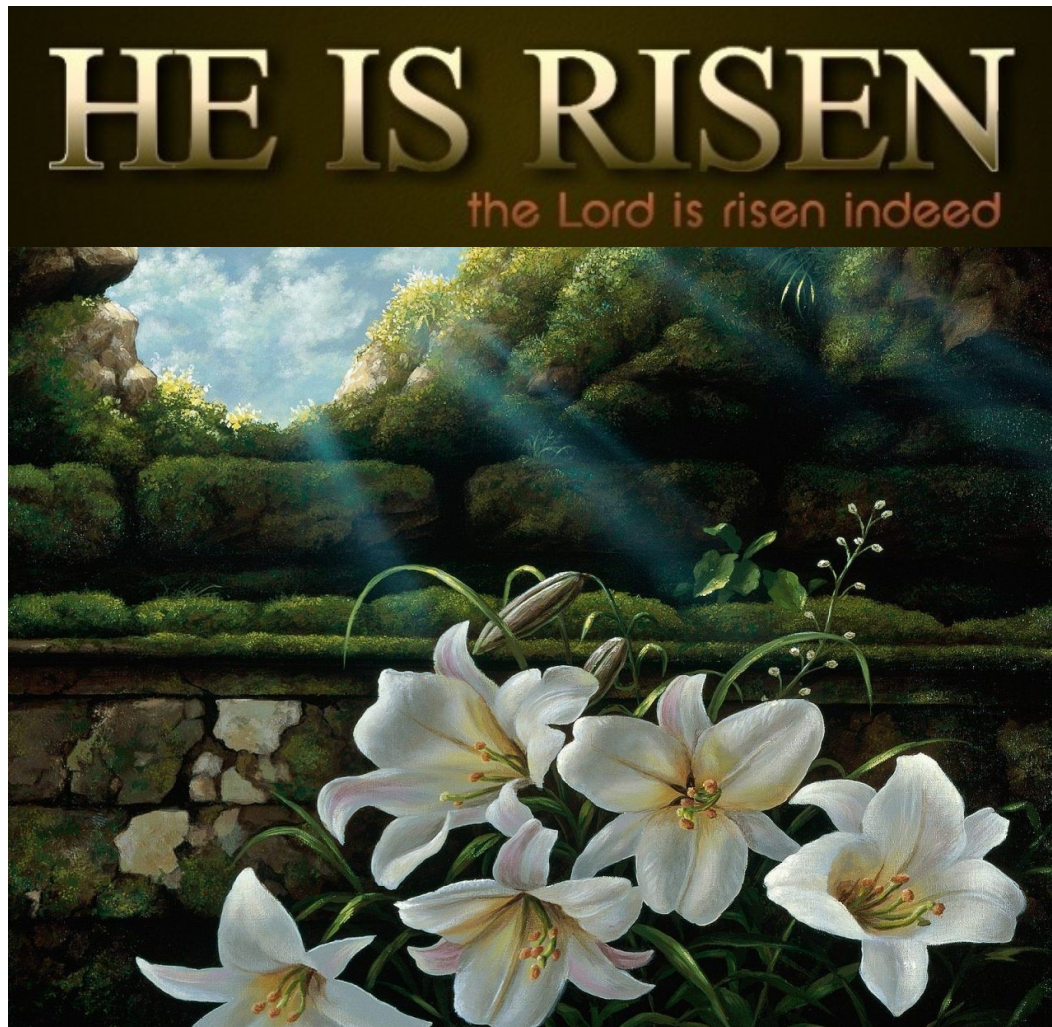




MESSIAH MESSENGER

April 2020

Volume 41 Issue 4



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Regular worship has been suspended for the time being due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
We are following the protocols and procedures recommended by Alberta Health Services.

We will be broadcasting live on YouTube search for MessiahCamrose or find a link on our website messiahcamrose.ca.

We will also continue to broadcast live on EastLink TV channels 10, 310 and 610 at 10:30 am Sunday morning and also rebroadcast on Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

Please call if you have any questions or concerns
780 672 3444 or email office@messiahcamrose.ca.

EASTER IS COMING...
and all services will be
broadcast live
on Eastlink and YouTube!

MAUNDY THURSDAY April 9
7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY April 10
7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY April 11
Resurrection of Our Lord
10:30 am

Minister's Message



So much has changed in such a short amount of time!

You are well aware of all the issues around Covid-19. I need not dwell on those things.

What I want to talk about this month is how we are responding to this overwhelming issue in the world – and how you might be a part of our response as children of God.

One of the first things that we are doing is that we are **continuing to broadcast** our Sunday morning services on YouTube and on EastLink cable TV. You are welcome and invited to tune in on Sunday mornings at 10:30am and there you may be part of our “regular” worship. Though this will be new ground for many of you, for some this is the way it has been for some time. If you are wondering how to get connected through the internet, call the office during the week and we will do our best to give you clear, simple instructions to get you connected. We commit to continuing this outreach.

We have temporarily **discontinued meeting together in physical proximity**. We have done this because at this time it is the best way for us to live as the people of God in these times. We are following the best advice from our provincial health people. This refraining from meeting physically has expanded to our committee meetings and other meetings as well. The church building is still open during office hours, but we encourage you to connect by phone or text or email if you can rather than coming in physically.

We also commit to **continuing publishing the Messiah Messenger**. (You’ve got it right now!) Some people receive the Messenger by email. This is the fastest, least costly, and most ecologically sound means to get it to people. If you have an email address and would be willing to receive the Messenger in this way, please call the office and we will get it set up for you. The Messenger is also posted on our website. We will continue to print paper copies for those who do not have access to the internet. We are working on ways to get the Messenger delivered to you in a safe manner for you and for those making deliveries. Please let us know at the office if your situation or address has changed.

We also will **continue to contact people through the mail**. We will soon be sending out an Easter letter. Our congregation president Odell will also be sending out a letter from council. There may be other letters as we continue along in this physical distancing time. We will limit these interactions because they are more costly. All of our letters could also be sent via email and I think some do receive these letters in that way. Again, if you would like us to use your email, let us know and we will work on making that happen.

Another means by which we **commit to communicate with you is by phone**. Hopefully we have your most recent updates to phone changes. In this day of cell phone usage, some have discontinued their land-lines and are using only cell phones. If you have done this recently, please let the office know of the changes that have happened. Bev and I will try to get to as many people as we can by phone to touch base with you and pray with you.

We have also **expanded our video ministry**. At this point, every Tuesday and Thursday Bev and I will be posting a “Connecting in the Word” devotional on our website. You are welcomed and invited to check it out. We may have other initiatives as we move along. We may want to offer some means of bible study or prayer. Maybe we could have meetings via technology like zoom. If you have suggestions, please pass them along.

Thank you to all who are connecting with each other by phone and other means. It is so vitally important that we find physically safe ways to connect with each other. If you find something innovative, please share it with us through the office or by calling us directly. I want to encourage people to connect with us as pastors. Some may be in or moving towards a dire financial position. Some may be in a health crisis. We want to be available to you for care and words of hope. If your needs are such that others need to be involved, we will make needs known in a confidential way and find ways to help.

I trust that we all will want to **help as we are able**. If you have something you are willing and able to share please let us know. We will do our best to pass along to you any needs we know of in a conscientious way. One way to continue to help is to **remember the church in your prayers and in your offerings**. If your financial situation remains stable, please remember to help out the church. If you are in crisis, maybe we can help. (We are working on ways to facilitate receiving your offerings through automated debit, pre-authorized debits, and e-transfers. You can still bring your offering to the office during regular office hours or mail them in.)

We are still trying to figure this new, temporary reality out. Bear with us. We will do our best to be with and bear burdens along with you.

We still have God who comforts, strengthens and bears with us. Be and stay safe for yourself and others.

In closing, I share with you what Paul said as he addressed the church in Rome:

*“May 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.”*

Call me at 780-672-3444
Email me at: calvinskriver@gmail.com
Text or call me at 780-679-5976

Minister's Message



CONNECTING IN THE SPIRIT

We are experiencing a time that is beyond our imagination or even is within our norm in any way.

We have a virus spreading throughout our land and it creates

fear and a sense of disconnection as we try to manage the spread of it. And so we are called into social distancing which is for our faith families something very foreign. We are already feeling this distance and missing our face to face connections.

As we ponder our unity in the Spirit of God, there is no disconnection even when we are not physically present. We are connected in God's love to one another at all times. Many of us have experienced this with people who live far away from us. There is a connection that is not about where we live or when we can and cannot physically see one another. God's love connects us always.

We have all had relationships that have been sustained over long distances and have experienced deep connections without regular face to face contact. And so are now forced to do this even when we live closer together.

In Ephesians 4:4 we are reminded that we are all a part of one body and one Spirit. We are therefore always connected in God's love. In Colossians 2:5 we hear the apostle Paul reminding the church that although he is absent in the body, he is present with them in spirit. And again in Colossians 1:17 Paul reminds the people that "in him all things hold together."

We remain connected through God's Spirit as people of God. This includes not only our church but the church as a whole.

We also remain connected in prayer for one another, through phone calls and in holding one another in our hearts and minds.

There is no doubt these are difficult times as we distance from one another physically but let us not forget that we remain connect in God's love.

And so in this vane, as you find someone being brought to your heart and mind, give them a quick call to connect and let them know you are thinking of them. Pray for people both collectively and individually and let one another know that you are doing that. Connect with this world by praying for this pandemic and especially for those who are gravely ill due to it. God is with us in our prayers and we send healing power in the world through our prayers. Let us join together in prayer for this world.

What a gift it is to a part of the body of our Lord in these times of such physical distancing. Let us remember that we are never very far from God's love or the love and connection of God's people in Spirit.

I personally invite you to call me any time for any reason even if you just need to hear the voice of a person who cares. I welcome your calls and your emails. You are never very far from my heart and mind.

And if you have need of something brought to you such as groceries or other necessities please give me a call and I will find a way to get these needs met.

As we connect in love and in the Spirit of the Living God....who connects us all!

Peace be with you...

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 –

“Our Emmaus”

One of the house rules in my childhood farm was that we weren't allowed to bicycle or walk to town without permission. However, we five young siblings had a plot to break this rule and to sneak down to the Co-op store with the few pennies we had to buy some candy.

Two of us were elected to sneak off to the store – our youngest sister and myself. That afternoon we cautiously left the yard and walked down the hill to the store and its tempting treats. We made it to the store safely with no grown-ups questioning our presence, and we set off on our triumphant return, five small bags of candy clenched in our fists.

Now – fortunately or unfortunately – unknown to us, our Mother had some shopping to do at the store that day. And – fortunately or unfortunately – we could see and hear the old green Buick rumble its way down the driveway to the main road leading down the hill ... along the very road we were walking on.

Panic stricken, my sister and I ran as fast as we could. And – fortunately or unfortunately – between the store and our home was a concrete culvert and we ran to it, squeezing our bodies into this tight space.

We felt we were running for our lives. Running from our parents and a situation that had become unbearable. Hiding fearfully in a place that we hoped would be safe. It became our Emmaus. It was someplace, anyplace, away from the preceding events.

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.”

They were on their way to Emmaus. Someplace, anyplace, away from recent events. They were leaving Jerusalem. This, after hearing the remarkable news from the women that the tomb was empty, and that Jesus was alive.

And yet they can't leave events behind. Their recent past haunts them. And they pour out the story to the first stranger who comes alongside them.

You know how it is. When we are traumatized, we often find ourselves telling the story over and over to anyone who will listen, even a perfect stranger: “I went into work and found a memo on my desk asking me to see the

manager right away. Right then I knew that there was going to be trouble.” Or: “It happened so quietly. The rest of the family had slipped out for dinner in the hospital cafeteria – and I was just holding her hand and humming softly when she just stopped breathing and slipped away.”

On the road to Emmaus, seeking to escape the horror, the two of them can't help but pour it out. They tell about the mighty prophet Jesus who had been lynched in a horrible weekend of violent treachery. “We had hoped,” they say, “that he was the one to redeem Israel.”

“We had hoped.” I suppose this was the reason they had left for Emmaus – because they could no longer find any hope in Jerusalem. And they tell the stranger the story of tragedy.

And then the mysterious stranger begins to tell the story in his own words. But his story begins long before these past few days, reminding the two of the larger story within which these events take place. The stranger speaks of Moses and the prophets, interprets the scriptures, retells the story in a way that strangely warms their hearts and then, when invited to join them for the night, he is recognized in the breaking of the bread as the risen Lord. They then race back to Jerusalem.

We all know Emmaus – it is someplace, anyplace, safely away from recent events. Emmaus can be many things. But the amazing thing – the good news – is that Jesus comes alongside, and often in ways we least expect. Yes, in Word and bread and wine, but also in friendship, through a healthy touch, a listening ear, a gift of hospitality.

Emmaus invites us to see that it isn't our unshakeable faith or evidence of deep spirituality that connect us with the risen Lord, but our openness to his presence.

May you journey with bright eyes to see and fresh ears to hear – knowing that the risen Lord is with you. Yes, even with you, and even at your Emmaus.

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

Milton Mosand
Bawlf Lutheran Church

David Taylor



Memorials

Special gifts since last
reported in memory of:

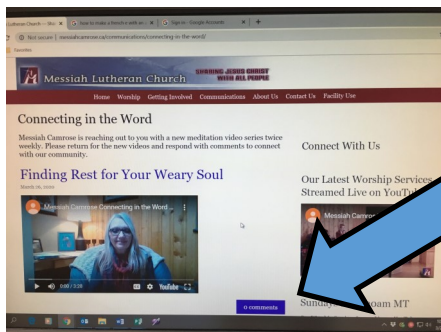
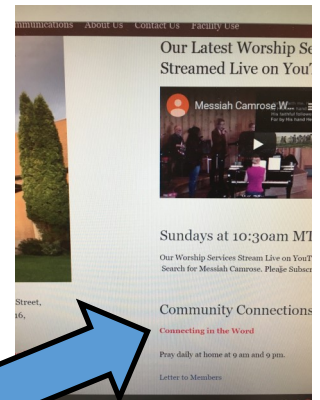
David Taylor




CONNECTING IN THE WORD

Our Pastors are utilizing technology and bringing us a twice weekly time to connect around the Word. Go to messiahcamrose.ca and click on

Connecting in the Word on the bottom right of the home page. A new video clip will be put up each Tuesday and Thursday evening.



This screen will come up, clip on the arrow  to start the video. Then after you have watched it share your thoughts with us by clicking on the blue Comments bar. Enter your name, email and message—click on Submit. Your message will be visible after it has been added by

an administrator.

Congregational Prayer Time

Please join us in a time of prayer each day at 9 am or 9 pm (or both) to pray for each other, our world and our church. Just take a moment if you are able and know that others are joining to form this unique prayer circle from Messiah.



Council Highlights for March 2020

In response to Covid-19 we have taken a number of measures to keep people safe and still remain connected as a worshipping and serving community. Messiah will offer worship services on Sundays via our television ministry only. (Channel 10, 310,610 and YouTube) Only the pastor(s), a limited number of musicians, and the technical crew will be present. All other programming will be suspended. The office will remain open with appropriate signs about not entering if one is feeling ill or has returned from out of country within the previous 14 days. We will continue to pay our contractors their average wage. Tova will be permitted to maintain her music studio with appropriate sanitizing measures. We will re-evaluate these actions based on information coming in from Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health. We have introduced both e-transfer capacity and debit (machine at the Welcome Centre) as additional, convenient ways of making donations.

The doors to the church will remain open. The pastors will be there if you need to phone. Our pastors and others are implementing plans and encouraging everyone to keep in touch with each other during this time of social distancing. Phone calls, Facetime, notes, can all help to ease the feelings of isolation. Taking care of grocery shopping or pharmacy drops are other ways to help each other get through this trying time well.

Planned discussions amongst area churches began March 10. There were no clear conclusions but President Odell will be checking in with the various churches and making sure they are aware that we will continue to broadcast our services every Sunday.

People are needed to serve on our various committees. This virus will come to an end and there will be new things to do! Contact Charlene Brown if you are interested in serving on a committee.

*Let us remember these people in their
time of sorrow amidst the
uncertainty of the pandemic:*

*Alice Haldorson and Marilyn Hoveland
in the loss of their brother Walter Haldorson.*

Elaine Taylor and family in the loss of Dave Taylor.

Alan and Ilene Welde in the loss of their son Olav.

All others that are feeling the painful loss of a loved one.

And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and minds
through Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:7

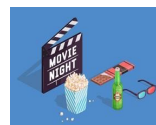
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO WATCH OR READ?

**We have a library in the church
located by the Welcome
Centre at the rear of the
sanctuary.**



**Come and stock up
for the days ahead.**

**Also, Pastor Bev
recommends an inspiring
movie called "Miracle
from Heaven".**



News from the World Mission Scene

In Mission with El Salvador



We join with believers around the world to pray for our planet as it battles the current pandemic. And in particular we pray for the church in El Salvador and our missionary there, Rev. Brian Rude.

O Lord, have mercy!

Thank you for your financial support for the ministry of Rev. Rude. Donations for this financial year total \$4,180 to the end of February.

Offerings in yellow envelopes in support of this ministry may be dropped off at the church office during this period when services are not being held.

Rev. Rude's latest letter concludes with the prayer, *"In God's loving, caring, healing hands we rest, happy in the assurance of God's presence with us."* May it be so!!

Sincerely,

Ray Blacklock, Chairperson
World Mission Group



Easter in the Mountains

It's Easter Sunday and around me the Rockies loom so grand.

I see the handiwork of the Creator and His majestic hand.

*But needs must go to the Word to know of His love
so deep and glorious*

*That He gave His Son to die on the cross,
on the third day to arise victorious.*

*My sins are all covered by the blood He shed that day
on the old rugged tree.*

*Now I'm filled with His Spirit and with help from Him,
God's follower I'll always be.*

May He strengthen me to reflect Him. I'll be His hands and His feet.

Christ said "In as much as you do it to to others."

Help me show love to all those I meet.

By Donna Snethun

Dear Messiah Church,

Thank you for your very generous donations to the Alpha program. We feel so blessed to be supported by you.

As I am sure you are aware, schools are shut down for the time being as a precaution against COVID-19. This means that for now, we are no longer running the Alpha program, although we hope to resume when school starts again, whether later this semester or next year. If we are not able to continue in the future, all leftover donations we have received will be donated to Alpha Canada.

We will send an update if and when we are able to continue the program. For now, please pray that the students would feel God's peace in this tumultuous time.

Thank you again for your support.

The Alpha Team

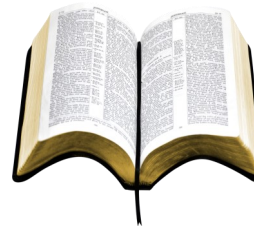
Ecole Camrose Composite High School

"2020 Cover to Cover"

Challenge

This challenge is to encourage as many members of Messiah Lutheran Church as possible, to read the Bible from cover to cover in the year 2020. That could mean picking up your favourite one or finding a different translation than you would normally read.

There are 66 books, from Genesis to Revelation and that sounds ominous but you have 52 weeks to complete this challenge. Did you know the whole Bible can be read aloud in 70 to 80 hours? My hope is that we will all, young and old, take 30 minutes a day to meditate and read the Scriptures from cover to cover in 2020! God bless you in this journey!



**Now is a great time
to start this
challenge if you
haven't already!!**

The Easter feeling does not end.
It signals a new beginning,
Of nature, spring and brand new life,
And friendship, peace and giving.

The spirit of Easter is all about
Hope, love and joyful living.

Happy Easter

Brothers*ft

NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

It appears that we will be spending more time in our homes this spring because of the coronavirus, so it's a good time to concentrate on finishing up our **We Care** kits, perhaps sewing some quilt tops or pillowcase dresses, or making some **We Care Bears**. A new project has come to our attention, and that is making **diapers** for **Baby Bundles** out of used adult t-shirts. Printed directions for these projects are available by the CLWR bulletin board in the Fellowship Centre.



Future activities are impossible to predict. As it stands now, they are as follows:

Final spring quilting day – April 15

Blessing of the Quilts – April 19

Spring packing day – April 22

Watch for changes to these announcements.

CLWR is also always in need of money donations in order to carry on their various projects around the world.



Garage Sale May 21 and 22 9:00 to 5:00

We're still planning to have the garage sale on the above dates.

The proceeds will go to Messiah's Roof fund. We are still short of our goal for this fund.

If you are moving or will not be here, we can arrange storage of your goods at the church.

Contact person: Mary Broen
Thank you



Messiah Lutheran Women

Greetings to you - stay safe.

Because of the Covid-19 virus we will be postponing the MLW General meeting on March 28th until May or June.

The Easter breakfast is also cancelled. Circle meetings for April cancelled as some areas are in lock-down unless you feel you are able to do so.

Our request for baby bundles items are sufficient now for possibly 10 kits. Just need diapers and receiving blankets. Thank you everyone for the donations.

Mary Broen, President



Hospice Society
OF CAMROSE AND DISTRICT

Walking with Sorrow: Exploring Our Grief **An 8-Week Daytime Grief Support Group**



"I thought I was going crazy."
"I have never been so lonely."
"I am so terribly tired."
"I feel angry."

Sorrow is a universal human experience, one that arises from a vast array of losses. Sometimes the symptoms of our grief are overwhelming, washing over us in waves of emotion. Making sense of our loss in a way that is transformative is at the heart of our sorrowing journey.

Topics Covered Include:

- ☀ Telling Our Story
- ☀ Grief's Journey
- ☀ Signs and Symptoms
- ☀ Soulfulness of Grief
- ☀ Looking Back
- ☀ Feelings
- ☀ Self-compassion
- ☀ The Business of Reality
- ☀ The Legacy



To Register, or for More Information:

Call 780.608.0636 or email camrosehospice@gmail.com

Location: Lower-level, Mirror Lake Center (5415-49 Ave)

Dates: To Be Determined

This Service is Offered at No Cost to Participants



Hospice Society
OF CAMROSE AND DISTRICT

Walking with Sorrow: Death of a Child

An 8-Week Parent-Grief Support Group



"I thought I was going crazy."
"My bones ache, I miss her so much."
"I am so terribly tired."
"I feel angry."

This support group is for anyone who has experienced the death of their child – toddler, teen, or adult child. While grief is grief, the death of our offspring breaks a universal law – parents pre-decease their children.

Topics Covered Include:

- ☀ Naming the loss
- ☀ Grief's Journey
- ☀ The Need to Mourn
- ☀ Healing After the Loss of a Child
- ☀ Transforming Loss
- ☀ Reconciling Loss
- ☀ Symptoms of Grief
- ☀ Moving Forward



To Register, or for More Information:

Call 780.608.0636 or email camrosehospice@gmail.com

Location: Lower-level, Mirror Lake Center (5415-49 Ave)

Dates: To Be Determined

This Service is Offered at No Cost to Participants



Messiah Church Council

Odell Olson, President
 Charlene Brown, Vice-President
 Gail Stolee, Secretary
 Ivar Saugen, Treasurer

Members at Large:	Liaising With:
Darlene Dahle	Worship Committee
Donny Loewen	Learning Committee
Dave Larson	Support Committee
Carolyn Andersen	Witnessing Committee
Chris Hohm	Service Committee

Messiah Lutheran Church

Sharing Jesus Christ with all People

4810-50 St. Camrose AB T4V 1P5
 Phone: 780-672-3444; Fax: 780-672-3716
www.messiahcamrose.ca
office@messiahcamrose.ca

Pastoral Ministry Team:

Calvin Skriver
 Bev Swanson

Administrative Assistant: Lori Mokry
 Administrative Assistant Part Time: Doreen Brewer
 Audio Visual Ministry Coordinator: Lowell Dahlman
 Bookkeeper: Sheila Becker
 Record's Clerk: Marlys Sorenson
 Custodians: Carolyn & Lloyd Olson
 Music Ministry Coordinator: Tova Olson
 Youth & Confirmation Ministry: Bev Swanson

Messiah Messenger

Published 11 times a year – September to July
 Also available online at: www.messiahcamrose.ca
 To request email delivery or to submit articles by email,
 Write to: office@messiahcamrose.ca
 Messenger Editor: Dena Grue

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 2020
 Material due: April 14
 Delivery date: April 24



**Sunday morning service is currently
 closed to the public, but we will
 continue to broadcast on Eastlink
 channels 10, 310 & 610. Rebroadcast
 Wednesdays at 5:30 pm.**

**Our services are LIVE streamed
 on YouTube. Search for
 MessiahCamrose. There is also a
 link for the live stream on our
 website messiahcamrose.ca.**



**Previous Sunday's services may also be found on
 YouTube or on our website at messiahcamrose.ca,
 and go to the Worship Service tab.**