



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

December 2020

Volume 41 Issue 11

*Jesus*  
IS  
**THE REASON**  
FOR THE  
**SEASON**



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Church Council met on November 25 and decided to suspend in-person worship services for the next three Sundays—Nov. 29, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13. They will meet again on Dec. 16 to make a decision regarding the rest of the December 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

Monday to Friday

8:00 am - Noon

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

## CHURCH FOYER WILL BE OPEN

Monday to Friday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

**(offerings can be placed through the mail slot on the inside office door during the lunch hour)**

Church Office hours will be reduced between Christmas and New Years. Signs will be posted on the door prior to Christmas with details.

## Christmas Services

(In-person worship will depend on Church Council's decision on Dec. 16)

*Christmas Eve* Dec. 24

4:00 pm - Candles, Lessons & Carols

9:00 pm - Candlelight Service

*Christmas Day*

Dec. 25 - 10:30 am

Christmas Day  
Service



## In-Person Worship Services

After our Church Council has met on December 16<sup>th</sup> you will be notified by the office regarding their decision.

If we do resume in-person worship in time for the Christmas services we will be asking you to register for the service(s) you wish to attend. This is because the Worship Committee has set a cap of 70 persons to attend each service. This cap will help us achieve our physical distancing guidelines.

The decisions made by our Council are in the interest of our health. We do look forward to when we are able to worship in-person again.

Submitted by Darlene Dahle,  
Worship Committee Chair

## Minister's Message



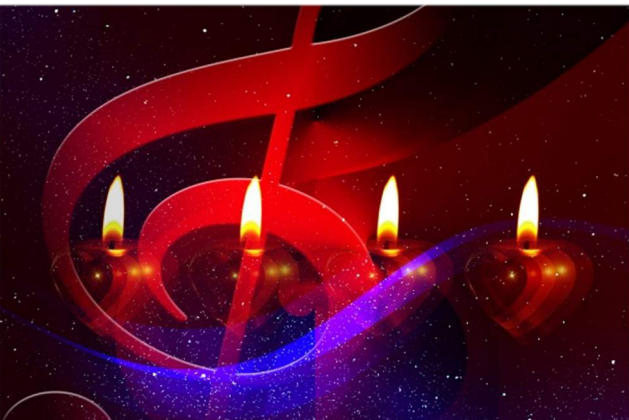
I don't know what to talk about. Everything that I can think of to say feels like a broken record that keeps on repeating: covid19 is taking too long; there is so much isolation; people are suffering; numbers of infected people are rising.

And still... time marches on.

We move into a new church year. We approach a new calendar year.

We want to look forward to Christmas, but so much of what we connect with Christmas is going to be strained – especially the gatherings of people. I know how much I have been ambivalent in the past about so many of the gatherings. I'm not so much a "party" person, and doing "small talk" at a gathering of people can be very exhausting for me. But, not being able to do these things at all is... well it's horrible. To think about not being able to gather as one big family group or as a caring congregation – it hurts my heart.

What we are experiencing could take years before it ends. Many, many times in history diseases have plagued people throughout the world. People have become sick; some died, some survived. Sometimes pandemics have lasted for years and have decimated regional populations. In spite of all of our technology and know-how, we are not immune from the ravages of new-to-us disease and infection. But it feels like we ought to be.



**How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?**

**How long will you hide your face from me?**

**Psalm 13:1**

It feels like we should have more knowledge than our ancestors – we should be able to act more wisely than they did. It feels like we should be able to develop a vaccine quickly – and this may be true, but "quickly" may not be what we have come to expect in our "instant" world. In the meantime, steps *have* been taken to reduce the affects and the spread of this disease. But all, that so many have been doing, seems... insufficient.

Given history, there will be an end to covid19. Given history, humanity will move on. But that does not negate the current cost; it does not negate the suffering; it does not negate the loss of life (due directly or even indirectly because of this virus). We need to grieve. We need to lament. We need to see and feel and know hope. This hope, I believe, can be found only in God – in the person of Jesus.

Jesus embodies our hope. Through Jesus we are assured of abundant life that prevails in and through all the hardships we encounter. Through Jesus we know that there is, has been, and will be a bounty of goodness which overcomes all evil.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen.

**But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.**

**I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

**Psalm 13:5-6**

Call me at 780-672-3444.

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

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

## Minister's Message



### ADVENT OPENING

As we enter into advent this year... there is a bit of an emptiness. Our church is closed up again. We cannot meet together... to prepare for this wonderful season. We may have an advent or Christmas without gathering in our sanctuary for worship. Most everything is up in the air.

Families will not meet together in their large groups and some not at all. Shopping and Christmas activities will not likely be the same. There is an emptiness for so many during these COVID times.

For people who are grieving, advent and Christmas have always been a painful time... empty and painful.

For some of you there is an emptiness in your hearts as you struggle with loneliness, depression... and loss. For some there will be no food on the table... and for others the table is their lap in a cardboard box. Loss is everywhere. Emptiness is prevalent. What we are used to this season is replaced by lockdowns and closed sanctuaries. We have much to be so thankful for but there is also a loss when the way we have always lived our moments is taken from us. Our world is grieving... and needs new life.

But in the true sense of the word, advent is all about the empty spaces. In advent we wait for God to come into our empty places... into our empty stables and feed our souls.

I have written a poem years ago... that I have brought out for this season of waiting. As we open this season of advent... let us open our hearts for the one who brings life into the darkness and breathes new life into our moments.



#### I Wait for Healing Breath

I am full  
Of void  
within my soul;  
my empty stable bare

The lights  
have gone out in my heart;  
Can't see your love that's there

The lights shine out,  
a bright contrast  
to darkness in my soul

I wait  
for you to come  
and breathe  
into my stable hole.

I wait for you to come,  
to love and hold and heal.  
For I can do none other  
than just to breathe and feel.

I wait for you to enter  
Now my empty stable place...  
I wait for you to breathe into  
My deeply grieving space.  
Come dear Christ child  
come and breathe  
into my stable pain

Come oh "lover of my soul"  
and breathe  
me back to life again.

*By Bev Swanson*

Lord as we enter into Advent... help us to hold our hearts open so that you may come into our lives in a new way and breathe new life into our lives.

Help us to remember those who need your loving care and be your presence so that all may know of your love. AMEN

I wait with you... Pastor Bev

Feel free to contact me anytime at

**780 672 3444** (office)

Or text or call me at **780 678 7830** (cell)



## Bishop's Message

### For Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders



Dear Beloved of God –

As a child I delighted in viewing CBC Hymn Sing on my grandparents black and white television screen with my identical twin and three younger siblings. I loved the arrangements of the

familiar hymns, as well as the physical arrangement of the choir. Often at night for many years my brother and I would sing the concluding Hymn Sing benediction before we closed our eyes.

I was enthralled as the Von Trapp family sang during the movie, *The Sound of Music*. My siblings and I would break out into our own musical renditions, often performing for family and friends

Together we sang for weddings and celebrations, with our mother at the piano. As children our song favorite was a version of a hymn sung now at all family funerals, “Children of the Heavenly Father,” with a simple descant line that soared into the heavens.

And then I began to play for worship. My piano playing often in duet fashion with the organ. Soon my cousin I were leading singing during Sunday School openings.

My love for music continued post High School with piano as my second major. Accompanying college musicals and voice and instrumental majors, leading song from the piano during chapel services, playing for convocations and graduations.

And, playing for my own personal need. When I needed to step away, or forget, or rest, or vent, or weep.

These past months I have returned again and again to music as a spiritual practice.

Music has again become my prayer, for music is a spiritual practice that is life-giving for me - body, mind, and spirit - a spiritual practice that grounds me, refreshes me, and quiets me when I am inclined to go madly off in all directions. I am reminded of Luther’s words that, “next to the Word of God, the art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.”

Music, in these past months, has served as a reminder to me of what it is that I believe. Music and text seep into my bones in ways that didactic information never will. Music sinks under my skin shaping the very way I perceive this world - this uncertain time.

Music, in these past months, has been born anew in me for music, profound music, is born at times when there is no other possible way for something to be expressed. Here I am mindful of the words of Aldous Huxley, who in his magnificent essay titled, “The Rest is Silence,” said: “After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.”

Music, in these past months, has connected my experience with that of the people of God of all times and places. The incredible and moving performances of individuals gathered around the world via technology to sing, to dance, to make music together.

*Continued on next page*



The grandmother cradling and humming gently to the child who is afraid. Those gathered to grieve and mourn the death of a church leader from this vicious virus and hearing the trumpet proclaim God's presence and resurrection promise.

Cellist Yo-Yo Ma often shares the story of the first concert he played after September 11. In the face of that country's catastrophic loss, the orchestra members wondered: Do we play, or do we cancel? Together, they chose to continue with the performance as planned. Remembering that moment, he wrote, "Music will be the way that we will come together, because we're asserting ourselves as a community, as a people, as a city, as whatever. And we need to be together." Yes, together.

Music as spiritual practice. Life-giving music.

Recently I have learned a new hymn which continues to make its entry into my life. "God of the Movements and Martyrs." This hymn was written by David LaMotte on a commission from the North

Carolina Council of Churches in honor of their 85th Anniversary. It was arranged and recorded in six different styles by five different artists and premiered the week of June 15, 2020. Search the hymn title on YouTube. Please.

The lyrics form images which come repeatedly to my mind. The melody is simple and memorable. The cadences locate me in God. I am grounded, refreshed and quietened. The hymn is life-giving. It shapes my perception of the world even in this time. It expresses profoundly what is not easily, if at all, able to be expressed. It connects my experience with others, bringing us together.

Music as spiritual practice.

*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,

+Larry

## PASTORAL ACTS

### *Funerals*

Lloyd Grove

Harvey Forre  
(Graveside Service)

### *Marriages*

Kerry Erga &  
Aileen Villapando



## SPECIAL GIFTS

### RECEIVED

### *Memorials*

Harvey Forre  
Carol Pederson

## 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.



## The Continuing Story of Lutheran Schools in Colombia

What does "CELCO" stand for?

Colegio Evangelico Luterano de Colombia

or

Lutheran Schools in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, South America

CELCO schools are private schools and require students to pay tuition. Public schools are paid for by the government. In the November *Messenger*, an article by Bishop Larry described the quality of these schools. Here is an extract from the November *Messenger* to remind us of why students go to these Lutheran schools:

"The students told us that they not only believed that they were receiving the best education possible which prepared them for post-secondary education, but that they also were receiving a well-rounded education where they learned values of love, respect, integrity, and character. They underscored the value of a Christian education where grace and faith were demonstrated."

There are 4 CELCO schools in Colombia, but here are details concerning one of those schools with the name CELCO Sogamoso which Bishop Larry and the other Alberta Synod members visited:

Bishop Larry continues: "In 1954 Pastor Gerhard Ostrem and Belva Nerlien were sent to Sogamoso to begin visiting the areas and analyzing options for work there. In 1955 the Colegio CELCO in Sogamoso was founded to serve the immediate area but also to serve children from the plains. Pastor Ostrem recognized that children in the plains were not getting an education as there were very few schools and those that were available continued to be a difficult environment for protestant children. When Colegio CELCO in Sogamoso opened it had a residence for children from the plains to live in while they went to school. Entire families from the plains also moved to Sogamoso in order for their children to attend school. Pastor Gerhard, along with Joyce Bergh and Pastor Arnfeld Morck\* founded this school as an answer to the needs of the Lutheran and other Protestant families." \*After retirement, Pastor Morck and his wife Hildur were members of Messiah in Camrose.

Many teachers who have taught in Sogamoso have an Alberta connection: for example: Joyce Bergh, and Pastor Jose Hernan and Carol Ariza.

There are now 500 students from preschool to grade 11 at CELCO Sogamoso. Pastor Benjamin Ojeda is the Director." Two pictures from Sogamoso help to show the flavour of the school:



**In support of children struggling to meet the fees at these schools donations are encouraged from Messiah members. Cheques may be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with "Lutheran Schools in Colombia" shown on the detail line.**

Submitted by Ray Blacklock and Erhard Pinno from the World Mission Group



## PRAYER REQUEST

Burundi bound on December 7, Lord Willing



The Watts Family: Micah, Jonah, George, Matea, Susan

Alma

Serving at Kibuye Hope Hospital - Burundi, East Africa

Just a quick note to let you know that we have tickets, and our time in Canada is coming to an end. We leave Edmonton the morning of December 7 and will arrive in Bujumbura on December 9.

Between then and now we have a lot of bags to pack, good-byes to say, and many loose ends to wrap up.

Even though we have been here for months, there are so many people we didn't get to see, places we didn't get to, and events that never took place, and for that, we are saddened.

However, the last few months have been a time of great healing, resting, and recovery for our family, and for that, we are incredibly thankful.

We have been able to reconnect with family and friends, and this break away from our work in Africa has been incredibly helpful for us.

Clearly, we have mixed emotions about returning to our home in Kibuye - it is a place we love dearly but now has some very difficult memories associated with it.

Jonah will be returning with us, and continue his first-year of online university from home in Burundi, instead of staying here in Edmonton. The reality of this year has made moving to a new city and starting university so uniquely challenging; it seems a better fit for him to be at home in Kibuye and be able to be with our community there.

Also, our nephew Silas (who visited us with his family 2 years ago) will be returning with us to work as an intern on our team until the summer.

So we have lots of reasons to be thankful as we prepare to return.

Prayer requests:

- that we'd be able to get ourselves, our stuff, and our house ready for our departure
- for grace to deal with the toll that yet another round of goodbyes inevitably takes on us (and those we leave behind)
- that we would all stay healthy up to, and through our travels
- that our travels, including our connections between flights, would be safe and smooth.
- for peace as we return to Kibuye, our home, and our community

Thank you so much for all of you who have been praying for my mom (Cece Watts) who was very, very sick and hospitalized for all of October. She returned home a few days ago, her recovery nothing short of miraculous. Her healing is not only an answer to prayer and a huge relief to all who know her - but also made it possible for us to think about heading back to Burundi.

- George

## Connecting in the Word

Check out our brief recorded inspirational messages twice a week.  
One with Pastor Bev and then with Andy the puppet for a message for the kids!  
Go to [messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca) to find the 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.



We are able to accept E-transfers set up from your online banking at the following email address:  
**[offering@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto:offering@messiahcamrose.ca)**  
(deposits directly)



*On the Anniversary of your Baptism*



We recognize the monthly Baptismal Anniversaries of the children in the *Splash* program:

Harvey Gjesdal - Dec 3  
Theodore Simms - Dec 22  
Jemma Matthiessen - Dec 23  
Abigail & Hannah Lindberg - Dec 29

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

## FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Food bank donations are still needed and can be placed in the cart at the back of the sanctuary or dropped off at the Neighbor Aid Food Bank located at 4524 54 Street - Mon to Fri from 9 am to Noon and Tues, Wed, Thurs 1 - 4 pm.

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

**FOOD BANK SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 13**



COME JOIN OUR

# BIBLE

Study

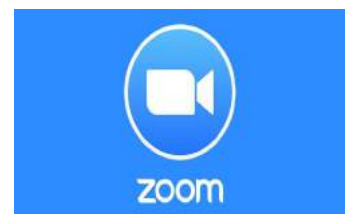
to this group, you would be most welcome, and should contact Ray Blacklock at

780-672-7902 to be included on ZOOM.

Note: The study will conclude on December 12 and resume in the New Year.

Bible Study & Fellowship Opportunity For Men of All Ages. A study of the lessons for the next day's worship service takes place each Saturday morning at 9:00 am. All Men are Welcome for Study, Fellowship, and Encouragement in the Faith.

Men's Bible Study has resumed using the ZOOM program. If you would be new





## Council Highlights

With sadness, but in the hope of doing all possible to help reduce the impact of Covid-19, Council voted to suspend all Messiah-sponsored in-person group activities until December 13, 2020. This would not include office staff nor the worship team. Our pastors will still be able to bring communion to homes as long as health and safety protocols are followed.

Messiah is blessed with an active and enthusiastic Service Committee. However, since we seconded Chris to be congregation treasurer, that committee is without a Council representative. If you would like to be part of the Service mission of Messiah and serve on Council, please let one of the pastors or Charlene know. Service is a very important part of our mission. Please give it your consideration. p.s. Council is good too!

Messiah will apply for a recently announced Faith-based and Cultural Facility Relaunch Grant. The grant is to help with costs related to Covid-19.

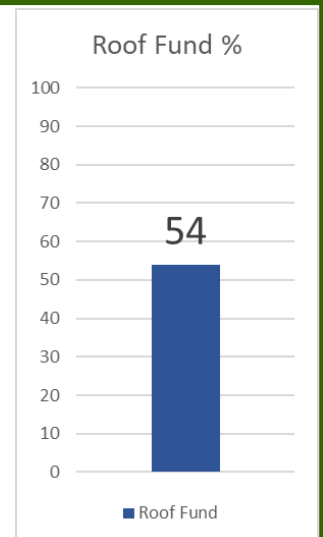
There is good news and less good news on the financial front. Thank you everyone! Donations in October met budget. Thanksgiving offering was also strong and a bit above budget. The less good news is that, six months into our year, we have an operating deficit which, at this rate, could well double by year end to approximately \$25,000. There are still reserves to cover such a deficit, but only for this year. This is not a sustainable situation. Council will meet in December to develop a plan and provide guidance to the budget committee.

### October 31 Financial Notes (6 Months)

Offerings and other receipts	\$185,381
Budgeted	\$201,925
Expenses	198,472
(Excess of Expenses)	<u>-13,091</u>
Designated offerings	<u>24,990</u>
Other financial notes:	
Roof repair funds needed	\$44,000

## ROOF FUND

**The updated goal is**  
**\$92,341**  
**Received as of**  
**November 22**  
**\$49,590**



## Sunday School

We are not having Sunday School classes right now due to the Covid-19 situation in our area. The earliest possible day we might have classes would be January 17th, since the church is not open for in-person attendance for the next few weeks, and right after that would be when we usually close down Sunday School for the Christmas season. Then in January, students will be doing their regular/academic school by remote/online learning, and the earliest they will be back in their regular school classrooms would be January 11th, so our Sunday School will not be "open" for at least that length of time in order to be consistent with what's happening for attendance at academic schools.

In the meantime, we have some resources for Sunday School families:

\*YOUTUBE CHILDREN'S MESSAGES: Pastor Bev has been posting weekly children's messages on YouTube. Look on our MessiahCamrose YouTube channel, or visit my playlist where I've been collecting all her wonderful kid-friendly posts: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLifs7u2Ao3LZUMtwiA64Qquzy6ysNMfQX>

\*ACTIVITY PAGES: The Messiah Lutheran Church staff have also resumed posting activities on the Messiah Camrose website which correspond to the lectionary Bible reading and theme of each week's service. There are usually pages you can print off for a variety of ages. In my house the 5 year old likes the colouring, while the 10 year old likes the word searches. When on your computer, go to MessiahCamrose.ca and look for Sunday School Activity Pages under the Worship tab, or use this link: <https://messiahcamrose.ca/worship/sunday-school-activity-pages/>

\*SNOWFLAKES: Make snowflakes to decorate the church! Please make some snowflakes and drop them off at the church office. You can make the traditional fold and cut ones, or there are also some other snowflake ideas/templates on the Messiah Lutheran Church website.

\*FACEBOOK UPDATES: Look on our Sunday School Facebook **page** for updates. Just type @MessiahCamroseSundaySchool in the search bar and it should pop up for you.

If your family is looking for other resources to encourage your children's Christian growth while we are not able to meet in person as a Sunday School, feel free to contact me and I can let you know some things that my family has liked, or we can start a discussion in our Sunday School Facebook **group** that we have for our registered

Sunday School families, and I can also check with other knowledgeable people (our wonderful Messiah Lutheran Church staff) for ideas.

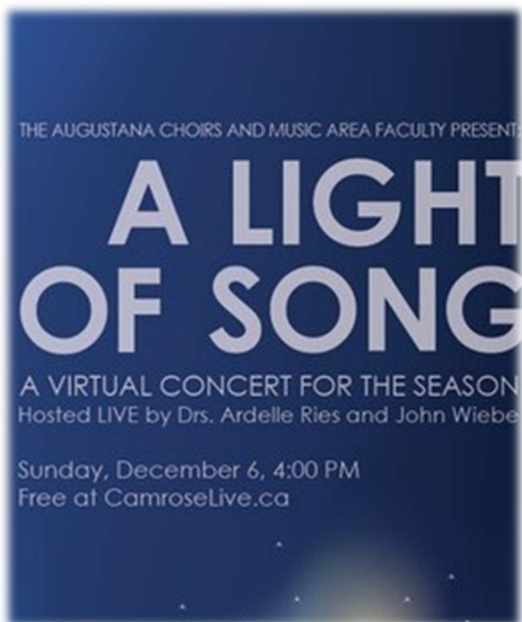
Michelle Kennedy Hawkins

780-678-5815 text

780-608-1339 call

[mkennedyhawkiins@gmail.com](mailto:mkennedyhawkiins@gmail.com)





The Augustana Choirs and Music Area Faculty present:

## ***A Light of Song – a Virtual Concert for the Season***

Sunday, December 6, 4:00 pm

Free at CamroseLive.ca

Join the Augustana Choirs and Music Faculty as they present a virtual concert of music from this most distinctive of fall-terms. Hosted LIVE by our Director of Music, Ardelle Ries, and Director of Choral Activities, John Wiebe, this concert will celebrate our spirit with music for choirs, solo-voice, piano and guitar. We will present performances by all three of our Augustana choirs, led by director John Wiebe, as well as performances by members of our Music Area faculty Ardelle Ries (Director of Music), Roger Admiral, Charlene Brown, Joy-Anne Murphy, Inna Luzanac, and Trevor Sanders.

Included in the concert is *Earth Song*, by Frank Ticheli, from which we draw the

inspiration for both our efforts this semester, and for our concert title:

*“...but music and singing have been my refuge,*

*and music and singing shall be my light.*

*A light of song, shining and strong: Alleluia!”*

The annual December choral concert at Augustana is a deeply cherished tradition and one that will be especially missed this year. And though we acknowledge the loss of in-person concert events, we want to make a special effort to celebrate the resilience of our students and community members who continue to study and share their songs.



**We would like to fill the Church windows with snowflakes!**

Look on our website  
[messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca) under the Worship tab for Sunday  
 School Activity Pages to find some fun templates or use  
 your own creativity.

**Drop off your creations at the Church office!!**







**We are collecting mittens, scarves, toques and socks! The donations will go to Sparling School and On Eagle's Wings. Please, generously donate until January 11. You will find a tree in the church office foyer.**



*To everyone who contributed to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Program. There were 24 shoeboxes sent from Messiah that we know of and maybe some of you chose to donate online.*

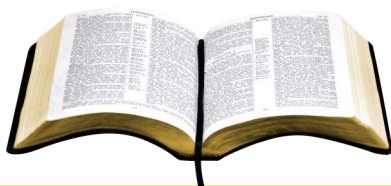


### **"2020 Cover to Cover" Challenge**

My journey through the Bible this year has ended and so thankful that I was able to complete it. I read the New International version and found the language easy to read and understand. Also some verses took on new meaning and stood out like I had never read them before.

Over 30 members from Messiah contacted me that they were in on this journey and grateful for that. I feel like this was the year — no excuses about not having time or too many interruptions. It was a great way to use my Covid 19 seclusion.

I will continue to write my blog, and at the end would like any input from you that you are willing to share about your journey.



Signe Harder



# **Grateful Grannies Christmas Market 2020**

**Please join us at Duggan Mall  
During Four Saturday Morning Markets  
November 28th until December 19<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**We will have a wonderful array of handcrafted  
items including Grinch trees, pottery,  
Scandinavian gnomes, cards, jewelry  
and of course our AIDS angels.**

**Thank you for your continuing support of our cause as we seek  
temporary measures to ensure everyone's safety.**

**All proceeds go to the Grandmother to Grandmother Campaign of  
the Stephen Lewis Foundation in support of the  
AIDS/HIV crisis in Africa**

## MLW

We will soon be in the Advent season. We have so much to be thankful for even if our world seems to be in a turmoil. We are richly blessed. Prayers needed for the scientists who are working on a vaccination for COVID-19.

We have had a few interruptions in our work, as CLWR has discontinued the We Care program as we knew it.

A few ladies have finished tying the quilts, which were left after our quilting in the spring.

We contacted LAMP and they have arrived and picked up 20 Baby bundles and 20 quilts to take up to the North. The Open Door received 12 Hygiene kits plus a few CLWR bags. We received 100 bags in September and don't have any use for them yet.

On Eagle's Wings have been contacted, and they are not going North at this time. They would appreciate receiving money for their programs. I believe our MLW could send some funds to them.

We have contacted the Women's Shelter and the Hospice Society, and they will let us know if anything is needed. I've also left a message for a contact from the Victim Services Group, as they could probably use some quilts.

The Hope Mission needs smaller quilts (not Queen) which could be given as long as we could deliver them to Edmonton.

Our Circle meetings are still at a standstill, as Camrose has several cases of the virus. We will see what 2021 brings.

If you would like to donate to MLW, there is a basket at the front counter of Messiah Lutheran Church, clearly marked MLW offerings, next to the regular offering plate. You will receive a receipt in the New Year. Our ladies continue to distribute funds, to various local and other needy places.

Thank you and Blessings  
for the Christmas season.

MLW Executive



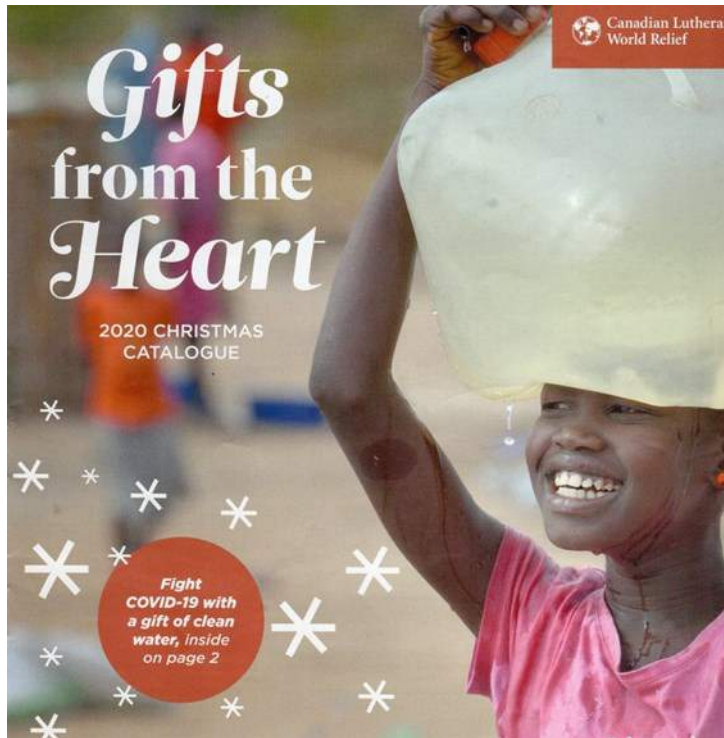


# NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

## **“GIFTS from the Heart” catalogue is now available**



**CLWR’s “Gifts from the Heart” catalogue is full of thoughtful and creative gifts that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most. Bring joy to your loved ones and change the lives of people around the world this Christmas!**

**Help stop the spread of COVID-19 by “shopping” from home and give the gift that makes sure that life-saving work can continue in vulnerable communities around the world.**

**Make your gift go farther with a gift that’s matched! Give more when you choose a gift that’s multiplied up to 4x by CLWR’s partners.**

**“Gifts from the Heart” catalogues are available at the church office and if church services resume, they will also be available in the LINK.**

**ONLINE shopping is available at [www.clwr.org/GFTH](http://www.clwr.org/GFTH)**

**Toll-free shopping available at 1-800-661-2597**

**Mailing address 600-177 Lombard Ave., Winnipeg MB R3B 9Z9**

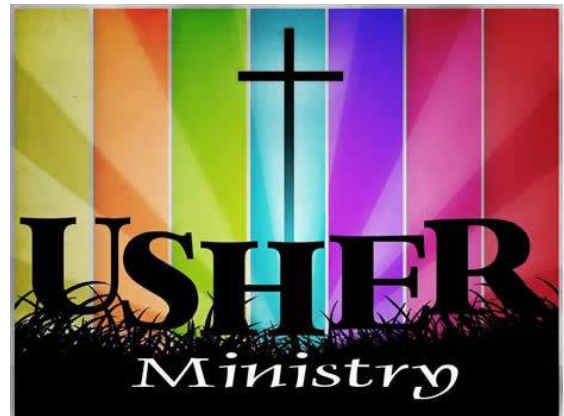


### Snow Removal at Messiah

A few more volunteers are needed to take a shift this winter to remove snow from the back, side and front sidewalks around the church building. Please leave your name at the church office if you are willing to serve in this way. 780-672-3444

### USHERS & GREETERS NEEDED

Who? Those who are able to assist with greeting and ushering when we return to in-person worship services.  
More Information? Call Darlene Dahle at 780 672 8488





## Care Group!!

We would like to start up a care group. COVID has created a lot of distancing which creates separation, but the needs of people are still important and perhaps even more intense in this time of isolation. So, if you are able and willing to be a part of a care group we would welcome you to call the church office and put your name on a list for our Care Group or talk with one of our pastors about what you might be willing to do to help.

These things might include helping with some basic things that might need fixing, calling someone regularly to check in on them, driving someone to an appointment in town or in the city, going for a walk with someone, delivering groceries... to name a few things.

**If you are a person who needs help with some of these things PLEASE GIVE US A CALL.**

Give Pastor Bev or Pastor Calvin a call at the office 780 672 3444 if you are interested!!! We would love to have you join our care group.



**An Advent Devotional facilitated by Pastor Bev**

**Wednesday's at 7:00 pm by ZOOM.**

**Please email the office to register to receive the ZOOM link at  
[office@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto:office@messiahcamrose.ca)**





## *Silent Santa 2020*

Kinette Club of Camrose

November 3, 2020

For well over 60 years, the Kinette Club of Camrose, in conjunction with the Christmas Cheer Fund, has provided gifts for children in families facing economic hardship. This year, as you may expect, the need will be even greater than usual!

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, books, hat and mitts where there is a shortage. We write today to ask for your help, whether it be a monetary donation, a collection of toys or manpower for the project. We appreciate it all!!

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 11<sup>th</sup>!**

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 if you have time to offer or to arrange toy pick up: Amanda Dyer 780-678-4496, Karen Cunningham 780-679-6860; Holly McLennan 780-781-6831; Cathy Pacholek 780-672-0976; Kathy Schwab 780-672-8073; Jennifer Shields 780-781-3304 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





## Messiah Church Council

Charlene Brown, President  
David Dahle, Vice-President  
Gail Stolee, Secretary  
Chris Hohm, Treasurer

Members at Large:	Liaising With:
Lael Olson	Worship Committee
Donny Loewen	Learning Committee
Dave Larson	Support Committee
Carolyn Andersen	Witnessing Committee
Vacant	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  
Part-Time Administrative Assistant: Shirley McFall  
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: January 2021  
Material due: December 22  
Delivery date: January 4



**Sunday morning in-person worship service has been suspended. 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."**



# December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<div>1</div> <div></div> <div>6:30 Alpha Course by ZOOM</div>	<div>2</div> <div>7:00 Advent Devotional by ZOOM</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>6:45 Confirmation</div> <div>7:00 Support Committee</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</div> <div></div>
<div>6 Advent 2</div> <div>10:30 Worship Service</div> <div></div>	<div>7</div> <div>2:00 World Mission Group</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div> <div>7:00 Advent Devotional by ZOOM</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>4:00 Learning Committee</div> <div>5:00 Witnessing Committee</div> <div>6:45 Confirmation</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</div> <div></div>
<div>13 Advent 3</div> <div>Food Bank Sunday</div> <div>10:30 Worship Service</div> <div></div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>7:00 Advent Devotional by ZOOM</div> <div>7:00 Church Council</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>6:45 Confirmation</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20 Advent 4</div> <div>10:30 Worship Service</div> <div></div>	<div>21</div> <div>12:00 Meals on Wheels</div>	<div>22 Messenger Articles Due</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24 Christmas Eve</div> <div>Staff Meeting</div> <div>12:00 Meals on Wheels</div> <div>4:00 Christmas Eve Service</div> <div>9:00 Christmas Eve Service</div>	<div>25 Christmas Day</div> <div>10:30 Christmas Day Service</div> <div></div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27 Christmas 1</div> <div>10:30 Worship Service</div> <div></div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div>	<div></div>	
<div>Please call to check office hours this week or watch for posted signs.</div>						