



MESSIAH MESSENGER

January 2021

Volume 42 Issue 1



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Following the recommendation from Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, all worship services at Messiah Lutheran Church remain closed to in-person attendance.

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday

8:00 am - Noon

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

(closed Noon to 1:00 pm for lunch)

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)

Minister's Message

I AM THE CHURCH. WE ARE THE CHURCH. WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!



We are letting go of 2020 and moving into a new year. And what a year we have come from!

Looking back...this has been a pretty rough year for our world... for our country... for our church. By March things were shutting down... and the pandemic invaded our lives. This is the first time our church doors have closed for many, many decades. And as I write this over Christmas we will not be in our sanctuary to worship for Christmas and we begin our year with our doors closed for the safety of our people.

Thankfully, we have the opportunity through our television and YouTube ministry to bring worship into your homes.

There have been some things though that have been really positive for churches in lots of ways. Our world has felt united in our pain. Our churches have had to move outside of our walls to reach out to one another and the world and we have had to be creative in our ways of connecting and being community. We are learning to be church in the world like never before. We are realizing in ways we never have before that we are connected through the Spirit even when we are not able to meet.

People are finding our services online and are being fed.

We are also more keenly aware of what loneliness is like for our people who are shut in. We are now joining them in our lonely moments. We are becoming church in the world perhaps like never before.

And so, as we move forward in this time of closures, shut downs and pandemic, we need to realize that church is not a building.

Church is the people of God united in the Spirit of the living God.

Church is made up of the people of God not belonging to individual churches and denominations.

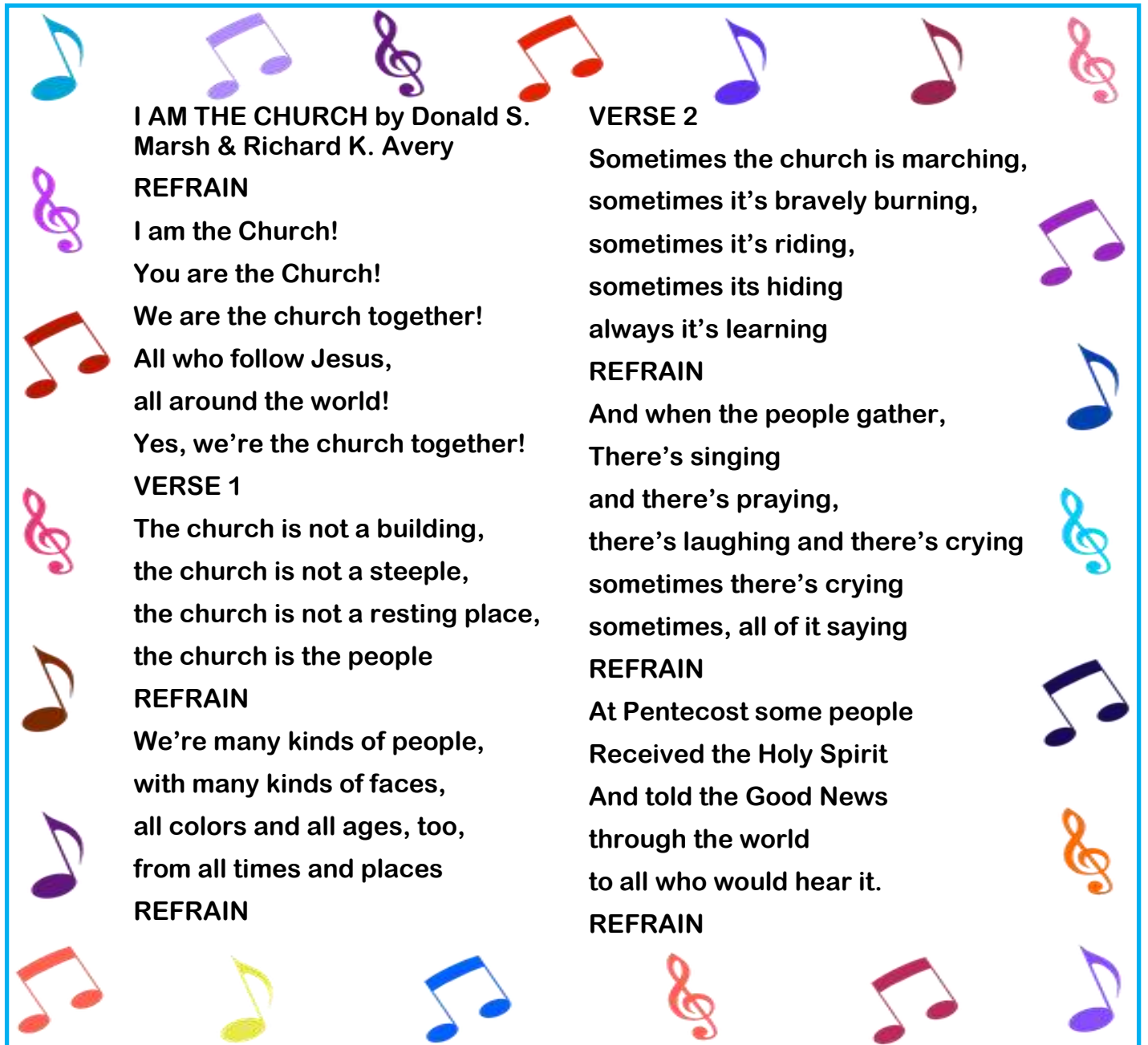
Church is the body of Christ... united in our Lord!

Church is made up of children of God... called to be loved by God and called to bring the love of God into the world.

Finally, we are forced or rather invited to see who we are as a whole. When one of us suffers, we all suffer. When one of us is lonely, we are all lonely. When one of us is struggling, we all struggle.

And so, as we move into this year, let us remember the words to this song. I would like to invite us as a whole church to open to what the Lord would have us do outside of our walls. Let's continue to be creative. Let's look for those who are hurting and lonely.





I AM THE CHURCH by Donald S. Marsh & Richard K. Avery

REFRAIN

I am the Church!
 You are the Church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus,
 all around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

VERSE 1

The church is not a building,
 the church is not a steeple,
 the church is not a resting place,
 the church is the people

REFRAIN

We're many kinds of people,
 with many kinds of faces,
 all colors and all ages, too,
 from all times and places

REFRAIN

VERSE 2

Sometimes the church is marching,
 sometimes it's bravely burning,
 sometimes it's riding,
 sometimes its hiding
 always it's learning

REFRAIN

And when the people gather,
 There's singing
 and there's praying,
 there's laughing and there's crying
 sometimes there's crying
 sometimes, all of it saying

REFRAIN

At Pentecost some people
 Received the Holy Spirit
 And told the Good News
 through the world
 to all who would hear it.

REFRAIN

Let's remember that although we are not meeting within our walls at this time along with so many others, God is among us and we are still the church. The church is indeed not a building or even a denomination. The church is the people. And our God is still the head of our churches and in this time of pandemic and as we move into this year, let us remember that we have been so deeply loved and are called to be love in the world, to be church in the world.

Furthermore, the church has not been left alone in this world. Our God is every bit as much with us as our Lord has ever been!!

We journey together, connected in the Spirit as church in this world.

LET'S BE THE CHURCH TOGETHER!

Blessings all!! Happy New Year!

I am thankful to be a part of the church 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)

Email bev@breatheopenlove.com

Bishop's Message

For Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders



Dear Beloved of God –

I've been thinking lately about the conclusion of the liturgical year and the coming New Year in which this article will be read.

The Reign of Christ includes the gospel reading from Matthew

25:31-46. The familiar passage of the sheep and the goats. Both those identified as sheep and those named goats are ... surprised: "When was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison?"

Surprised by their failure to recognize the Son of Man. Surprised that the Son of Man is present in the face of the poor, the imprisoned, and all who are in need. Neither sheep nor goats expected the Son of Man to be present and available in the face of "the least of these." Each imagined that the Son of Man would come in strength, power, might, and glory. Yet Jesus reveals that he comes in weakness, vulnerability, and brokenness.

Surprise!

God didn't come to us in Athens or Rome or Washington or Beijing or Moscow, or any other seat of power. Surprise! God came to us in lowly Bethlehem as a vulnerable infant. And God didn't conquer the world through military strength, but through the scandal, shame, and pain of the cross. And even more, the God we know in Jesus welcomed the child, the woman, the orphaned, the sick, the lame, the outsider. To these he showed compassion, grace, mercy, love.

The God we know in Jesus is revealed not in power but in vulnerability, not in might but in brokenness, not in judgement but in mercy.

And God continues to come where we least expect God to be...in the plight of the homeless, the poor, the needy, the refugee, the imprisoned.

And, in those who work with great courage and confidence for justice for all. In those who seek reconciliation with First Nations peoples. In those who yearn and work for a place and a space of welcome for all. In those who seek to be bearers of God's grace, mercy and love.

And to us, and to all who are weak and vulnerable, worn and wounded, broken and hopeless. To all of us affected in one way or another by the roller-coaster ride of the pandemic.

In the midst of this time of crisis, this gospel reading draws our attention this New Year to what might be a surprise: that God regularly, even relentlessly, shows up where we least expect God to be. To surprise us, disarm us, overturn our expectations and judgements. God invites us to see and to welcome with open hands and lives God's surprising and unimaginable grace, mercy, and love.

Perhaps this text isn't as much about us - sheep and goats - as it is about God, and about who God is and where God is present. God is not only at the end of time waiting on a royal throne in glory, but right here, right now, in the face of those around us, with us – each of us—in the middle of this pandemic.

It may not be where we expect God to show up, but it is just where we need God to be.

Surprise! Blessed New Year!

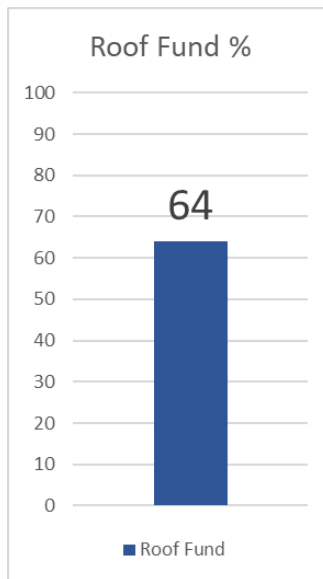
In Christ Jesus—

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)

ROOF FUND UPDATE:

**The revised
goal is \$92,341
Received as of
December 27:
\$59,530**



**2021 Offering Envelopes
are available for pick up at
the church office.**

**Eternity for Today
Prayer booklets are now
available for pickup from
the church office.**



SPECIAL GIFTS RECEIVED

Memorials

Walter Busenius
Elaine Olson
Grete Olson
Doris Nelson

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.



Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose

WORLD MISSION MONTH 2021

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

"But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?"

And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?

And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?

And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?"

Romans 10:13-15

Each week in January, 2021, a different person or family will be featured.

The first person to be featured is



Rev. Brian Rude

Missionary of the Alberta Synod of the ELCIC
serving in El Salvador through
"In Mission with El Salvador"

Rev. Rude is formally supported by Messiah Lutheran Church.

If you, as a reader of this special *Messenger* article, are inclined to support Rev. Rude,
of course, that would be great!

That support can first and foremost be in prayer.

Financial support may be given via an envelope, marked "Special",
and enclosing a cheque made out to Messiah Lutheran Church, with the words
"In Mission with El Salvador" in the note.

World Mission Month is organized by the World Mission Group
which reports to the Witnessing Committee.

World Mission Group acknowledges with appreciation the full support of
Messiah's Office Staff, Music leader, and Technical broadcast personnel.

Questions or Comments may be directed to
Ray Blacklock, Chairperson, World Mission Group or to its members:
Nora Gilbertson, Vincent and Mary Ellen Eriksson,
Connie Landstrom, Erhard Pinno, Cece Watts, Staff Advisor: Pastor Bev Swanson

To God be the Glory !

January, 2021

Messiah ELC Camrose, AB 2020-12-22

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

Submitted by Rev. Brian Rude, serving on behalf of "The Synod of Alberta and the Territories"

Inspiration and preparation for ministry with our sisters and brothers in El Salvador came via numerous channels. One of the primary ones was friendship with Salvadoran refugees settling in Calgary in the mid-80s, while I was pastor at Emmanuel ELC. They taught me so much about El Salvador, but also much about Calgary, Alberta and Canada. They taught me about our collective response--and lack of response--to refugees arriving and settling in Canada. Through them, my vision for offering ministry in El Salvador became two-fold: accompanying Salvadorans, for their own increased safety during an internal conflict; and learning from them, then passing on my learnings to the ELCIC and beyond.

Well, life has evolved continuously over these past 32 years, but those are still my primary visions, now primarily the latter. We still have much to learn from Salvadorans, most of it positive and productive and faith- and discipleship-inspiring.

My years have involved accompanying, and learning from, numerous marginalized sectors of Salvadoran society: orphaned children and youth (1988-present); persons living with HIV/AIDS (1994-present); prison inmates and personnel (1994-2015, since blocked by government); gangs; campesinx; the LGBTQ community; youth in marginal neighbourhoods; migrants; deportees; and violently displaced persons. Life for these people is one of daily challenges and risks, oppressive lack of resources and opportunities, recurring crises and calamities. An adult Canadian male with no family living here faces a minimum of what these marginalized folk confront and suffer, but is not totally immune. Critical personal life experiences offer a glimpse, and some reason for empathy, with what folk here endure and so often flee, in life-and-death flights, especially to the USA.

The latest phase of unanticipated accompaniment has been this 2020 year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the diversity of challenges we battle through it. Besides those faced globally, El Salvador is having to overcome numerous destructive storms in 2020, including four hurricanes, with heavy rains, causing much flooding, many landslides, some loss of life, and many homes destroyed, provoking evacuations and mass sheltering in public schools. Much of the population has also suffered the official and non-official responses to the pandemic,

so often not health-related, but rather politicized, militarized and gang-controlled, including forced, prison-like, prolonged, risky, confinement; violence, including threats, assaults and robbery.

Living amongst these people, God's people, who have learned to survive by struggling, together, in the bleak, black shadows of so many murders, massacres, and martyrdoms, one learns from and is inspired by their basic faith, that God is with them and never abandons them—"Emmanuel"..as they strive and thrive together in solidarity as God's children, God's family.

(see also ABT Synod insert, Canada Lutheran, April / May 2020, for a historical overview of "In Mission with El Salvador" / "*En Misión con El Salvador*")

Fe y Esperanza's "Historical Memory Association"

distributing food to a remote senior member of the 1980s

Fe y Esperanza displaced persons family during the COVID-19 pandemic (27-06-2020)



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 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
(deposits directly)



On the Anniversary of your Baptism



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

Brett Enright
January 13

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 by entering CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID CENTER INC. in the Find A Cause search area.



FOOD BANK SUNDAY
January 10

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE

Study



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

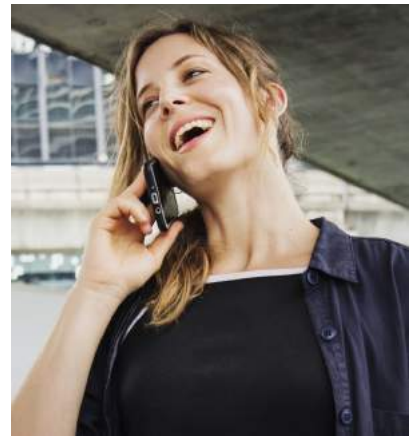
to this group, you would be most welcome, and should contact Ray Blacklock at

780-672-7902 to be included on ZOOM.

Note: The study will resume SATURDAY, JANUARY 9



PHONE CALLS



Bernie Williams challenges us to
call 2 people every day!

Thank you Bernie.

Bulletin Board Displays always brighten up our church!
Thank you, Signe Harder!

Link
Bulletin
Board



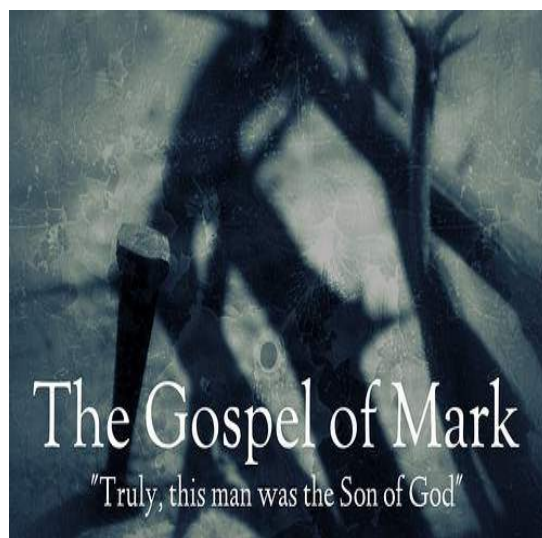


We are collecting mittens, scarves, toques and socks! The donations will go to Sparling School and On Eagle's Wings. Please, generously donate until January 11. You will find a tree in the church office foyer.

***A special Thank you to Ingrid Nordstrom
who knit 40 scarves!!***



**The Gospel of Mark
A Zoom Bible Study
Led by David Dahle
Thursdays,
January 7th to February 11th
7:00-8:30**



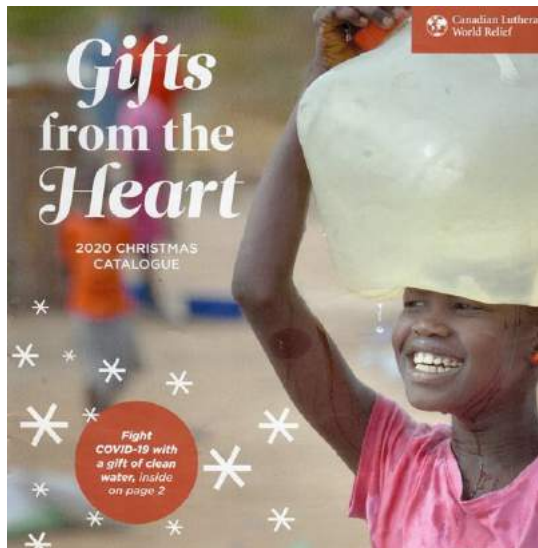
**If you wish to participate email David so he is able to send you the Zoom link prior to each session
ddahle@ualberta.ca**

NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

REMEMBER !



GIFTS FROM THE HEART can be ordered and given at any time of the year. **The need is always there.** Some of the gifts pictured in the catalogue will be matched up to 4X by other partners.

CLWR and their partners around the world need our support to be able to respond to disasters, conflict and poverty.

One area in dire need is Burundi, to which the George Watts family has recently returned to continue their work there.

Our support helps CLWR respond through:

Emergency food and nutrition

Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

Emergency shelter

Psychosocial support

Refugee resettlement in Canada

Education

Protection for victims of gender-based violence

Specialized health services for women and girls

Agricultural support

Small business loans and financial support

For every dollar raised, approximately:

\$0.87 goes toward international programs

\$0.07 goes toward community relations

\$0.03 goes toward refugee resettlement

\$0.03 goes toward administration

Wednesday Morning Coffee Fellowship

While we are unable to meet in person we will have a virtual Wednesday Morning Coffee Fellowship through Zoom from 10:30 - 11:30 am beginning on January 6, 2021. Since this date is Epiphany, Pastor Bev will do a devotion at our first coffee meeting. Please email the office at office@messiahcamrose.ca to register to receive the Zoom link.



Philippians Book Study
led by Pastor Bev Swanson
on ZOOM beginning
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
at 7:00 pm.

Email the office at
office@messiahcamrose.ca
to register for the ZOOM link.

✓ The Staff at Messiah would like to thank
✓ you for all the Christmas cards, calls and
✓ prayers for a blessed Christmas and New
✓ Year. We appreciate them all and wish the
✓ same for everyone in our congregation!



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.

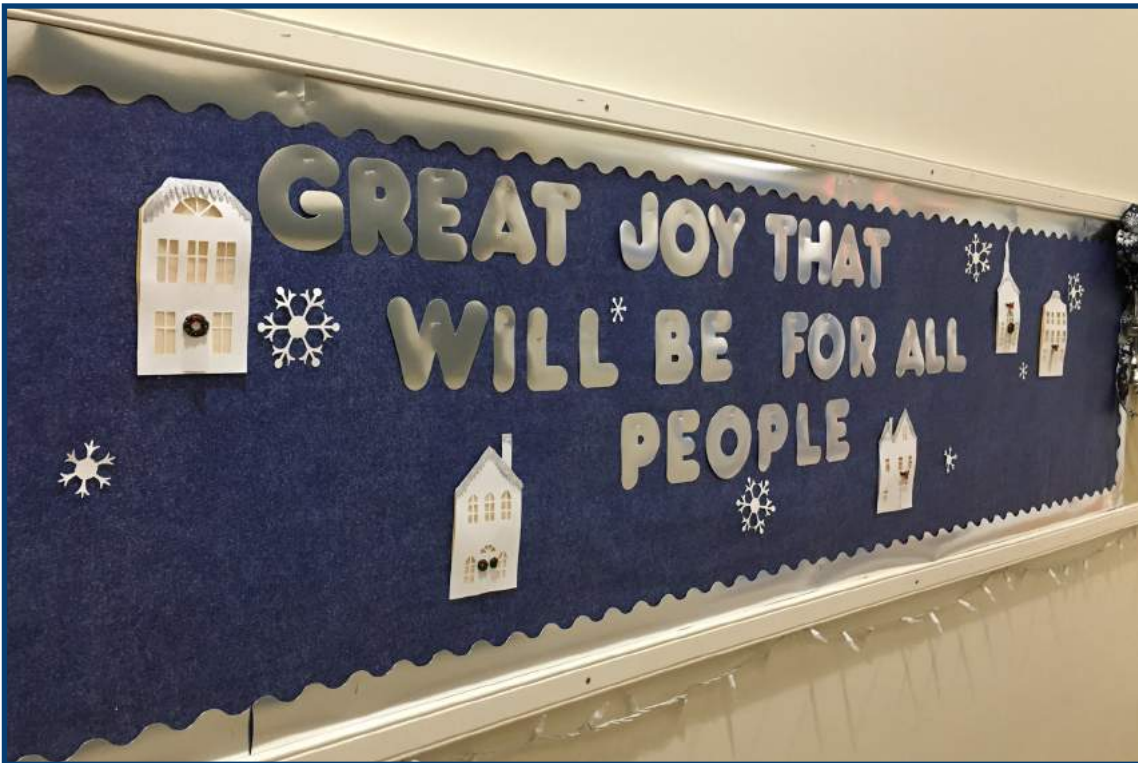
These things might include helping with some basic things that might need fixing, calling someone regularly to check in on them, driving someone to an appointment in town or in the city, going for a walk with someone, delivering groceries... to name a few things.

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

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

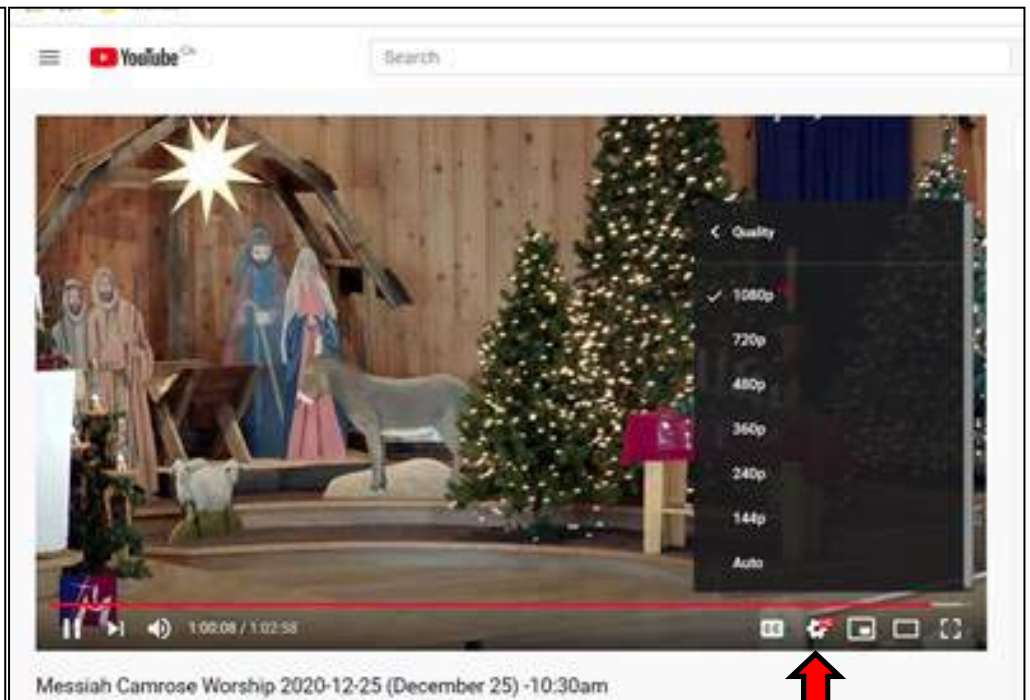


The Christmas displays look so beautiful!



*Fellowship
Centre
Hallway*

For those of you who use YouTube to view the services please make sure you are viewing in HD (High Definition) for optimal picture quality. Click on the 'gear' shaped icon in the tool bar at the bottom of the YouTube screen as indicated in the screen shot by an arrow and choose 'Quality' and then '1080p60 HD'.



If you know someone who does not have access to Eastlink TV or the internet, but they have a DVD player, please contact the office at 780-672-3444 and we can make arrangements to deliver a DVD of any of the services to them!





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
office@messiahcamrose.ca



Pastoral Ministry Team:

Bev Swanson

Calvin Skriver (on leave of absence)
 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

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 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: February 2021
Material due: January 19
Delivery date: January 29



**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.**



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

January 2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 New Year's Day Office Closed  | 2 |
| 3 Christmas 2 Epiphany 10:30 Worship Service  | 4 Messenger Delivery 2:00 World Mission Group by ZOOM  | 5 | 6 10:30 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM  | 7 11:45 Staff Meeting 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Gospel of Mark Bible Study by ZOOM  | 8 | 9 9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM  |
| 10 Baptism of Our Lord Food Bank Sunday 10:30 Worship Service  | 11 5:00 Service Committee | 12  7:00 Philippians Bible Study by ZOOM | 13 10:30 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM  | 14 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:30 Learning Cmt 5:15 Witnessing Cm 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Gospel of Mark Bible Study by ZOOM  | 15 | 16 9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM  |
| 17 Epiphany 2 10:30 Worship Service  | 18  <div>Messenger Articles Due</div> | 19  7:00 Philippians Bible Study by ZOOM | 20 10:30 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM  7:00 Church Council | 21 11:45 Staff Meeting 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Gospel of Mark Bible Study by ZOOM  | 22 | 23 9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM  |
| 24 Epiphany 3 10:30 Worship Service  | 25 | 26  7:00 Philippians Bible Study by ZOOM | 27 10:30 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM  | 28 11:45 Staff Meeting 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Gospel of Mark Bible Study by ZOOM  | 29 <div>Messenger Delivery</div> | 30 9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM  |
| 31 Epiphany 4 10:30 Worship Service  | | | | | | |