



# MESSIAH MESSENGER

May 2021

Volume 42 Issue 5

*Happy  
Mother's  
Day*

*Her children  
arise up, and  
call her blessed.*

PROVERBS 31:28

## *Worship Schedule*

**Sunday 10:30 am**

*Messiah Lutheran Church remains closed to in-person attendance until May 9. Beginning May 16, in-person attendance will be permitted with pre-registration.*

*See more details on pages 10-12.*

Services are broadcast on YouTube, search for MessiahCamrose or find a link on our website [messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca). We also broadcast on Eastlink TV channels 10, 310 and 610 with a rebroadcast on Wednesday at 5:30 pm. Please call if you have any questions or concerns 780 672 3444 or email [office@messiahcamrose](mailto:office@messiahcamrose)

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday to Friday**

**8:00 am - Noon**

**1:00 pm - 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 good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me."**

John 10:14

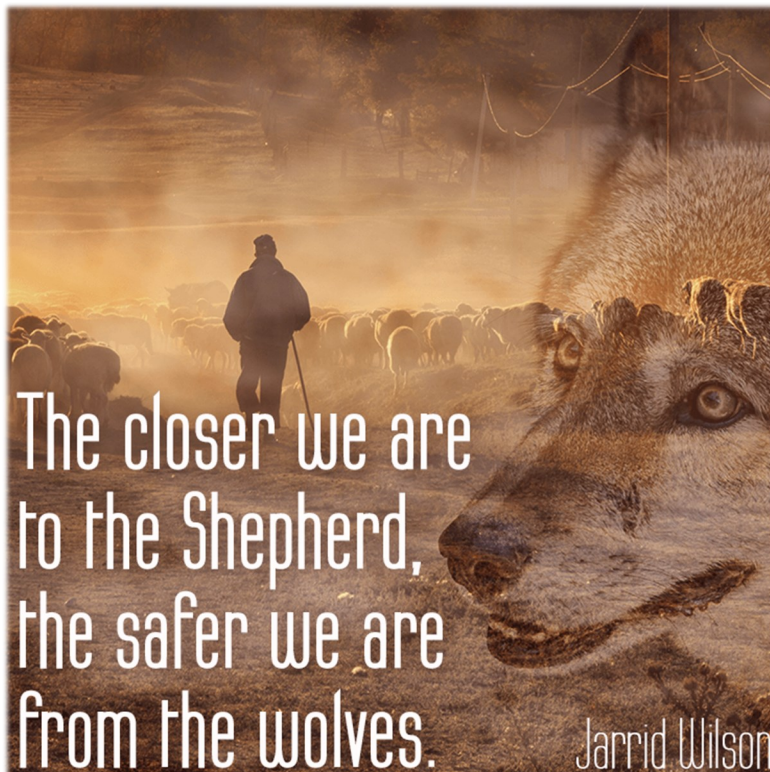


I can see signs of life – spring is here. Now if only the weather would decide to be warm instead of jumping back and forth between warm, beautiful days and cold, windy days... This is the month that we expect to receive some new lambs. Signs are showing that this will be happening soon, it is exciting and also a little nervous – will we have enough space for all the new little ones? Will there be problems? Are we doing enough to ensure the health of our flock?

This Sunday (April 28<sup>th</sup>) we hear about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Jesus knows the needs. Jesus meets the needs of his flock. Jesus' flock listens to him. These are wonderful things to know, but I think that Jesus also wants us to know that he is aware of the scary and dangerous things in our lives. The "wolf" does come much too often to snatch up and scatter us, the sheep. We do face all kinds of dangers – all kinds of things that come to do harm – and this is very real.

But Jesus is the good shepherd. Jesus does not run away. Instead, Jesus lays down his life for us, the sheep. I'm not so sure I really understand this all the way – "logic" tells me that the shepherd laying down his life may save the sheep today, but tomorrow the wolf will be hungry again and there will be no more shepherd to protect the sheep... This is where Jesus adds: "I lay down my life in order to take it up again". His death does not mean that he is no longer able to protect; his death is temporary but very much an integral part of the complete salvation of his sheep (us).

I don't think I will be called on to lay down my life for my 29 little sheep, but I will do my best to care for and protect them. Jesus goes *beyond* whatever I can: caring, protecting, laying down his life and taking it up to continue his loving presence for each and all of us... forever. This is gift. This is a wonder.



Jesus knows you.  
Jesus cares about and for you.  
Jesus does this in the best of times and  
in the very worst of times.

May you and I experience this truth in  
ways that vitalize our lives. Amen.

**Little children,  
let us love,  
not in word or speech,  
but in truth and action.**

1 John 3:18

Call me at  
780-672-3444 (Church office).  
**Text or call me at 780-679-5976**  
Email me at: [calvinskriver@gmail.com](mailto:calvinskriver@gmail.com)



# Minister's Message

## LET YOUR RIVER FLOW OH LORD



Have you ever canoed down a river and found yourself caught in an eddy that you cannot easily get out of or stuck with something that has caught your boat in an undertow or in waters that were way too much for you to handle and your boat overturned? While on a canoe trip, years back, we travelled down a really rough spot in the river. Our personal canoe did not overturn (although many others did) but that was pretty rough water. The only thing that really worked for us was that there were two of us in the boat together riding the waves.

Life is like this. There are moments when one wonders if there might be an easier way down stream or in our case through life. I think it is especially the case these days while we ride the waves through Covid and struggle with all the safety issues connected to it. Sometimes we can feel pretty alone in it. Sometimes we don't even know how to navigate some of the waves. (literally we call them waves.) Sometimes it can seem like its more like a stagnant pool than a river with flow especially these days when the numbers of positive cases are going up.

**But there are three really important things for us to remember on our river trip...**

**First**, we are not alone in our boats. We are joined together as people of God and we are doing this together.

**Second**, God is also in that boat with us.

**Third**, the Spirit of God is a part of the river and its flow.

The River of life that comes from the Spirit of our living God is never jammed up. She flows freely all the time. And she flows in God's timing. And she flows in love. Sometimes we don't know what or who to trust. But we can trust this because we can trust our God. And we do not need to rush this. We will make our way downstream.

I love the little quote from Pooh Bear that says.. "Rivers know this: There is no hurry. We shall get there some day." Winnie the Pooh.

Indeed, the Spirit of the living God knows full well where the journey in our life is taking us... we will get where we need to be even in these times.

I often equate the movement of the river to that of God's movement in our lives. The Spirit of God flows and carries us through life. We are always held in that river and the timing is always just right even though it can seem like it is way off and God has made some horrible mistake. (like the way things are in Covid times)

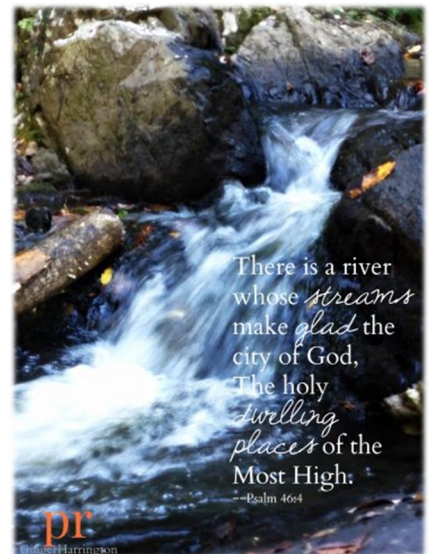
We can trust this river of God's love ever leading, ever guiding and ever holding us on this journey through life. We often try to fight this flow. Sometimes we even try to paddle or swim upstream.

(I am especially good at this) But the Spirit of God is ever guiding this river and holding us as we move downstream.

In Psalm 46:4 we hear these words, "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High."

As people of God we are promised in scripture that the water that we are given to by Jesus is water that becomes in us springs of living water. (John 4: 13-14)

(continued)



Sometimes along these river trips we see springs of water coming out of the mountains. Here we can stop our little canoe for a drink of fresh water along the way. We are promised that the water and rivers of our souls are full of fresh water... that flow freely from the spirit of our Lord. This water flows within us and carries us through life's eddies and free flowing moments and all those in between.

We can trust our Lord and we can trust that God's Spirit will flow life in and through us and is gently flowing under us at all times.

Let the River of God's love flow in you in these days ahead. If you do, you will find that it's not blocked at all. Its just making its way because God's Spirit is ever and always at work within us.

There is an old song we sang at campfires. I think you all know it. Maybe you can sing it to yourself as you go about your days. It's a really encouraging little chorus.

**I've got a river of life flowing out of me  
Makes the lame to walk and the blind to see,  
Opens prison doors, sets the captives free.  
I've got a river of life flowing out of me.  
Spring up, O well, within my soul.  
Spring up, O well, and make me whole  
Spring up, O well, and give to me  
That life abundantly**

Source: Musixmatch

Songwriters: Unknown

Let your River Flow oh Lord. We will trust in you!!  
Blessings...

Pastor Bev

(Contact me at 780-678-7830 cell or email [bev@breatheopenlove.com](mailto:bev@breatheopenlove.com))



## *Pastoral Acts*

### *Funeral*

**Douglas Hawkins**

### *Adult Baptism*

**Karson Lindstrand**



## *Special Gifts Received*

### *Memorials*

**Dwayne  
& Greta Roth**



## **Bishop's Message For Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders**



Dear Beloved of God –

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories will gather in convention in July under the theme, “On the Road,” inspired by Luke 24:13–35. It is the post-Resurrection narrative of two people journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus, where they are joined by a stranger who, when recognized, vanishes, and the two race back to Jerusalem.

Luke’s narratives frequently take us on the road. More than half of the gospel takes place on or is related to a journey, and each time we know that something important is about to happen: Mary rushes to a Judean town in the hill country where she greets Elizabeth; a road leads Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem; a road is the narrative setting for the parable of the Good Samaritan; a road leads the prodigal back home to his father.

Jesus sets his eyes toward Jerusalem in Luke 9:51 and travels there until 19:28; this is known among scholars as the travel narrative where Jesus is on an extended journey.

The sequel to this gospel, The Acts of the Apostles, continues this theme: at Pentecost people journey to Jerusalem; on the road to Damascus, Saul is blinded and there is a significant change in his career, including his name; Philip meets the Ethiopian eunuch on a road.

There is something about travel that evokes Luke’s literary and theological imagination. There is something about roads: the way they can bring us together; the way they can pose a danger to us all; the way they become a symbol of a faith on the move.

Luke’s narrative take us on the road frequently, and we discover that whenever we start to journey with someone, we really do not know if we will end up where we thought the road was leading.

As the two travelers to Emmaus walk along, talking with each other about the momentous things that had happened, Jesus joins them. After they answer Jesus’ questions, he speaks to them and interprets the scriptures for them, beginning with Moses and the prophets.

As they near their destination, Jesus walks ahead as if he is going further, but they convince him to stay with them, and at the table he takes bread, then blesses, breaks, and gives it to them. Their eyes are opened and they recognize him. Then Jesus vanishes.

But the narrative isn’t finished. The journey isn’t over. That same hour they get up and return to Jerusalem. The verb that the gospel writer uses here gets lost in translation. The word that we translate as “get up” is “anastantes” in the original Greek – the verb form of the noun that means resurrection.

*(continued)*



This is a resurrection story. The two rise up and return to Jerusalem. They have been transformed, having passed through the shadow of death to new life.

And they return to Jerusalem, the place where the journey, the road, began. But they are not going back to their old normal. They have changed, and so has Jerusalem. Grief, sadness, and loss have been transformed: "The Lord has risen, indeed."

At a recent meeting of Synod Council, our Bible study leader suggested that this Lukan narrative, "The Road to Emmaus," has been incorrectly titled and that it should more accurately be named, "The Road to Jerusalem and Back, with a Pit Stop in Emmaus."

Emmaus was thought to be home, but it was not the destination. Emmaus was simply a pit stop on the road. We thought the destination was somewhere else, but we are back in Jerusalem. Back where grief has taken place, back into the hot seat. Back to the sadness, the loss, where hope once resided.

Back ... and transformed.

Where is the road taking us today? To our homes? Or to a pit stop?

We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. We have the Scriptures. We have each other. We know that we will not get to where we are going without going together. Jesus is with us.

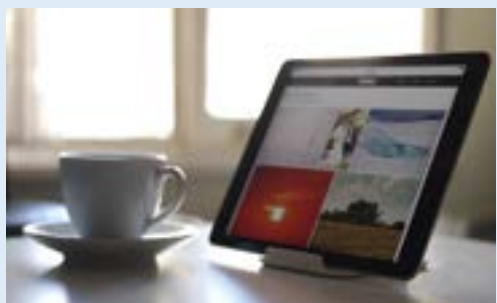
In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,  
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



## Food Bank Sunday - May 9

Food Bank donations **are still needed** and can be left in the grocery cart **in the Church foyer** or dropped off **directly** to the Neighbor Aid Food Bank located at 4524 54 Street in Camrose, Monday to Friday from 9:00 am - Noon & Tuesday to Thursday 1:00-4:00 pm.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and can be made online at [atbcares.com](http://atbcares.com) by entering **CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID CENTER INC.** in the Find A Cause search area.



## Wednesday Morning Coffee Fellowship

While we are unable to meet in person we will have a virtual Wednesday Morning Coffee Fellowship through Zoom from 11:00 am - Noon. Please email the office at [office@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto:office@messiahcamrose.ca) to register to receive the Zoom link.

## Council Highlights

Messiah will re-open for in-person worship on May 16 under the guidelines put in place by the Province. If you wish to attend, you will need to pre-register with the office (780 672-3444 or email [office@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto:office@messiahcamrose.ca)) so that we can keep our attendance numbers in line with the regulations. See pages 10-12 of this Messenger for more information

The Worship Committee has strategies in place and volunteers willing to ensure that procedures are followed to keep us as safe as possible. Services will continue to be available on cable and You Tube. This is our current hope and plan, but of course if Covid-19 restrictions change, we will comply and let you know of any change of plans. Meanwhile, stay safe.

We look forward to going ahead at last with a Confirmation service in June for those who would normally have completed their program and been confirmed in 2020. Pastor Bev has continued to meet with the group on occasion throughout the past year to keep them connected.

A big thank you goes out to the generous and gifted volunteers on the Worship Team for their contributions to our on-line services.

We were excited to hear more from Pastor Bev about the discernment process being planned for over the coming year. Everyone will have the opportunity to engage in a process designed to help us listen together for God's guidance - for how God wants to work through us in the future. As Pastor Bev noted, this is a process that requires commitment, patience, prayer, deep listening, and letting go of our attachment to our own preconceived outcomes. Much more information will be coming in the weeks ahead. Meanwhile, it is not too soon to begin to pray and to open ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit through this process.

Ministering on-line has been challenging, but it has also opened new channels of learning and connection. One thing that has become clear is that people who have participated in the various Zoom-based studies, Lenten studies and Alpha want more! Recognizing this need for ongoing learning and community, Pastor Bev and Donny Loewen are looking into new opportunities.

Thank you to the members of the Budget Task Force who will be meeting over the next few months to review and make recommendations regarding Messiah's budget.

As we were reminded in the opening devotion, we need to wholeheartedly seek God's wisdom at all times. How is God working through us now in spite of all that seems to have gone awry?



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

*A reminder that the Hymn Sing's, recorded last year, can still be found at these links:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXt4tnCMo1I>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmTjWRkP4Ok>



## Treasurer's Update

In my last messenger article from November, 2020, I described to you the financial situation our church has been in, not just this year, but for the last four or five years. Most of my monthly short updates in the Messenger since that time have continued to show the same trend: expenses which are higher than donations and income received. It appears certain that MLC will again be in deficit position at the end of April, our budget year end.

Clearly, we cannot continue to operate the church this way.

Our Church Council has struggled with this problem. Some of the answers seem good, but might be hard to implement or the outcome would not be certain. Other answers lead to making some difficult changes to reduce our spending.

Three main actions (or activities) are now occurring to address this issue:

1. A new budget for the upcoming 2021-2022 year has been drafted for approval at the next General Congregational meeting in June. This will be a "deficit budget". It means that the Council is trying to present a realistic picture of what our finances will look like if we continue doing things as we have in the past.
2. A small group of MLC members has been asked to review various options the Executive & the Council have come up with, see if there are other options, and make recommendations to the Council before September 13, 2021. We ask that you prayerfully support this group as they deliberate, and prayerfully consider what you think is best for the congregation.
3. A larger, more long-term, discernment process has been started. Pastor Bev indicates that discernment is the process of listening for the guidance of God in our midst. The details of this process will evolve over the next few months, and the process itself will occur over the next year. Please watch for more details and be ready to get actively involved.

Philippians 4:6 comes to mind sometimes these days, and when it does not come to mind, is probably when its advice needs to be followed again.

I wish you God's peace,  
Chris Hohm,  
Treasurer

**Regular offerings for the month of March were very close to budget, about \$31,000. Easter special donations started to come in March, but we will not know the total until after publishing of the Messenger. Our year-to-date deficit in total donations and revenue is now \$24,600. Expenses are \$8,000 lower than budget for the 11 months, for a net deficit of \$17,800.**

### March 2021 Financial Notes (11 Months)

Offerings and other receipts	\$361,387
Budgeted	\$385,963
Expenses	379,139
Budgeted	\$387,093
Net Deficit	-17,752
Designated offerings	53,600



## Another Note From the Treasurer

Hi Everyone! I wanted to take a moment and tell you about a little project I have started. Over the last few months the Church Council has been trying to find ways to improve the church's financial position. A big part of this process is to keep you informed each month as to the increasing deficit we have.

Another part of that process is to make sure that the spending each committee does is well thought through and carefully tracked. Each Committee develops a budget around this time of year, which should then be followed in the forthcoming year. Receipts for costs incurred by committees get brought to the office where they are paid and recorded so that monthly financial reports can be created. And the financial reports, of course, help us understand the sources income and how it is spent.

How can you help? If you have made a purchase on behalf of the church, please make sure that the committee chair responsible for the spending receives the documents (receipts probably). Committee chairs need to approve the expenses of their committee and do this by completing an Expense Approval Form, which then goes to the office with the other documents. By the way, there is an Expense Approval Form currently being used and available at the church office: we are looking into ways to improve it.

A significant goal of this process is that by the time Expense Approval Form and supporting documents get to the church office for payment, our bookkeeper should have all of the information needed to quickly make the payment. Another goal is to ensure that the committees have a clear understanding of the spending they are doing. A third goal is that the church council executive will be able to see the approval form with supporting documents and be able to sign off on the payment, confident that expenditures have been carefully thought through.

The preceding paragraphs have indicated the who, what, where, when and why of the process. The main thing I hope you get out of this article is to please make sure that if you make an expenditure on behalf of the church, take it (or have it delivered) to the appropriate committee so that it can be properly accounted for.



### **ROOF FUND UPDATE:**

**The revised goal is \$92,341.**

**Received as of April 25:**

**\$66,095**



# Messiah Lutheran Church

4810 – 50 Street, Camrose, AB T4V 1P5  
Phone 780-672-3444 Fax 780-672-3716  
office@messiahcamrose.ca www.messiahcamrose.ca

## In-Person Worship Resumes at Messiah on May 16, 2021

Messiah's Church Council met on April 21 and approved the Worship Committee's recommendation that the option to attend in-person worship resume on May 16, 2021.

We are fortunate to gather as a faith community through the broadcasting of our services on Eastlink Cable TV and through the live streaming of them on YouTube. Although we encourage you to continue worshipping virtually, if that is what best meets your needs, some people have been anxious for the option of worshipping together, in person.



To help ensure that our worshippers are as safe as possible we will follow the same guidelines that were implemented last the Fall. They include the following:

- Register your intent to attend by phoning or emailing the church. **Please do this each time you plan to attend** as we are currently limited to 15% of our fire code occupancy. That translates into 70 participants.
- Initially, we will only enter through the link doors and exit out the main door in the Narthex. This will be reviewed as attendance increases (refer to map on page 12).
- Arrive in plenty of time to be seated.
- Please use the hand sanitizer which will be at the entrance.
- Worshippers are required to wear a mask. Masks will be available at the entrance but you are welcome to wear your own.
- When arriving and leaving the church, please keep 2 metres apart from attendees that are not members of your household. Only every other pew will be used so an usher will lead you to a safe place to sit. At the end of the service an usher will guide dismissal beginning with the back pews on the west side.
- Upon entry into the sanctuary, offerings can be placed in an offering plate. Other options for giving include mailing in a cheque, completing an E-transfer (offering@messiahcamrose.ca), dropping off your donation at the office or arranging for automatic withdrawals through your bank.

**REGISTER TO  
ATTEND**



- Our worship team will provide music, but we ask that you not join in by singing aloud. Instead, we invite you to sing in your head, hum along, or meditate on the music. Hymnals will not be used. Worship folders will be distributed by the ushers.
- Share the “Peace of the Lord” by waving, nodding or bowing rather than with physical contact such as shaking hands, hugging or bumping elbows.
- The washrooms in the hallway to the Fellowship Centre will be open as will the one at the back of the sanctuary.
- Sunday School is scheduled to resume in September of 2021. Until then, children who are in attendance at worship are to be asked to remain, at all times, with their parent or guardian.

**Further safety guidelines that are outlined by Alberta Health include the following:**

- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19; with a history of international travel in the last 24 days; or with close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must remain at home.
- Do not attend if you are experiencing the most common symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat).
- If you are unsure about your health you are encouraged to use the online self-screening tool. Search for “COVID-19 Self Assessment for Albertans”.
- Those with underlying medical conditions and those over 65 years old should be aware that they are at higher risk of experiencing worse symptoms if they contract the virus.

**Whether worshipping in-person or virtually from home**

**we gather as one in the Spirit to worship and praise our Lord.**

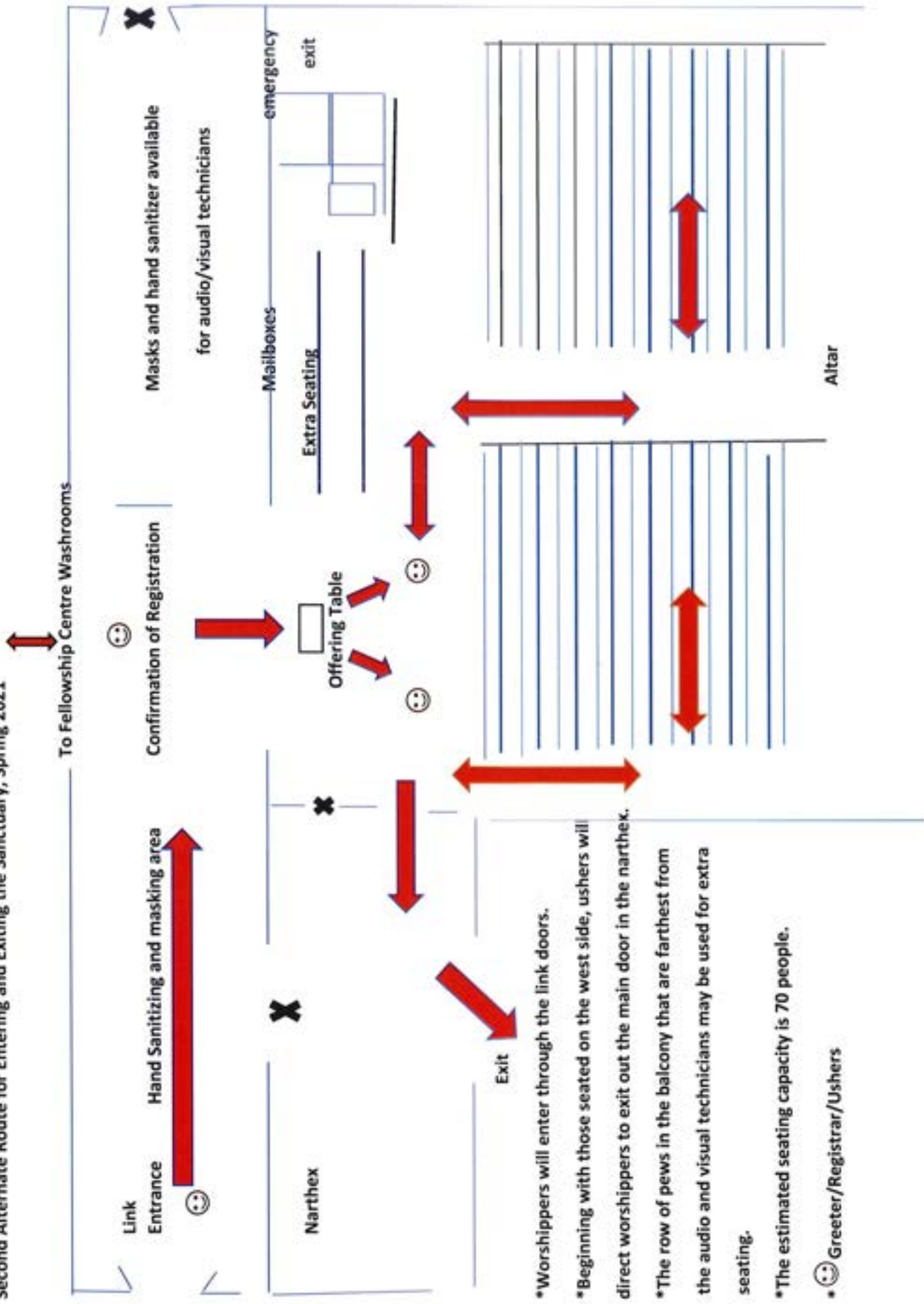
**Thanks be to God!**

***Sharing Jesus Christ with All People***





## Second Alternate Route for Entering and Exiting the Sanctuary, Spring 2021



\*Worshippers will enter through the link doors.

\*Beginning with those seated on the west side, ushers will direct worshippers to exit out the main door in the narthex.

\*The row of pews in the balcony that are farthest from the audio and visual technicians may be used for extra seating.

\*The estimated seating capacity is 70 people.

\*☺ Greeter/Registrar/Ushers

## Brief "Snippets" from the World Mission Scene

(1) An extract from the 2020-21 Annual Report of **Rev. Brian Rude**, in El Salvador:



"So, much of ministry has been via cellphone, Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, Instagram, gmail, Yahoo, YouTube from my own home and yard. "Worship life has changed dramatically, with an endless array of possibilities and opportunities to "join in," around the globe. There have been numerous invitations to participate, usually via ZOOM, though I had anticipated more:

- 1) Lutheran parish in Denmark
- 2) "Holy Cross" Lutheran parish in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 3) First ELC, Toronto
- 4) Camp Kuriakos, Sylvan Lake, AB
- 5) Bethel ELC, Camrose
- 6) Messiah ELC, Camrose
- 7) LCBI, Outlook, SK
- 8) "Care of Creation" team preparing worship materials for Lent, invited and led by Pr. Dave Saude
- 9) ABT Synod worship, meetings, fora, etc."

The complete seven-page Annual Report may be read at this site:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:70711b84-6fb6-4501-9196-e316d09fc686#pageNum=1>

(2) **Ryan (the pilot for MAF in Papua New Guinea) and Shiv Cole** report:



"The first flight of an MAF aircraft happened in May 1951, 70 years ago next month! We had planned many celebrations to mark such a milestone, but sadly COVID has gotten in the way. But we will still be doing some celebrations via social media and news outlets in PNG, to remind this country, which we are privileged to serve, just how long we (i.e. MAF) have been here for."

(3) **George and Susan Watts in Burundi** - an extract from a recent letter:

"We are about half-way through the season of Lent. A time for remembering, reflecting, repentance. Two weeks ago was the one year marker of the attack in our house. We had a service of remembrance and thanksgiving here with our team that was a very powerful and meaningful way to reflect on this event and its continuing impact.



"Susan continues at the feeding program, teaching and other things for our team and around our community.

"I, George, have a new role directing our construction projects. I am no longer managing the financial side, but am directly working with our construction team. It is facing daily problems, trying to solve them, and watching our talented team bring things to visible progress every day. And it's a lot of fun."

**Summary** by the undersigned of the ministries sampled above: God is at work in amazing ways among these folks whom He has called to be about the business of proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed on three different continents. May each be sustained spiritually, physically, mentally in their respective places of calling.

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In regard to financial support by Messiah members of two designated ministries, the gifts gathered in the financial year May 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 are:

In Mission with El Salvador: \$6,040 including \$2,000 bequest

Lutheran Schools in Colombia: \$1,600

April is the last month of the current financial year.

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***To God be the Glory!***

Ray Blacklock, on behalf of the World Mission Group

# NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

## CLWR's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

CLWR was founded on March 14, 1946. Its “principal purpose was to address the urgent need to supply material relief to the occupied zones of Germany and Austria.” CLWR had great success in collecting food and clothing and in raising funds. By May 28, 1947, CLWR had made possible the shipment of 142,403 pounds of used clothing to war-ravaged Europe.

However, as early as 1947, CLWR realized that aid was not a long-term solution and that efforts should be directed toward resettling ethnic Germans in Canada. CLWR joined with several other faith-based agencies to form the Canadian Christian Council for Resettlement of Refugees (CCCRR). By the time CCCRR operations ended in 1961, the organization had facilitated the immigration of an astounding 41,000 refugees to Canada.

One vital component of this success was the steamship, MS Beaverbrae, which



was received by Canada as a war compensation and then was turned over to the CCCRR for its transportation use. It completed 52 voyages, carrying a total of 33,259 passengers. Every time the Beaverbrae returned to Europe, it would be full of CCCRR's material aid and relief supplies. Besides bringing the immigrants to Canada, CLWR had an excellent record of finding placement work.

Some of the immigrants received a small loan from CLWR to help in resettlement. One such person was a man named Daniel Schickedanz who arrived in Canada aboard the Beaverbrae. In 1950, Daniel worked hard to pay back his \$265 loan within nine months of arriving in Canada. In 2020, to celebrate 70 years of living in Canada, he paid it forward by making a generous, \$1 million donation to the same organization that helped him discover his new home all those years ago.



## Connecting Through Creation

Zoom Connection Tuesdays, May 11 - June 15 at 7:00 pm.  
(May 25 we will not have a meeting.)



You are invited to join a Zoom connection with Pastor Bev Swanson.

We will spend time during this season of new life and growth focused spiritual reflections connected to nature as found in the scripture and song.

We will explore the Spirit's presence with us through creation as found in water, wind, trees and plants, birds and animals, the earth and sky.



There are many references to nature in scripture that connect to our daily lives and our relationship with our Lord. As we move through 5 weeks we will connect with our Creator in the gift of creation. This will be a devotional time with a invitation to see the world around you through the eyes of God's amazing Spirit.

I hope you join in this weekly one hour time of reflection and awareness of God's presence with us through nature. It is my hope that this is a life-giving experience for you. Please contact the office by phone at 780-672-3444 or by email at [office@messiahcamrose.ca](mailto:office@messiahcamrose.ca) to register to receive the Zoom link.

### 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.



### ***Eternity for Today***

#### ***Prayer booklets for***

***April to June 2021 are***

***available for pickup from  
the church office entry for a  
suggested donation of \$2.00***

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 is using the ZOOM program to meet virtually.. 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.



## **MESSIAH'S AUDIO-VISUAL TEAM NEEDS HELPERS**

We need help - please consider joining Messiah's Audio-Visual Team!

### **1) Screen Operators**

Skills needed: concentration, mouse and keyboard operation.

### **2) Camera Operators**

Skills needed: multi-window use, attention to visual detail, mouse and keyboard operation.

### **3) Sound Board Operators**

Skills needed: attention for aural detail.

If you don't have the skills listed, really the main thing we need is someone with a strong desire to learn and serve. We will provide training.

Please contact Rosanna if you are interested or have any questions: [rosannas@telus.net](mailto:rosannas@telus.net).

## **CAN WE HELP?**

**There is a group of people at Messiah who are available at NO cost to help with or do tasks for you...**

**changing light bulbs,**



**spring clean up outside,**

**or giving rides!**



**If there is small job that you would like help with or would like done, please phone**

**Messiah Lutheran Church at 780-672-3444**

**and leave a message with the receptionist.**

**You will receive a call back to set up a time to get together & make a plan.**



## April 24, 2021 Area Gathering Summary

On Saturday, April 24 people gathered from our Northern, West-Central and East-Central areas on Zoom. This was an opportunity to see one another from different congregations and to recognize that we are not alone as congregations but have many others who are struggling with similar issues and rejoicing over similar successes.

We began with a welcome and a brief time of worship lead by Bishop Larry. We then moved into a recorded presentation by author Susan Beaumont specifically for our Area Gatherings. Susan has written a book titled "How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You are Going" and her presentation focused on the content in this book and how it relates to our current state of the pandemic. Much of what we are experiencing is new and we don't know what "normal" will look like when the pandemic is over.



Susan talked about this time we are in as being "liminal" time – which is a time "in-between" – from a place that we have known, in a place where we are not sure where we are right now, into something that we very much do not know what it will look like. Our scriptures note many such times for the people of God: Noah, Abraham/Sarah, Joseph, the wilderness wandering, Jonah, Jesus (wilderness), Paul and Peter to name a few. Another example of a "liminal" time/space is an airport – that time between where we were to where we are going – though often we know where we are going... One more suggestion that Susan made follows the thinking of others where our own Church has been through other liminal times. It seems that about every 500 years the Church has seen major shifts between what was and what would be: Church beginnings at Pentecost; movement into the primary religion of the Roman Empire; split between the East and West; Reformation; and now... We have been seeing evidence of a shift in our decreasing attendance and falling numbers, especially in the last 30 or so years.

In this liminal time there are some important pieces that we need to attend to and realize and that takes a lot of work. First, this is not "change management". We don't know where we are going or how long this will take. As a result, we need to try to listen to God – and many of us are not sure on how to do that listening (we are unsure or suspicious of "revelation" that does not come completely from logic and measurement). Second, liminal time is often time of mixed emotions; Susan noted Ezra 3 where there was both praise and weeping over the foundations of the new temple.

In a liminal time there are opportunities that abound. There is the possibility for increased creativity. There is the opportunity for deepened and enlivened community. Often power structures are at least partially dismantled and decisions begin to be made in a more egalitarian way with more people having valuable input for the benefit of everyone. There is the necessity to rediscover what our core identity and purpose is. There is opportunity to shed what no longer fits.

While there are opportunities, there are also threats. Often people feel anxious in a liminal time and may begin to react in unhealthy ways. There will also be a degree of denial that change is happening or needed and some (many?) may actively resist any change. Another threat is the appearance of "tricksters". These are people (or ideas) that can be quite charismatic but incapable of living well in community. Tricksters often love chaos and do their utmost to maintain imbalance in a community.

It is not easy (to say the least) to determine what is a threat and what is an opportunity!

In a time of liminality it is important for leadership to lead with "presence". Traditionally leadership focuses on direction, protection and order (orienting people in roles, dealing with conflict, and maintaining the norms of an organization). But, in a liminal time these types of focus can be counter productive if not harmful. Instead, leadership needs to encourage people to move from thinking they know to realizing they *don't* know. Also, to help people move from *striving* to keep things the same to *yielding to the situation* (while not giving up). Leadership needs to encourage *attending* to what is coming to be instead of trying to maintain what has "proven" to work in the past. Leadership needs to be grounded in wonder and openness to the leading of God.

All of these things are important at any time, but often in good times the need for such positions diminishes in favor of a need to manage the good, busy, "successful" times. There is more to what Susan is suggesting but you will need to pick up the book to check it out. 😊

The presentation was followed by breakout sessions where people of the various Areas were gathered together for discussion on the presentation and how it might apply within our Area. In our Area, we recognized much of what Susan was talking about in our own situations. It was good to be "together" at least in this way to see and hear what others in our geographic area are experiencing, feeling and doing in these times.

(continued)



After the breakout, the Bishop spoke about the state of the synod as a whole and about what he has been hearing about from congregations in general. He began by thanking us for the care we show for each other in times like these. He showed a video of Rowan Atkinson (Mr. Bean) singing from Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony – the words were simply no longer there for him and he needed to improvise. Many of us are feeling similarly in our situations.

Questions raised by Bishop Larry: Where is God in our neighborhood and world? What will we need in the coming months? What kinds of things will we need to give up? Bishop Larry also encouraged us by suggesting that we may discover (or already have discovered) that we have more capacity than we were aware of for working collaboratively. He gave some examples from the Synod in the past year.

There is much opportunity in these times. Our society is reeling from many things: polarization, xenophobia, inadequate support for the most vulnerable and so on. The opportunity is that we have God with us and a way to speak about and share this with others that is lifegiving, life changing and healthy. We may be in a time of rediscovering our "core".

We listed together some of the biblical narratives that speak to this time. Psalm 137, 2 Corinthians, Nehemiah, Noah, Sabbath rest, road to Emmaus, Psalm 23, 40 year wilderness, Elijah/Elisha, Saul to Paul, Esther and others.

Some "stats". We've progressively moved over the last few years from 108 rostered leaders in 2009 to 63 rostered leaders in 2021 - 73% of which are in the 51-70 age range. Congregations are diminishing and needed to do things differently from before. It can be alarming.

Another suggested reading is a small book entitled "Becoming a Hybrid Church". This touches on possible changes in all areas of congregational life. If you are interested in reading this, please contact Pastor Calvin.

Bishop Larry also announced Lay Leaders Gatherings that will be similar to the Rostered Leaders Gatherings that currently happen on zoom. These Lay Leaders gatherings will start on June 1<sup>st</sup> and be on the first Tuesday of each month.

You – yes YOU – may register for time of prayer, reflection, information, encouragement and community at the Synod Office or on-line on the Synod website.

Peace of Christ be with you all.

Pastor Calvin Skriver

## NOW HIRING

**Camrose Neighbor Aid Center** works together with Churches and Community providing outreach programs to those residing in the County and Community of Camrose. Neighbor Aid is currently recruiting for the following position:

**Assistant Program Director**

We are looking for a person to fill a part time position, approximately 20 hours/week.  
Tues., Wed. & Thurs. afternoons (12 noon – 4:00 pm) plus one morning.

Flexible hours for additional coverage during food drives and coverage for the Program Director as required.

This position involves working with the Program Director in all areas of Neighbor Aid.

**Qualifications:**

- Strong commitment to service.
- Physical labor will be required.
- General Office duties: knowledge and ability to use a computer and communicate over the phone effectively.
- Ability to work as a team member and independently.
- Adaptability to change.
- The capability to work effectively with volunteers.
- Understanding in conflict resolution and crisis management.
- Ability to work in a multi program environment.
- Vulnerable sector Check is required
- Confidentiality is necessary.

Email your **Resume with 3 References** to: [chris@naticc.lyns.net](mailto:chris@naticc.lyns.net)

References to include: 1) Pastor 2) previous employers 3) volunteer positions or co-worker.

References from personal friends or family members will NOT be accepted. No phone calls.

**Closing date: May 7, 2023**

We thank all who apply; however, only those selected for consideration will be contacted.



**Camrose  
Neighbor Aid Center**

### Did you know?

- that there have been two ALPHA courses offered on Zoom through Messiah, each lasting for 11 weeks. The first session had 12 participants (plus leaders and committee members), from Calgary, Killam and Camrose area. It was a wonderful time of connection and some of the group continued on for the Advent devotions, then signed up for the second session of Alpha as well as participating in the Lenten series on Zoom, the study of Philippians, and joining the Wednesday morning coffee fellowship.

Some comments:

"....can't wait to come to your church and meet in person!"

"A truly blessed time together."

"This has helped me so much".

- that every four minutes a Mission Aviation Fellowship plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the world to assist missions, churches, aid and development agencies, and other local groups to transform lives and share the love of God? (Source: MAF website)

- that we received a hand written note from a member which read "The Easter service was really lovely - Thank you!"

- that we received an email that said "thank you for a beautiful and comforting message and music this 4th Sunday of Easter. A special thanks to Wyatt for his reading - so clear and easy to hear - and his creative delivery helps me really pay attention to the words! I love it when he reads."

- that as of Thursday, April 29 there were 299 views of the April 18 worship service on YouTube and 163 views of the most recent April 25 service!



# Messiah Lutheran Church

## *Sharing Jesus Christ with All People*

4810-50 St. Camrose AB T4V 1P5  
 Phone: 780-672-3444 Fax: 780-672-3716  
 Website: [messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca)  
 Email: [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 Church Council

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

<u>Members at Large:</u>	<u>Liaising With:</u>
Lael Olson	Worship Committee
Donny Loewen	Learning Committee
Dave Larson	Support Committee
Carolyn Andersen	Witnessing Committee
Vacant	Service Committee

**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!**



**Sunday morning in-person worship service will resume May 16 with pre-registration required for attendance.**

**We will continue to broadcast on Eastlink channels 10, 310 & 610.**

**Rebroadcast Wednesdays at 5:30 pm.**

**Our services are on YouTube. Search for MessiahCamrose. There is also a link for 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."**

## Messiah Messenger

Published 11 times a year  
 September to July

Also available online at: [messiahcamrose.ca](http://messiahcamrose.ca) under the Communications tab.










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 what is happening in our congregation.

**Next Issue: June 2021**  
**Material due: May 18**  
**Delivery date: May 28**

# MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> <b>9:00 Men's Bible Study</b> 
<b>2 Easter 5</b> <b>10:30 Worship Service</b> 	<b>3</b> <b>2:00 World Mission Group by Zoom</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>9:30 Worship Committee Meeting</b> <b>11:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom</b> 	<b>6</b> <b>11:45 Staff Meeting</b>  <b>6:45 Confirmation by Zoom</b> 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 Men's Bible Study</b> 
<b>9 Easter 6 Food Bank Sunday</b> <b>10:30 Worship Service</b> 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>4:00 Service Committee</b> <b>7:00 Connecting Through Creation by Zoom</b> 	<b>12</b> <b>11:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom</b> 	<b>13</b> <b>11:45 Staff Meeting</b> <b>3:30 Learning Cmt</b> <b>5:15 Witnessing Cm</b> <b>6:45 Confirmation by Zoom</b> 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>9:00 Men's Bible Study</b> 
<b>16 Ascension of Our Lord</b> <b>10:30 Worship Service</b> 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <div style="border: 2px solid magenta; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Messenger Articles Due</b> </div> <b>7:00 Connecting Through Creation by Zoom</b> 	<b>19</b> <b>11:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom</b> 	<b>20</b> <b>11:45 Staff Meeting</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Pentecost Sunday</b> <b>10:30 Worship Service</b> 	<b>24 Victoria Day OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>NO Connecting Through Creation by Zoom</b>	<b>26</b> <b>11:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom</b> 	<b>27</b> <b>11:45 Staff Meeting</b>	<b>28</b> <div style="border: 2px solid magenta; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Messenger Delivery</b> </div>	<b>29</b>
<b>30 The Holy Trinity</b> <b>10:30 Worship Service</b> 	<b>31</b>					