal, life-threatening conditions (unless you listen to only the official reports) has been banned by the government for over three years now, except for the occasional event or visit or encounter. Delightfully diverse family-of-God accompaniment, from so many nations and faith-expressions, continues unabated, with much commitment and passion.

The most promising steps—leaps—forward in El Salvador can be witnessed and accompanied in the remote corners of the country, away from the news cameras and the journalists, and in the unsung lives of the vast majority of Salvadorans, heroes worthy of a documentary and / or a biography. Many of these fill my life, and inspire "*Fe y Esperanza*" in me (Faith and Hope—no longer just an orphanage for me to serve as chaplain).

So, 30 years . . . and counting . . . And happy birthday, Mom. Thanks be to God.

Paz, Brian Rev. Brian Rude, DD,
"In Mission with El Salvador" Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCICanada

"Go into all the World....." Matthew 28:16-20

News from "World Mission Group"

1. Many thanks to contributors to "In Mission with El Salvador." Gifts from May through October total \$1.880. Envelopes to facilitate gifts may be found at the Welcome Centre at the rear of the Sanctuary. All donations are valued. An extract from Rev. Rude's latest letter may be found on a separate page.
2. Preparations for World Mission Month, January, 2019 are well under way. The January *Messenger* should have full details. As usual, the presentations will draw our attention to the splendid ways in which many people "Go" to cross-cultural situations to share the Good News of the love of Christ for the whole world. These events are scheduled for the "Adult class" 9:15 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted
Ray Blacklock, Chairperson, World Mission Group



THANK YOU...

**to those of you who contributed
shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child.**

**We were able to send 53 shoe boxes
to the collection depot.**

Thank you Cece Watts for coordinating this effort!

We are collecting mittens, scarves, toques and adding socks this year! The donations will go to Centra Cam Emergency Clothing Depot. Agencies, like Messiah, refer many people to the Emergency Depot and they are always looking for more donations. Please, generously donate until January 2, 2019. You will find a tree in the Narthex.



MLW Christmas Program
Monday, December 3, 7:00 pm
in the Basement Auditorium

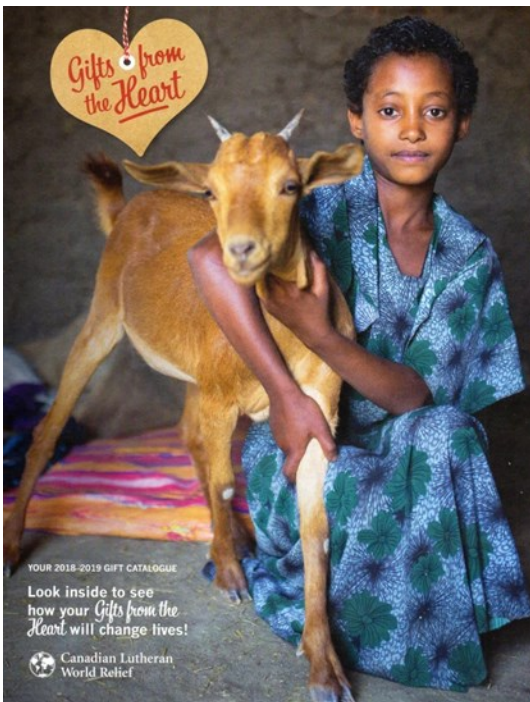
NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Gifts from the Heart

It's time to do that Christmas shopping, and there's no better way to honour your loved ones than with a CLWR "Gift from the Heart". The beautiful new catalogue highlights some items with a red heart. These will go 3 or 4 times further thanks to matching grants from the Canadian FoodGrains Bank.



Let's also add the sticker lights to the CLWR Christmas tree on the fellowship center bulletin board as a visual picture of our giving.

Gifts can be ordered online at www.clwr.org/GFTH, by phone at 1-800-661-2597 or by mail (if no strike).

The new 2018 catalogue is in your mail box!



Christmas Festival 2018



Sunday, December 9

9:30 Friendship Class Pageant

10:30 Christmas Festival Program

12:00 Christmas Potluck

Gluten Free, Top Eight Allergen Free¹, Vegan Communion Bread



In the September edition of the *Canada Lutheran* Rev. Dr. Laura Holck, pastor of Church of the Cross, describes her congregation's journey in introducing this bread. Our goal, like theirs, is to offer a communion bread that hopefully everyone can eat. Imagine the flood of emotions experienced by someone who has health issues but is now offered the gluten free bread they are served and told . . . *the body of Christ broken for you*.

The ingredients of the bread are as follows: gluten free all-purpose flour (Planet Organic Gluten Free All Purpose Flour is recommended and what we are now using), gluten-free baking powder, baking soda, salt, sugar, canola oil, coconut milk² (canned) and unsweetened applesauce. These ingredients are posted in the bulletin on communion Sundays.

¹According to the Mayo Clinic, the top eight allergens are milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts (such as almonds, cashews, walnuts), fish (such as bass, cod, flounder), shellfish (such as crab, lobster, shrimp), soy and wheat.

²Although coconut allergies are relatively rare, if you have a tree nut allergy, be aware that this recipe does contain canned coconut milk. There is $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of coconut milk in the recipe that makes four small loaves. If you are allergic to coconut milk please contact David Dahle, Worship Committee Chair (780 672 8488) or one of our pastors (780 672 3444)

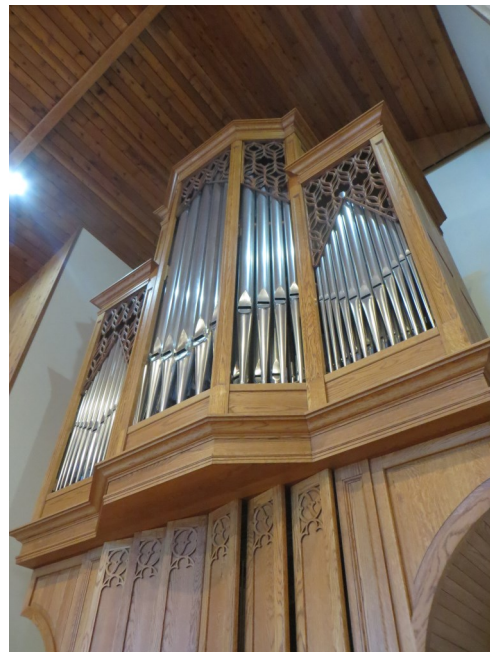
Mark Your Calendar!!!

Music Through the Centuries

*Featuring the Pipe Organ
of Messiah & Tova Olson*

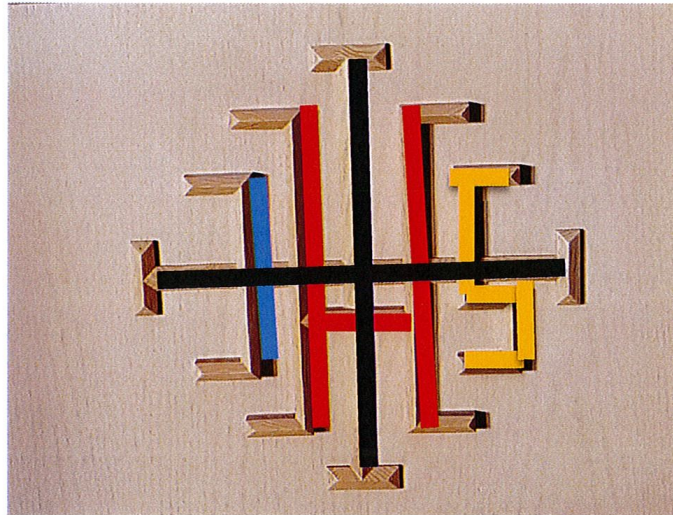
*...with guest artists
Keysha Swanson, Colden Palo,
Juanita Hohm, Charlene Brown,
Michelle Kennedy Hawkins,
Carolyn Olson, Lucas Brown & ...*

**Saturday, March 9, 2019
7:00 pm**



Meaning of the Symbol on Our Altar

Have you ever wondered what the symbol on our altar means?
Well here is your Greek lesson for today!



The blue, red and yellow highlighted letters are the first three Greek letters in *ΙΗΣΟΥΣ*, Jesus. We recognize the bold black lines as the cross but it is also the Greek letter *Chi* (Χ), which is the first letter in *ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ*, Christ.

I *Iota* (I); **H** *Eta* (like the e in they); **S** *Sigma* (s)

David Dahle



NOEL! Christmas with Augustana

Saturday, Dec. 1 [8 pm] AND Sunday,
December 2 [3 pm], Augustana Chapel

Join us for a Camrose choral tradition as the Augustana Choirs present a concert in celebration of Christmas and Winter. The Augustana Choir, Mannskor: Augustana's Men's Choir, and Sangkor Women's Ensemble, are led by conductor John Wiebe with pianists Carolyn Olson and Roger Admiral. As always, there will be a chance for you to sing along with the choirs. Tickets: \$20 (adults); \$15 (students, seniors, children). Available at the door or from choir members.

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec 9, 2018

4:00 p.m. &

7:00 p.m.

Camrose United Church

freewill offering
call 780-672-3372 for more info

Camrose
Camerata
Camrose & Area
CHILDREN'S CHOIRS
Embellish

Audience
Carolling

Longest Night Service

Friday, December 21

7:30 pm

Location to be announced.



Silent Santa 2018 Kinette Club of Camrose

November 6, 2018

Once again, Christmas approaches and we are in full swing with our Silent Santa campaign! For well over 60 years, the Kinette Club of Camrose, in conjunction with the Christmas Cheer Fund, has provided gifts for children who are less fortunate.

Each Christmas we ask our community to donate new, unwrapped gifts at various locations around town. In addition to the generous support we get in the form of gifts, we also require monetary donations to purchase toys in age groups where there is a shortage, such as for teenagers.

Packing for this year's toy hampers must take place early to ensure delivery for Christmas! Please help us by ensure your gifts are in by Dec 14th!

Monetary donations may be left with Shuman Insurance Ltd, 4882 - 50 St, Camrose, AB T4V 1P7.

Feel free to contact any of the following Kinette Members: Jennifer Shields 780-781-3304, Amanda Dyer 780-679-2439; Cassandra Batchelor 780-672-5522, Karen Cunningham 780-679-6860; Tricia Herridge 780-672-7105; Holly McLennan 780-781-6831; Cathy Pacholek 780-672-0976; Kathy Schwab 780-672-8073; or Chris Shuman 780-672-5522.

Thank you in advance for helping us to bring Christmas to children in our community!

Sincerely,

The Kinette Club of Camrose

Carol Kuchold



AID FOR BOTSWANA

HELP THE POOREST OF THE POOR

NEEDED:

- GENTLY USED CLOTHING & SHOES
(ALL AGES)
- SCHOOL SUPPLIES
- EYE GLASSES

BRING DONATIONS TO:

HARBERG WOOD GARNETT RADCHENKO LLP
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

4602 - 49 AVENUE CAMROSE, ALBERTA T4V 0M6

WEEKDAYS 8:00AM TO 4:30PM

DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 28, 2019

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT UNA
780-394-0621



Wisemen's Way Bookstore has been operating at the present location in Downtown Camrose for 21 years as well as other locations prior.

This successful Christian Bookstore sells bibles, books, cards, music, movies, gifts, jewelry, Lug bags as well as Church supplies, curriculum, and more. We order quarterly curriculum for Sunday Schools of all ages and many suppliers, as well as VBS (Vacation Bible School materials). We feel the store is a vital link to our community in Christ and as such would like to see the business sell. Over the past 10 years we have maintained and created many key relationships with numerous churches and groups relying on us for their church supplies and bible studies etc.

The building is also for sale, and we feel that paying a mortgage is a great investment as opposed to paying rent. However, if someone is interested in only purchasing the inventory and business, we are certain the building could be sold separate and possibly rented back.

March 1, 2019, twin grandbabies are due to enter our lives. If the store does not sell by this date the doors will be closed.

If you are interested in purchasing this turn key business and hear a 'call' to do so,
please call Pam at the store. 780-672-3455.

To God Be The Glory!



Sharing Jesus Christ With All People...



LIVE broadcast of worship service on Eastlink TV channels 10 & 310 & 610.

Rebroadcast of worship service on Tuesday at midnight & Wednesday at 2:00 pm.

The previous Sunday's worship service is rebroadcast on Sundays at 7:00 pm.

LIVE streaming of worship service on YouTube; search "MessiahCamrose"

Archived services are available on the
website www.messiahcamrose.ca or YouTube.

Prayers of the People



Gracious and Loving God, thank you for the best gift of all, Jesus!

Lord, we are blessed by our Pastors, Calvin Skriver and Bev Swanson. Thank you for their ministry among us. We ask your continuous care for them and their families, especially during this busy season. Thank you too for our Bishops – Larry Kochendorfer and Susan Johnson. Renew them daily and equip them to be the leaders you desire.

We lift up the staff to You: Sheila Becker, Doreen Brewer, Lowell Dahlman, Ruth Jensen, Lori Mokry, Carolyn Olson, Lloyd Olson, Tova Olson and Marlys Sorenson, who use their gifts to help the Messiah function from day to day. Father, we have many talented and generous people, staff and volunteers, in this community of faith. We ask your continued blessing and guidance on each one of them as they go about their work in the world around them and in our congregation. Grant them joy in their service.

We ask your blessing on our Sunday School students, Confirmation students, senior youth and students in post-secondary education. Keep them safe and remind them of Your love daily. Inspire teachers and all who are part of the work and witness of the Church in the world.

Please grant wisdom and discernment to our Church Council and Committees. May they feel fulfilled in their work. We also pray for our City Council, Provincial and National Governments may they govern with strength and integrity.

Help us to reach out in meaningful ways to all 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 Messiah 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 ask your care for shut-ins and all who worship via Cable 10, 310, 610 TV and YouTube internet streaming. Thank you for our enlarged ministry through this network, may the viewers be blessed by Word and music. We ask for strength for the lonely and the emotionally and physically ill, you know all our needs even those that are unseen.

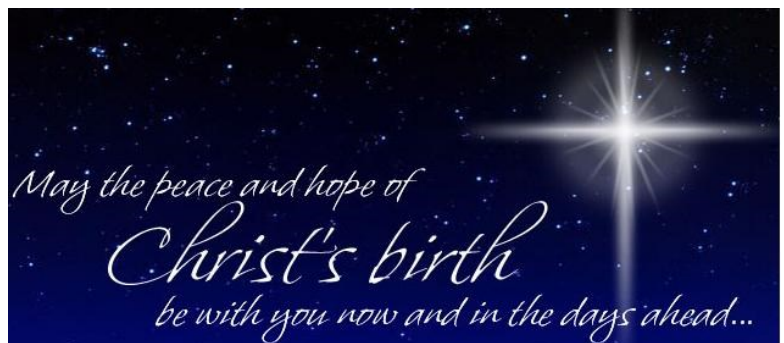
We pray for the family and friends of James Hunter and Erna Storvick as they adjust to life without their loved ones presence. Please be with all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one or other losses we are not aware of, you know Lord and you care.

We rejoice with you in the baptism of Drew Nester, may her light shine brightly for others to see.

Father, we ask you to sustain us in this world that seems to continue to challenge our faith and pull us into despair as we look around us. We ask a special blessing on those experiencing natural disasters around the world. Comfort those subjected to human caused tragedies and persecution.

Lord, we thank you for Brian Rude and his ministry in El Salvador. We ask your presence with the George and Susan Watts family in Burundi, Connie Landstrom, Ryan and Siobhain Cole with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Papua New Guinea, Charles and Anita Jackson of WMPL. 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.

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

Donny Loewen

Dave Larson

Carolyn Andersen

Chris Hohm

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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Phone: 780-672-3444; Fax: 780-672-3716

www.messiahcamrose.ca

office@messiahcamrose.ca

Pastoral Ministry Team

Calvin Skriver

Bev Swanson

Administrative Assistants: Doreen Brewer, Lori Mokry

Administrative Assistant part time: Ruth Jensen

Audio Visual Ministry Coordinator: Lowell Dahlman

Bookkeeper: Sheila Becker

Record's Clerk: Marlys Sorenson

Custodians: Carolyn & Lloyd Olson

Worship, Music & Senior Youth Ministry: Tova Olson

Youth & Confirmation Ministry: Bev Swanson

Messiah Messenger

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To request email delivery or to submit articles by email,

Write to: office@messiahcamrose.ca

Messenger Editor: Lori Mokry




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: January 2019

Material due: December 11

Delivery date: December 21

December 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 8:45 Men's Bible Study |
| 2 Advent 1 9:00 Kuimba Choir 9:15 Adult Education 9:30 Friendship Class Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship | 3 10:30 Lectio 2:00 World Mission 4:00 Witnessing Committee 7:00 Camerata 7:00 MLW Christmas Program | 4 10:00 Staff Meeting | 5 4:45 Learning Committee 7:00 ATP Musical Rehearsal 7:00 Worship Committee | 6 10:30 Handbells 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Messiah's Choristers 7:00 Support Committee | 7 7:00 Senior Youth | 8 8:45 Men's Bible Study 2:00 Sylvia Espe's 90th Birthday Celebration  |
| 9 Advent 2  9:30 Friendship Club Christmas Pageant 10:30 "Hope" Christmas Festival 12:00 Christmas Potluck | 10 10:30 Lectio 7:00 Camerata | 11 Messenger Articles Due 10:00 Staff Meeting | 12 7:00 ATP Musical Rehearsal | 13 10:30 Handbell Cleaning 6:45 Confirmation NO Messiah's Choristers | 14 1:30 Kuimba Choir | 15 8:45 Men's Bible Study |
| 16 Advent 3 9:15 Adult Education NO Friendship Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 2:00 Tova Olson's Piano Students Recital | 17 NO Lectio 11:00 Special Communion Service 6:00 Service Committee 7:00 Camerata | 18 10:00 Staff Meeting | 19 7:00 ATP Musical Rehearsal | 20 | 21 Messenger Delivery 5:00 Staff Christmas Party 7:00 Longest Night Service | 22 NO Men's Bible Study |
| 23 Advent 4 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship | 24 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> 4:30 Candles, Lessons & Carols 9:00 Christmas Eve Communion | 25 10:30 Christmas Day Communion Service  | 26 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> | 27 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> | 28 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> | 29 |
| 30 Christmas 1 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship | 31 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> | | | | | |