



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

June 2020

Volume 41 Issue 6



## **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](http://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](mailto:office@messiahcamrose.ca).

## **OFFICE HOURS**

The front entrance  
will remain open  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
and Friday  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm

On Wednesday's please call to  
confirm the availability of  
someone in the office.

## Minister's Message



*In the beginning  
when God created  
the heavens and the earth,  
the earth was a formless void  
and darkness covered  
the face of the deep  
Genesis 1:1-2a*

There are moments in the last couple of months where I have felt that we are in a big, formless void. So much has been taken away. So much is unclear (dark) about what is going to happen – and when it will happen. I can feel like I am treading water with no apparent possibility of respite. Some of you may be feeling similarly.

This time can feel like the end of... everything.

So it is interesting that these first words from my most favorite book in the Bible resonate right now. These words come at the “beginning”. And yet, these words *also* speak to us who may be feeling we are at the end. I’ve always been drawn to the first 3 words: “In the beginning”. Today, I’m drawn to: *formless, void, darkness, and the deep*.

Maybe – even though this time is feeling void and formless and dark and way over our heads – maybe this time is a beginning for us.

This text signals the creation story where God creates the world by speaking it into existence over six days, with one more day to rest. Each day begins in darkness and ends in light. Are we on the way to light?

The whole *beginning* isn’t immediate. I know that six days sounds quick but just ask someone who is lonely, or waiting for something, or in turmoil – they will tell you that each moment is an eternity! Beginning is not immediate. It will take time; time that we don’t think we have; time that we don’t want to take; but, time it will take. There may be some periods of sudden realization that we have moved along – that something new has begun – but the fullness will take more time.

Our province has begun to take the first steps in a new beginning. I think we are all hoping that things will get back to the way they once were (only better...) But, what if God has something new in mind? What will that new day look like?

Remember, each day starts in darkness. We don’t know what the new day will look like as it begins. What we do know is that God will see that what is created will be “good”. Can we expect something good in our new beginning?

What might a new day, that is good, look like? Look expectantly for what God is calling into new being. Look expectantly for what will be good. Look expectantly for how you will be called to be a part of that good, new day.

It will take time. Let time be fulfilled. Don’t rush it. Don’t become complacent either – thinking that you don’t have a part in God’s grand new design. Prayerfully anticipate. Prayerfully step into the light of each new day. Could it be that God is beginning something “very good”?

*And there was evening  
and there was morning,  
the new day.*

Call me at 780-672-3444.

**Text or call me at 780-679-5976**

Email me at: [calvinskriver@gmail.com](mailto:calvinskriver@gmail.com)

**PS. Please remember to volunteer to pray for a Sunday School Student. Call the Office.**



## Minister's Message



### THE SPIRIT OPENS US.

Spring is here and it seems to be late! But I have my flowers in the ground and they are blooming.

Many of us are now out on the trails walking and enjoying the sun. For me my favorite thing right now is to sit on my front step

where the sun is the warmest and drink my morning coffee made in my red coffee maker which seems to bring a smile to my face each morning. I have taken to French Vanilla coffee which also smells extra good.

The warmth of the sun and sound of the birds is like an opening in my being. I think many of you feel so much the same way at this time of year.

There is another kind of opening taking place now. It is a gentle opening in Alberta from some of the isolation we have experienced. And now, it seems that we are being invited to allow ourselves to open to the possibility of gathering together even possibly as a church, although there is so much that has to be planned ahead and figured out so that can be a safe opening for all. Meanwhile we continue to worship together online.

We are coming into Pentecost and in this time, we are reminded that the Spirit of the living God is and has been among us; opening us to hear God's voice, opening us to one another and guiding our every moment even in difficult times.

I am so grateful that while the church had to close its physical doors God's Spirit has been connecting us in our hearts and souls. We were promised God's precious Spirit who is always with us. Nothing can stop the Holy Spirit from opening our souls and connecting us with one another whether we are physically together or apart.

The words to the chorus of the song, "Spirit of Gentleness," written by James Keith Manley speak deeply to my soul,

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free."

God's Spirit has most certainly been blowing through the wilderness of this time and calling to us to be open in ways we might not otherwise have been open to. As we move forward, we will listen for guidance and pray for wisdom as we proceed.

God's Spirit be with you in these days; and, take care as restrictions lift so you remain safe and well.

In the love of God who loves us deeply,

Pastor Bev

You may call me at **780 672 3444** (office)

Text or call me at **780 678 7830** (cell)

Email [bev@breatheopenlove.com](mailto:bev@breatheopenlove.com)

### OPENING TO SMALL GROUPS!

Alberta is starting to open up a little bit and we would like explore how we might safely physically gather together. This may take some time to organize safely. (Hopefully not too long.)

We thought we would start by possibly gathering together in small groups to have Bible Study, Prayer groups, Grief groups or just plain old visiting together. We will want to explore ways to make these things happen safely, following guidelines given by the government. If you are interested in being a part of a small group please contact our office and have your name included. We will put together a plan and contact you once we have all the safety measures in place.

Pastor Bev and Pastor Calvin





## Bishop's Message

### For Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders



Dear Beloved of God –

I know I have said it before, but it bears repeating: I have experienced in these past weeks so many signs of hope, and of faithfulness, trust, courage, and encouragement:

- congregational leaders, lay and rostered who, under extraordinary stress, pressure and restraints have poured themselves into the work of leadership;
- congregational leaders, lay and rostered who, tired and weary and wondering, have reached out to one another, and to those in their midst, providing pastoral care, connection, compassion and care;
- congregational leaders, lay and rostered who, in the midst of an unprecedented time, exercised great skill (and energy and time) in preparing and/or searching for worship resources;
- rostered ministers who gather each Wednesday via ZOOM with Synod Staff for prayer, affirmation and encouragement, updates, and connecting;
- Area Deans who gather with rostered ministers via ZOOM for check-in with each other, study and/or prayer;
- and, creativity, ingenuity, openness, support, encouragement, trust, community.

At this time, I am inviting you – encouraging you – to pray for rostered ministers in varied ministry contexts, because I am hearing, seeing and recognizing that many of our rostered ministers are tired, weary, exhausted from:

- the emotional toll of being a leader in a time of uncertainty, crisis, liminality;
- leading sudden adaptive changes with technical challenges;
- disruption and change to regular patterns of spiritual and self-care practices;
- constant remote availability;
- worship preparation, pastoral care ministry, connecting with the congregation and community;
- and all, without any specific training or experience. This means that the skills, experience, training, networking, resourcing, and best practices, for many, have all needed to be created and learned in real time.

Pray for rostered ministers. Encourage them. Affirm their ministry. Give thanks. And know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life.

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)*





**SYNOD OF  
ALBERTA  
AND THE  
TERRITORIES**

Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

10014 - 81 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8

Ph: (780) 439-2636

Fax (780) 433-6623

Email: [info@albertasynod.ca](mailto:info@albertasynod.ca)

[www.albertasynod.ca](http://www.albertasynod.ca)

May 7, 2020

Dear Friends:

***The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.***

Bishops and treasurers of the ELCIC's synods and national church have written to The Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development, to encourage action by the Canadian government to sustain the charitable sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am attaching copies of the ELCIC letter and Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC) letter for your information, as well as a template for correspondence to your Member of Parliament.

***Spirit-Led  
Leadership***

Specifically, the letter endorses the CCCC proposal to sustain the charitable sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, as submitted to the government on April 21, 2020. The CCCC has written to The Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development with a funding proposal, "to sustain and strengthen the charitable sector during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, when demand for services is very high, but significant decreases in donations due to income insecurity threatens to destabilize charities."

***Hope-Filled  
Discipleship***

I invite you to consider sharing copies of these letters with your Member of Parliament (MP), and to share these letters with your congregation asking them to consider contacting their MP. If you have an existing relationship with your local MP, you might also choose to make a phone call raising these concerns. Contact information for your MP can be found here:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/search>.

***Innovative  
Tradition***

If you have questions about this matter, please contact me or our Synod Treasurer, Paul Ellison ([Paul@ellisonpc.ca](mailto:Paul@ellisonpc.ca)).

***Collaborative  
Partnerships***

As bishops and treasurers of the ELCIC's synods and national church, we are deeply aware of the efforts you, your congregation and your faith community are making to care for the people you serve in your neighbourhood. We express our gratitude and offer our prayers for these expressions of ministry.

***"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).***

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,

*+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer*

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

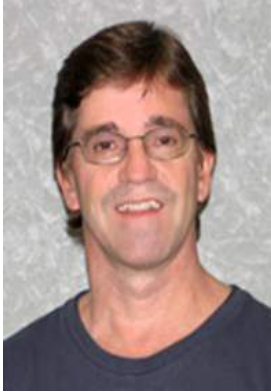
**More information about the proposal is available at the following link:**

[www.cccc.org/news\\_blogs/noteworthy/2020/04/22/covid-19-cccc-calls-for-a-matching-funds-program-to-support-charities/](http://www.cccc.org/news_blogs/noteworthy/2020/04/22/covid-19-cccc-calls-for-a-matching-funds-program-to-support-charities/)

**The letter sent to The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development can be found at the following link:**

<https://www.cccc.org/covid19-response>

## Greetings from Rev. Brian Rude in El Salvador



### Easter New Life

I haven't set up an altar at home.

My home surrounds me with altars--Easter altars.

Anyone who is half a gardener would have a hard time denying the resurrection. New life abounds. New life springs up, quietly, unannounced, waiting to be found, waiting to be celebrated, waiting to renew our faith, waiting to teach us lessons of life, new life--and rainy season hasn't even started yet!

Our neighbour, who wages war against green--against trees, against leaves, against shade--is forever attempting to de-green our yard. A couple months ago, she sicced the street-guard on the trees over my front terrace. I was expecting a basic pruning, especially of any wayward branches encroaching on her shadeless domain. She and all my neighbours have air-conditioning, I'm sure. We don't need it, even at daily temperatures of 32C, thanks to all my forestry shade. Every visitor comments on how cool our home is, compared to anywhere else in the country. I came home to discover, to my dismay, that my entire front terrace had been deprived of all shade, left to bake in the merciless sun. I desperately watered this garden space, daily, but alas, dozens of lovely plants perished, scorched brown. My favourite plant, just outside our front door, suffered not only shade-deprivation, but the blow of a huge branch carelessly felled on it, which left it totally destroyed--crushed, smashed, kaputz--with not a hint of green left. I was too grief-stricken to go about the sad task of removing it.

Oh me of little faith. My plant, however fragile and embattled, was determined not to bow to evil forces, not to succumb to death. It had life left in it, and delicate leaflet by delicate leaflet, re-emerged from the grave, to a wondrous splendour. With the sun playing on the leaves, this altar even provides images of a crown and a bell, apt for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. New life. Easter life.

On the other side of the other front terrace, neighbours had detached a vine, no doubt eager to free the spy window which it had gradually covered. Here, too, I was slow to chop all those dead vines down and haul them to the compost heap. Here, too, life was still in those vines. New leaves have appeared and grown. Rainy season, starting in May, will no doubt transform it, revive it, into a fully-green wall once again, beautifying one of our favourite picnic nooks.

One plant which has not suffered such calamities, but remains faithful, is that of the "monjas blancas,"--white nuns, or white sisters. These flowers endure, always vigilant. I call them Mary, Joanna, and Mary. I could call them Marlys, Gail, and Lisa, my three sisters, always vigilant. These three white sisters will be the first to witness us emerge from our covid-19 tomb, resurrected to new life.

Even "dead" plants--formerly green plants--do not lose their beauty, their charm, in my humble opinion. These change, but are not lost.

So Easter surrounds me. New life. Resurrection life.

Jesus is risen. Jesus is risen indeed. Surrounded by such Easter life, Easter altars, how could I but proclaim my Easter faith?

Celebrating new Easter life, Brian

Rev. Dr. Brian Rude

"In Mission with El Salvador / "En Misión con El Salvador"

Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCICanada



## Developments in the "World Mission" Scene

- 1. El Salvador:** Please do read Rev. Rude's Easter greeting which precedes this message. Thank you again to all those who contribute to "In Mission with El Salvador" through their donations, usually through use of the yellow envelopes at the rear of the sanctuary, or more directly through a cheque dropped off at the Church Office in these corona virus days.

In the Messiah Annual Report being prepared for the Annual Meeting, there will be a final figure as to how much Messiah members have contributed to "In Mission with El Salvador" in the financial year which concluded on April 30. Each and every donation is appreciated!

- 2. Mission Aviation Fellowship:** Several people gathered via ZOOM to participate in a presentation by Ryan and Shiobhain Cole, on April 29. The Coles serve with MAF, he as a pilot, and Shiobhain, Ryan's wife, in a support role. Due to the corona virus, the Coles, who are "home" on a brief leave are stranded in Canada, and therefore not able to go to congregations to share the story of their ministry in Papua New Guinea. Their presentation was thorough and challenging. Their testimony on how God called them to this ministry was up-lifting! They emphasized the importance of prayer on their behalf because of the challenges that there are in what they do in Papua New Guinea's mountainous landscape.

- 3.** Also by ZOOM, the World Mission Group at its regular May meeting was honoured by the participation of **George and Susan Watts** who had just completed their 14 days of isolation after returning from Burundi. As a family they were in different stages of recovering from the experience of being attacked in their home in Burundi. The local residents have been very supportive of them. George and Susan each shared with the Group the joys and challenges of their responsibilities related to the medical centre where they serve. They are the only expatriate lay persons among the expatriate medical staff at the medical facility at Kibuye. The Group has great admiration for the ministries in which George and Susan are involved and assured the Watts family of its continued support through prayer.

- 4.** The World Mission Group has put forward a resolution to the Support Committee which, if approved, would come to the June Annual Meeting. The resolution recommends that a portion, or all, of the interest from the appropriate Endowment Fund be directed to the support of students attending the **schools of the Lutheran Church in Colombia.**

We are happy to be one of the ministries of Messiah which serves and joins in proclaiming Jesus, our Risen Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Blacklock, Chairperson  
World Mission Group

# NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

## PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE IN ETHIOPIA

Millions of people in Ethiopia displaced due to conflict are living in temporary settlements which make them especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Clean water sources are hard to find. So far, the rapid response has included:

- ~ 3,611 large jerry cans for families to store and carry water
- ~ laundry and bathing soap for 5,254 families for handwashing and household sanitation
- ~ personal protective equipment for staff so vital aid efforts can continue

## INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO PREVENTION IN UGANDA

In Uganda, CLWR's partners are one of few organizations with permission from the country's Ministry of Health to continue work

in the area. They provide basic service like shelter and clean water to over 450,000 refugees who have fled conflict in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. COVID-19 presents unique challenges to getting information and services to the people who need it most. To meet these challenges, the team is using radio talk shows and trucks with megaphones to broadcast important information about prevention measures. With our support to CLWR, they are also getting essential hygiene items like handwashing facilities, soap and personal protective equipment.



Water purification tablets and jerry cans give families a way to get and store clean water.



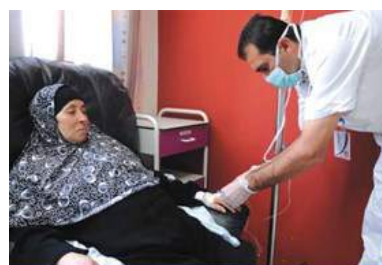
Tippy-taps provide a hands-free way to wash hands without using a lot of water. They are a cornerstone of LWF Uganda's COVID-19 prevention campaign.

## Myanmar



In Myanmar, posters written in multiple local languages give information on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections.

## Jerusalem



Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem has quickly adapted to make sure life-saving treatment for their patients can continue

**CLWR needs our on-going support.**



## Sunday School

For April and May our Sunday School community has not been meeting together, of course, due to the pandemic. We have been benefiting from Pastor Bev's online devotions/children's time with her giraffe puppet, Andy, and the activity and colouring pages on our church's website that have been posted to go along with each Sunday's worship service.

I sent out an email to our Sunday School families with some links to Bible Story videos and children's devotional videos on YouTube. Next, we'll send out the Family Sunday School videos from the publisher who publishes our Sunday School curriculum, Sparkhouse.

The MLW very generously and kindly has given our Sunday School \$500! The Sunday School teachers and organizers have been discussing by email several options of how best to use this money. Thank you, MLW!

We are excited about the options this opens up for us! We have had many children signed up wanting prayer partners. Messiah congregation, please contact the church office if you are willing to be matched up with one of our Sunday School students to pray for him/her. I think that summarizes most Sunday School items for now - it has been pretty busy even without meeting together in person on Sundays!

Michelle Kennedy Hawkins



*Our Sunday School Students  
could use some prayer.*

**Please volunteer to pray for one.**

**Call the Church office:**

**780-672-3444**

## Council Highlights for May 2020

Council expressed appreciation for the way that our ministry teams are adapting to the constraints of covid-19 by connecting online and by phone. The Witnessing committee has also stepped up to coordinate efforts to make sure everyone can stay connected. Pastor Calvin brought up concerns about those who have neither cable nor internet connections. Although this may seem like the widely accepted new normal, for a number of people it is not an option.

The consensus is that we should not re-open for public worship yet. This will continue to be monitored as we see the effects of the loosening of restrictions over the summer.

With this in mind, it was decided to hold the Annual General Meeting on June 14, 2020 by Zoom. Information will be coming from the office about how to connect. Annual reports will be mailed or emailed.

The personal, social and material losses the pandemic has brought into focus have raised the question of how we as a church, and the ministerial committee could work with the City and other agencies to meet the needs that are emerging. It is an old question the pandemic has made more urgent. What is our role?

The Support Committee reports that the roof fund has reached about \$40,000 of the \$94,000 total.



### 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](http://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.

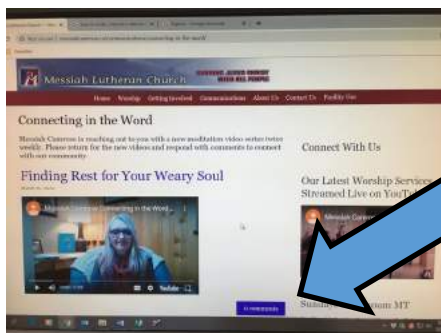
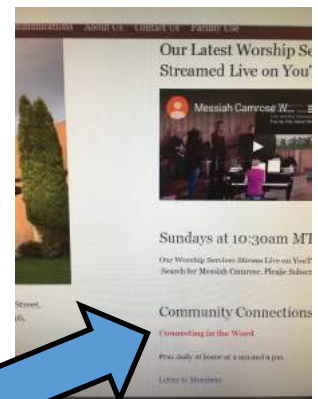
This screen will come up, clip on the arrow to start the

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.



## Support Hastings, one puzzle piece at a time!

Donate a Piece of the Puzzle

**Hastings Lake Bible Camp needs YOU!**

Dear Friends,

In a myriad of ways, the present times are challenging. And yet, they are the perfect times to Be still and know that He is God. (Psalm 46:10)

For 82 years, Hastings Lake Bible Camp has been a refuge from the rigors of daily life. It has also been a wonderful place to worship and learn about God, fellowship with old friends, make new friends, and receive strength and rejuvenation.

Let's keep our Camp going and growing for a long time to come! Prayer is of utmost importance. Financial support is an essential element as well. The Capital Committee is excited to share two fundraising initiatives, in addition to methods of giving already in place. We hope you'll take time to look these over and participate as you are able.

Thank you for your consideration! May the Lord bless you and keep you.

From the Capital Committee:

*Lee Woolery, Andrew Carlson, Anne Lyseng, Ally England, Cathy Csernyanski*

### **Option One: A piece of the puzzle**

Over the last several decades, thousands of people have been impacted and God's Kingdom has been advanced. Has Hastings Lake Bible Camp been a piece of your life?

Imagine this wonderful place as a puzzle, built piece by piece – the physical structures and, even more importantly, the lives. Picture the years going by – millions of hours of friendship-building, work, love, learning, spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun – all becoming enduring pieces of the whole that is HLBC. **With those images in the mind, we have created a collage of camp photos and made it into a puzzle!** This puzzle, "Pieces of Camp" (pictured below), will be used as a lovely way to remember and honour those we love.

**When you donate \$50**, the name of your honouree, and their birth date if you like (up to 26 characters) will be written on the back of a puzzle piece.

When all pieces have been spoken for, this memento will hang in the future Trinity Lodge with both sides visible. In years to come, our descendants will enjoy a sense of belonging ... seeing our names, theirs, and those of friends and relatives. (One of our committee members plans to donate for 6 pieces and celebrate each of her grandchildren. And, in remembrance of her parents, 2 more!)

### **Option Two: Buy a puzzle to do at home**

In keeping with our Pieces Of Camp campaign, you can purchase high quality Hastings themed puzzles to enjoy at home or give as gifts. Not only will it be fun, it's a terrific way to support Hastings Lake Bible Camp! All are images of camp. All puzzles are 16" x 20" regardless of piece count.

*Puzzles will be ordered for buyers in batches on April 30, May 15, May 31 & June 15. Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.*

**Some examples of puzzles:**



Puzzle 1 Canoes



Puzzle 2 Campfire



Hastings Lake Collage (option #1)

There are four Option 2 puzzles which are priced at 500 piece@ \$150(+GST); 300 piece@ \$140(+GST); 200 piece@ \$130(+GST)

All prices include shipping and handling.

\*Note: tax receipts will only be issued for option ONE.

Visit the website at [www.hastingslake.com](http://www.hastingslake.com) for more information and pictures of puzzles.

**New Information from the Hastings Lake Bible Camp Website:**

**All Summer Camps, Events & Facility Rentals have been cancelled for 2020**



## ALPHA, a Tool We Can Use to Tell Others About JESUS

This past winter, the Learning Committee was wondering how it could reach out to people who don't know Jesus. Some church groups have tried to do this, but with varied success. Going out to meet people we don't even know and presenting the "Good News," often seems scary and even overwhelming.

Yet, scripture passages like Matthew 28:18-20 make it clear:

*"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

I think that these words of Jesus tell us we are to get out there, mingle with folks and share the story of Jesus.

In another passage of scripture that we recently heard on Sunday morning says, Acts 1:8:

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Here again we see Jesus telling his disciples to go, get out there and share the Good News.

I know that verses like this make us feel uncomfortable. Yet we probably know we should be out there sharing the Good News, telling and sharing the message of eternal life with Jesus, but this thought frightens us.

I guess it is that it is the Holy Spirit who actually makes disciples, but we need to be out there sowing seeds. A devotional I recently read stated:

*"If the church does not have disciple-making as its center thrust, we are simply rearranging Deckchairs on the Titanic."*

It seems to me that we often equate Mission work with serving in the community, helping the poor, putting up buildings, addressing justice issues, distributing literature, all of which of course are commendable activities springing from the love of Jesus in our hearts, but are people hearing the Good News?

The Church also does well at providing spiritual nourishment for its **faithful** attenders. Our pastors preach and teach. They were busy doing visitations regularly prior to Covid 19. The church has programs with something for almost everyone. We have music and choirs – some of the best! But are individuals outside our building, people who have never considered the claims of Jesus, are they being invited/challenged to respond to the love of Jesus?

There are indeed many ways in which people in our community can see evidence of the Gospel in action, many venues through which they can hear the Gospel, for example in a worship setting, or through Messiah's

TV broadcasts. But how do people who have a yearning in their hearts to really check out The Good News without having to step inside a church building get their questions answered?

How might we present Jesus to those that have not yet heard, and to those who have heard but want to explore Jesus' claims without actually showing up at church?

We have at our disposal a program which may serve these needs! We are prepared to use the Bible-based program **ALPHA** to be a means by which some of the concerns above might be answered. We will conduct the program in a neutral location. The message and theme of the program is **Jesus**. The Alpha Program has been in existence for many years, and been successfully used in many settings. What is success? People coming to faith in Christ, and then taking the step to participate in a church community.

### **Let's do It!!**

If you feel called to participate in this endeavor, you are encouraged to contact me, or our church office, as we begin to plan for a venture which is designed to address the faith questions in people's hearts and minds.

Let's aim for a Fall start-up when, Lord willing, gatherings will be permitted again.

We will need leaders, support, and above all, prayer for this venture. Would you be willing to set aside time to specifically pray, that God would begin to prepare hearts and minds of those seeking to find the truths about Jesus' life-giving message.

It is intended that Alpha will be offered in a neutral location, that is, not specifically connected to any particular church.

As members of the Messiah community, please start to identify people in Camrose who might really benefit from this program, and be ready to encourage them to attend, maybe even bring them.

And of course, people who just want a refresher course in the basics of the Christian faith will be most welcome too!

Thank you for seeing the need for and value of the ALPHA program in Camrose. With Christ as our Lord and Guide in this venture, and with believers ready to help, and pray, we will see new believers in our community and in our churches.

Thank you to Ray Blacklock for editing assistance.

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of the Learning Committee, and in Christ's Name,

Donny Loewen 780-679-2341  
doniven@hotmail.com



## Pastoral Acts

NO BAPTISMS  
OR  
FUNERALS IN MAY

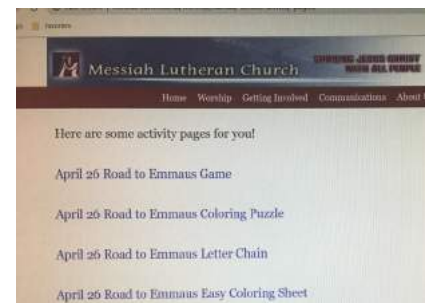


## Memorials

DAVID TAYLOR  
MARIE TVEIT

### 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.



We have added some fun content to our website for the kids young and old! Feel free to drop off your coloring in box in the Church foyer and we will put them up in the windows!! Just go to the website under Worship, Sunday School Activity Pages, click and choose your picture(s).

**HAPPY COLORING!!**

## FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Food bank donations are still needed and can be dropped off at the Neighbor Aid Food Bank

4524 54 Street  
Mon to Fri from  
9 am to 4 pm.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and can be made at [atbcares.com](http://atbcares.com)



## ROOF FUND

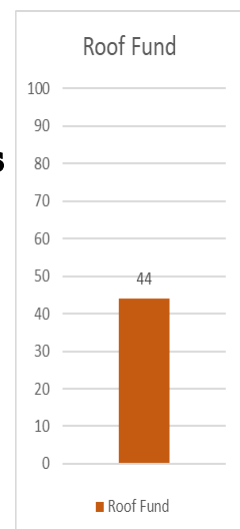
**The updated goal is**

**\$92,341**

**Received as of**

**May 26:**

**\$40,260**





## Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Keysha Swanson - Grade 12

Kassia Hohm - Grade 12

Juanita Hohm - University of Alberta

## Charlene Brown's Voice Studio

### Year End Recital

June 7 at 7 pm

Live streamed on Messiah YouTube  
Channel



## **Connecting in the Word**

Your pastors have stepped out of their comfort zone and are putting up brief recorded inspirational messages to help us with some added connection **in addition** to our regular worship on Eastlink TV and YouTube.

Every Tuesday and Thursday we will put up a message where you can listen and also write in a response if you wish. Look for a notice on the home page of our website [messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca), to connect to a link called, "**Connecting in the Word**".

Join us in this time of making safe connection with one another around God's word. We welcome your responses.

Blessings all!!

Your Pastors



## **Upcoming Event**

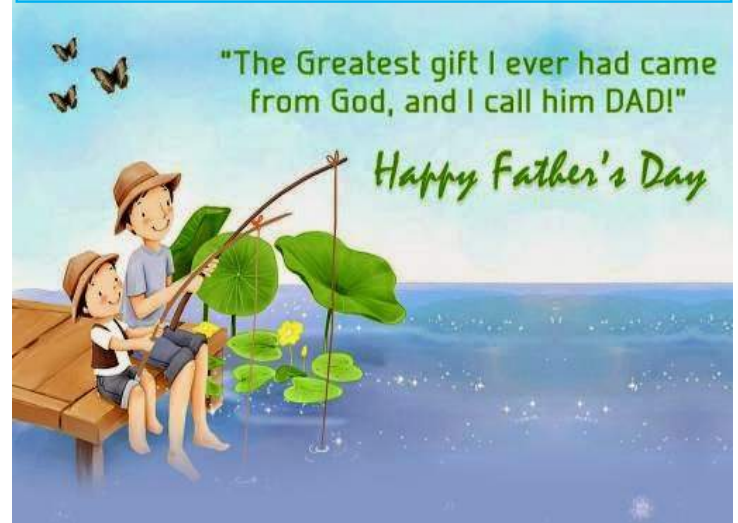
**June 14**

**Tova Olson's Studio Recital**

**Students performing on**

**piano, drums and voice**

**Stay tuned for further details.**



## **"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!

Look for updates on the bulletin board of the Fellowship Center.



We are able to accept  
E-transfers at the following  
email address:

**[offering@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto:offering@messiahcamrose.ca)**

(deposits directly)







## 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](http://www.messiahcamrose.ca)  
[office@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto:office@messiahcamrose.ca)

### Pastoral Ministry Team:

Calvin Skriver  
 Bev Swanson

Administrative Assistant: Lori Mokry  
 Audio Visual Ministry Coordinator: Lowell Dahlman  
 Bookkeeper: Sheila Becker  
 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](http://www.messiahcamrose.ca)  
 To request email delivery or to submit articles by email,  
 Write to: [office@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto: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: July/August 2020  
 Material due: June 16  
 Delivery date: June 26



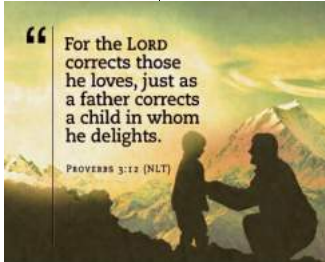

**Sunday morning service is currently  
 closed to the public, but we will  
 continue to broadcast on Eastlink  
 channels 10, 310 & 610. Rebroadcast  
 Wednesdays at 5:30 pm.**

**Our services are LIVE streamed  
 on YouTube. Search for  
 MessiahCamrose. There is also a  
 link for the live stream on our  
 website [messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca).**



**Previous Sunday's services may also be found on  
 YouTube or on our website at [messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca)  
 and under the Worship Service tab you will find  
 "Worship Services Archived."**

# June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  2:30 World Mission Group @ Erhard Pinno's with social distancing observed.	2  10:15 Staff Meeting	3  OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED - call to check if someone is available tin the office	4  	5	6
7 The Holy Trinity  10:30 am Worship Service broadcast on Eastlink (ch. 10, 310, 610) and on YouTube search for MessiahCamrose  7:00 Charlene Brown Voice Studio Recital Livestream	8  7:00 Witnessing Committee via Zoom	9  10:15 Staff Meeting	10  OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED - call to check if someone is available tin the office	11	12	13
14 Pentecost 2 Food Bank Sunday  10:30 am Worship Service broadcast on Eastlink (ch. 10, 310, 610) and on YouTube search for MessiahCamrose  7:00 Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom	15	16 Messenger Articles Due  10:15 Staff Meeting	17  OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED - call to check if someone is available tin the office	18	19	20
21 Pentecost 3  10:30 am Worship Service broadcast on Eastlink (ch. 10, 310, 610) and on YouTube search for MessiahCamrose  	22	23  10:15 Staff Meeting	24  OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED - call to check if someone is available tin the office	25	26 Messenger Delivery	27
28 Pentecost 4  10:30 am Worship Service broadcast on Eastlink (ch. 10, 310, 610) and on YouTube search for MessiahCamrose	29	30  10:15 Staff Meeting				