



MESSIAH MESSENGER

September 2021

Volume 42 Issue 8

Fall Blessings



Worship Schedule Sunday 10:30 am

*In-person worship: We are recommending masking
and physical distancing at this time.*

Services are broadcast on YouTube, search for
MessiahCamrose or find a link on our website
messiahcamrose.ca.

We also broadcast on Eastlink TV channels
10, 310 and 610 on Sunday at 10:30 am

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

Office Hours EFFECTIVE August 30

Monday to Friday
9:00 am to Noon
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

(Closed for lunch from 12:00–1:00 pm)

Church Foyer

Will be open during the noon hour
and offerings can be placed
through the mail slot on the
inside office door.



As we enter into this time where we do not know what direction we will go, we turn our eyes to the one who guides us and who knows our next step.

We do not need to know where we are going if the Lord is leading us. We only need the next step. We truly like to know how the story is going to end.

We want to know because that feels safer but what could be more safe than putting our lives into the hands of the one who loves us dearly?

In a way, we do know just how our story ends for we are brought to be with God when our time on this earth is over.

But along the way we really don't know what the path will look like do we?

At Messiah we are entering into a new time. It is a time of the "in between". It is a time where we open to where God might be guiding us as we move forward.

We are not promised a map that tells us what is around each bend in the road. What we are promised is that God will guide us and love us and hold us on the journey.

We are promised that we are not alone and will never be left alone.

In Proverbs 3:5-6 we hear these words which are wonderful words as we enter into the fall season, opening to what is new.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight" NIV

I looked at all the different versions for this passage and each of them ends the passage in a different but helpful way.

I found the translation for the Good News Bible to be particularly important for us to hear.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the LORD in everything you do, and he will show you the right way" (Good News)

Indeed we so often want to enter into unknown times relying on what WE know... when truly we need to blindly trust that God is indeed with us and will show us the way forward.

We need to pray and ask God for guidance.

And so, let us enter into these next days and months... with anticipation for where the Lord

wants to guide us.

Let us be in this empty space of "not knowing" and with trust in the Lord, enter into each new day knowing that God has it all in hand.

I, for one, am excited for how God will lead us and guide us here at Messiah as we enter into each new day... knowing that the call on each day is always to love God's people and to share God's love with all we meet.

So as we look far ahead... we take today's step trusting in our Lord to lead and guide us.

As we take our daily steps forward... we will also be guided into the paths that we need to take in the future.

There is an old hymn which really speaks to this. Lead Me Guide me. Along the way...

Lead Me Guide Me

***Lead Me Oh Lord Won't You Lead Me
I Am Tired And I Need Thy Strength And
Power
To Guide Me Over My Darkest Hour
For Just Open My Eyes That I May See
Lead Me Oh Lord Won't You Lead Me***

***Lead Me Guide Me Along The Way
For If You Lead Me I Cannot Stray
Or Just Open My Eyes That I May See
Lead Me Oh Lord Won't You Lead Me***

***I Am Lost If You Take Your Hand From Me
I Am Blind Without Thy Light To See
Lord Just Always Let Me Thy Servant Be
Lead Me Oh Lord Won't You Lead Me***

***Lead Me Guide Me Along The Way
For If You Lead Me I Cannot Stray
Lord Just Open My Eyes That I May See
Lead Me Oh Lord Won't You Lead Me***

***Source: Musixmatch
Songwriters: Doris Akers
Lead Me, Guide Me lyrics © Chappell &
Co. Inc., Chappell & Co., Inc.***

I, for one, am so grateful that we have the Lord at the helm of our ship as we journey forward.

Let us trust in the Lord to lead us and guide us.

Blessings...

Pastor Bev

Contact me at 780-678-7830 cell or email bev@breatheopenlove.com

Sunday School

Sunday School will begin on September 19th, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

We will begin upstairs with the congregation at 10:30 a.m. for a few minutes of worship together then proceed downstairs for the rest of our activities. (The alternate plan is to begin downstairs at 10:30 a.m. - if this is the case we will have a sign posted on each entry door.)

We will be continuing with our Sunday School Covid-19 safety measures we were using last time we were meeting since due to the age of our students they have not been vaccinated yet. Therefore we will continue sanitizing or washing our hands when we go downstairs, before snack, and as we leave Sunday School. We will continue to have our sitting-spot dots on the floor in our main room for spacing us appropriately during many of our activities, and for activities where we are closer together children grades 4 and up will wear masks.

Our Sunday School teachers this year are Stephanie Enright, Kelly Moseson, Maria Skriver, and me (Michelle Kennedy Hawkins). Also continuing in her much appreciated work as our registrar and curriculum manager is Loretta Foshaug. I am extremely grateful for these talented teachers and organizers who not only are not only a fun, creative, and dynamic team who are wonderful with the children, but also are amazingly good at adjusting plans "on the fly" as we have needed to be very flexible and adaptable not only with various Covid regulations, but also with never knowing until we get started each Sunday morning how many children of which ages will be present.

Finally, I want to extend a huge, heartfelt thank you to Darlene Dahle and Cheryl Nester who have been a true blessing to our Sunday School team for many years. Their teaching skills, wisdom, and support have been exceptional and deeply appreciated. They are both retiring from regular Sunday School teaching this year, but I know they are providing vital help and leadership in other parts of our church. Thank you to Emma Gjesdal for being our song leader for our Sunday School opening for the last few years. She made our start up time each week very fun and joyful!

Watch our Facebook page for updates about the start of our Sunday School 2021-2022 season, and for updates throughout the year. Search for Messiah Camrose Sunday School on facebook. Also, if you're on our email list, watch for emails from messiahcamrosesundayschool@gmail.com as we will have some updates about the schedule for classes coming soon. If you have any questions, you can email me at mkennedyhawkins@gmail.com

New and returning families, welcome to Messiah Camrose Sunday School 2021-2022!!!!

Michelle Kennedy Hawkins





Bishop's Message For Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders



Dear Beloved of God -

("On the Road" – Luke 24:13-35. This is an abridged version of my verbal report at Synod Convention. The report in its entirety is available in video

format on the synod website: albertasynod.ca)

Over the past several months, I have been doing a lot of reflection on the significance of the idea of "synod," which comes from Greek and combines the ideas of "together" (*syn*) and "on the way" (*hodos*).

Jesus himself used this term *hodos* when speaking about himself as "the way." Early Christians were often referred to as *hodos* as well: "followers of the way." So we can say that being "synod" – not the periodic church business meetings, but rather, people called to be on the move with others – is foundational to what it means to follow Jesus.

For some time, being Church was rather static and solo. The Church of Establishment sometimes didn't move to be where God was doing a new thing, because it thought it had it all contained inside. The Church of Dominance sometimes didn't walk the way with others as genuine fellow travelers, because it thought it was already at the destination and was simply waiting for those others to catch up.

Both of these distortions have caused great harm to our neighbours, and to the church community itself.

I believe we are at the point where the people of God are going to have to get out on the land again, to move to places we do not know, and to find new and unexpected travel partners. If the Church does these things, I am confident we will meet the transforming and life-giving Spirit of

Jesus there again and anew ... as on the road to Emmaus.

We have been drawn into this journey by the power of the Holy Spirit, who creates, reconciles, and renews us; who nurtures our lives and fosters our witness as people of faith, as congregations, as specialized ministries, as Synod, and together as ELCIC; who steers our hearts, minds, and actions towards reconciliation with God, with others, among ourselves, and with God's good creation.

Like those first disciples on the road, we are called into new journeys, asked to shift, to let go, to leave behind ... so that we can open up our lives for the transforming presence of God in our world, sharing the gifts of new life as we receive them through Christ. And therefore, we have hope.

This is, I believe, one of the most powerful gifts we can offer to our time: hope. A hope that is not only waiting for the new to come into our lives and our world, but a hope that knows all of this is already present in our world in the gift of Jesus Christ.

Beloved of God, if we have a reason to hope, it is because all that we expect to still happen has already happened in Bethlehem, at the cross in Golgotha, and in Christ's resurrection.

As we gather online, we are still in the thick of it. Not only the pandemic, but also as Diana Butler Bass writes in her latest book, *Freeing Jesus*: "We live in a time of disruptions, deconstruction, and dislocations, of political chaos, climate crisis and global pandemic. Yet we are still called to go on journeys to unexpected places, get lost, get found, and continue farther down the road." (xxvi)

Recently, at a meeting of the Council of the Lutheran World Federation, one council member described this time as one with "a deficit of hope and a surplus of fear."

(continued)

I call upon you, our Synod, to let our witness be one of hope. A witness that frees and empowers, that lifts yokes of oppression and imposed burden, that releases hope, and never fear or hate. A Synod of generosity, a people of gratitude. Freely we have received, freely we shall give as we proclaim the good news of Christ and of God's ongoing work; as we stand with and receive from suffering neighbors; and as we tend God's gift of creation.

If we are on the road, as the disciples travelled with Jesus, where is our road taking us? To our homes? Into the world? Our neighbourhood? Our community? Where is the road taking our

Synod? The ELCIC?

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

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)



Pastoral Acts

(up to August 27, 2021)

Funerals

Elvera Millang

Bernice Bolding

Dick Clemens

Baptism

Rozie Dawn Pollom

Gifts Received

Memorials

Norma Branes

Agatha Harder

Douglas Hawkins

Elvera Millang

Grete Olson

Special Gifts Given

In thanks for Pastor

Calvin's Ministry

New Members

Randy & Donna Pollom

Welcome Back

Ellalynn Thygesen

Transferred in

Judy Engen



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
AND THE
TERRITORIES**
Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

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***Spirit-Led
Leadership***

***Hope-Filled
Discipleship***

***Innovative
Tradition***

***Collaborative
Partnerships***

August 24, 2021

Dear Beloved of God –

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

In these final days of August, I am deeply aware of the approach of fall and the fact that some congregations in our Synod have already moved to in-person worship while many others are planning to begin in person some time in September. Each decision has been made with careful conversation between council and pastoral leadership, and many continue to follow the "June 2021 Stage 1: Guidance for Places of Worship" distributed by our provincial government. This Guidance is available on the Synod website: albertasynod.ca – Our Resources/COVID 19/In-Person Worship.

At this time, with respect to any in-person gatherings, for meetings and worship, I strongly encourage being vaccinated and continued use of masks, physical distancing, and careful sanitization.

In all situations, err on the side of love for your neighbour.

As you lean into the future, consider some important questions:

- Once back in the building, should online worship continue? If not, who will be excluded? If so, what should it look like?
- Online financial stewardship—how can it be encouraged and supported?
- How do we assess how life has changed for our neighbours and community? How do we care for our community and congregation?
- How can online access be used to expand small groups?
- How can we collaborate and work in partnership for online worship? for study? for service? for ministry?
- What does online access to resources and activities allow us to dream of doing—beyond what we were capable of before this reality?

Your conversation should include every aspect of congregational life. Being a congregation in this time means rethinking every aspect of life and ministry; it means moving forward to a new place where we very intentionally ask what we can do to make post-pandemic church life fresh and effective . . . a new creation.

Whatever your congregation determines regarding in-person gatherings, be assured that as your Bishop, I will support your decision, and that together as synod staff, we will seek to assist you as we journey forward.

A helpful resource as in-person worship begins, or continues, in your context, is the ELCA's "Re-Gathering Rite" which can be used or adapted for congregational usage. It is available on the Synod website: albertasynod.ca – Our Resources/COVID 19/Worship Resources.

Thank you for your resiliency, your faithfulness, and the deep care you have shown. This is what it means to equip, empower, and engage God's people to love and serve. You have all been witnesses to what we can do when we are church together and church for the sake of the world.

I recognize the weariness I see on many of your faces. But know that even in our weariness, the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honour each other. Welcome moments of joy; make space for lament. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey in the wilderness and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Continue in prayer: for those who are isolated or lonely, for our congregations, rostered leaders, lay leaders, for our specialized ministries, for the vulnerable in our midst, for those suffering from COVID-19, for all grieving losses of any kind, for those who are burdened with additional work and those who are unemployed or underemployed, for provincial leaders, for emergency workers, doctors, nurses, and essential workers who are bearing the burden of this pandemic, and for students and teachers.

My support, prayers, and thanks accompany you. May God bless us and strengthen us to be the church we are called to be.

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,



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



Report on the 2021 Convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories

This year's convention took place on Saturday, July 17th. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, delegates met virtually using the platform Lumi with Zoom integration. At the midday check-in there were 64 rostered participants, 42 lay delegates, and 22 guests. The day opened with a worship service and ended with worship, music, and communion. Throughout the day, there were videos showcasing different ministries and programs supported by the synod.

Missions Priorities

The convention focused on the 4 mission priorities:

SPIRIT-LED LEADERSHIP is characterized by trust in the Holy Spirit who “calls us through the Gospel, enlightens us with gifts, sanctifies and keeps us in true faith.”

HOPE-FILLED DISCIPLESHIP is expressed through ministries which embrace the diversity of all participants and the unity of the body of Christ working together for the glory of God.

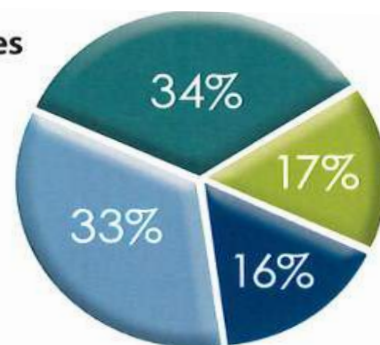
INNOVATIVE TRADITION is embraced and uplifted as an expression of God at work in and through the Synod.

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS reflect the communion of saints and the interconnected nature of the Triune God as witness to the restoration, redemption and reconciliation of the world.

Finances

The Synod's 2021 budget of **\$685,000** supports ministries carried out under the umbrella of four Mission Priorities.

Spirit-Led Leadership – 34%
Hope-Filled Discipleship – 17%
Innovative Traditions – 16%
Collaborative Partnerships – 33%



Last year's benevolence was down by \$45,000 but was made up by government subsidies and reduced travel expenses due to Covid. This year we need \$40,000 of Additional Benevolence to balance the budget. See a detailed description of the budget in Appendix 1.

Bylaws and Constitution Updates

Minor changes to the bylaws were passed (97.3%), and minor constitutional changes were approved (100%) but require a second reading in three years to pass.

For a full list of constitutional and bylaw changes, please see Bulletin of Reports, Section D, pages D30-D64 at <https://albertasynod.ca/abt-synod-2021>.

Elections

Alberta Synod Council Chair: Deacon Karen Wedman from St. Paul, Ellerslie in Edmonton. (Current Chair, Wayne Street, removed himself from the running requesting time to take care of his health.)

East-Central Area Council Representatives: Rev. Deborah Ann Taylor (from Bethel in Camrose) and Shae Belanger (from Scandia in Armena)

East-Central Delegates to the 2022 National Convention: Darlene Dahle, Shae Belanger, Rev. Craig Wentland, and Rev. Eleanor Ness.

For details about all elections, see Appendix 2

Bishop's Report:

Bishop Larry reflected on the theme of the convention: "On the Road", expressing his gratitude for the creativity, energy & hard work of the congregations, synod staff, and partner churches during the pandemic. He pointed out ways people were able to connect during this "liminal time" via area Zoom calls, synod-wide online services, and implementation of safe services as directed by Alberta Health. He expressed optimism for the path of our church in these changing times and reminded us to reflect on the positive lessons the pandemic has taught us... resilience, compassion, innovation, healing and to rely on God for strength and guidance.

Missions

We received a virtual greeting from Ata Hernández – Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Colombia. He and Bishop Larry virtually affirmed and signed a covenant of partnership for 2021-2027.

Pastor James Hendricksen recognized Pastor Brian Rude's work in El Salvador over the last 33 years and his upcoming retirement at the end of August. There will be a Zoom retirement party for him on his final day of work, August 31st, 2021. Pastor Rude plans to remain in El Salvador and continue to live out this ministry accompaniment there.

Recognition

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award was given to Pastor David "PD" Larsen.

26 pastors were recognized for Ordination Anniversaries in this three-year term. See Appendix 3.

Keynote Speaker

Karoline Lewis gave three presentations using the mission priorities of the synod to compare our lives during Covid and after with the time between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection with the early followers. These presentations and study guides are now available for anyone at <https://albertasynod.ca/abt-synod-2021>.

The entire 2021 Online Convention can be viewed on the *ABT Synod Office* YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zbk-H_K0bfg&ab_channel=ABTSynodOffice.

Respectfully submitted,
Delegates Sharon Gilbertson and Juanita Hohm
Youth Delegate Wyatt Mowat

Appendix 1: Budget Comparison

SYNOD OF ALBERTA AND THE TERRITORIES BUDGET 2022 AND COMPARATIVES

	Actual 2020		Budget 2021		Budget 2022	
REVENUE						
Congregation Benevolence	615,009		660,800		660,000	
Additional Benevolence Required					40,000	
Special and One Time Gifts	28,270		17,000		28,000	
National Convention Income 2022					33,750	
Government Subsidies	58,134					
Interest and Other	3,628		7,200		7,200	
	705,041		685,000		768,950	
EXPENSES						
National Church Support	140,400	19.91%	142,000	20.73%	140,000	19.04%
Seminary Support	104,000	14.75%	104,000	15.18%	104,000	14.15%
Ministry						
Canadian Mission	5,000	0.71%	5,000	0.73%	5,000	0.68%
Campus Ministry	65,500	9.29%	65,500	9.56%	65,500	8.91%
Communications	10,432	1.48%	10,900	1.59%	10,900	1.48%
Theological Education	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Ministry Teams and All Ministry Team Meeting	1,651	0.23%	2,000	0.29%	1,000	0.14%
Synod Council and Standing Committees	205	0.03%	15,000	2.19%	2,500	0.34%
Ecumenical Officers	99	0.01%	1,000	0.15%	800	0.11%
Synod Support						
Salaries & Benefits	222,135	31.51%	225,925	32.98%	282,400	38.41%
National Convention 2022					33,750	
Travel	11,425	1.62%	20,000	2.92%	20,000	2.72%
Casual and Contract	26,429	3.75%	26,000	3.80%	28,700	3.90%
Rent	21,000	2.98%	21,000	3.07%	21,000	2.86%
Office & Computer	11,002	1.56%	14,000	2.04%	10,000	1.36%
Professional Fees	24,813	3.52%	20,000	2.92%	25,000	3.40%
Telephone and Internet	7,721	1.10%	6,675	0.97%	7,500	1.02%
Stationary & Printing	7,279	1.03%	3,000	0.44%	6,500	0.88%
Insurance	1,351	0.19%	1,500	0.22%	1,500	0.20%
Bank Charges	1,773	0.25%	1,000	0.15%	1,500	0.20%
Postage & Delivery	408	0.06%	500	0.07%	1,400	0.19%
	662,623		685,000		768,950	

Appendix 2: Election Results

Synod Council

Chair: Deacon Karen Wedman

Treasurer: Paul Ellison

East Central Area: Shae Belanger , Rev. Dr. Deborah Ann Taylor

Northern Area: Heather Zirk , Pastor Heidi Wachowiak

Southern Area: Wendy Kalkan , Rev. Janice Whitelock

Southwestern Area: Nyajuok Kulang , Rev. Daranne Harris

West Central Area: Walter Goos , Rev. Fred Schneider

Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors

Laureen Wray

Rev. Kristian Wold

Delegates for National Convention 2022

Young Adult: Lydia Ungerer

East Central Area: Shae Belanger, Darlene Dahle, Rev. Eleanor Ness, Rev. Craig Wentland

Northern Area: Kim Goebel, Heather Zirk, Rev. Erin Thomas

Southern Area: Leah Steiner, Rev. Kathleen Calkins

Southwestern Area: Garth Hein, Laverne Rude, Rev. Kristian Wold, Rev. Dr. Tim Wray

West Central Area: no nominees

Appendix 3 – Ordination Anniversaries in 2018-2021

25 Years (1994-1996)

- Rev. Reginald Berg
- Rev. Faith Brace
- Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen
- Rev. David Melax
- Rev. Laird Borst
- Rev. Craig Wentland
- Rev. Bruce Zinken

40 Years (1979-1981)

- Rev. Horst Aechtner
- Rev. Doug Heine
- Rev. David Morck
- Rev. David Pettersen
- Rev. Timothy Posyluzny
- Rev. Ed Summers
- Rev. Ronald Flamand
- Rev. Orlow Lund
- Rev. Howard Mastin
- Rev. Kathleen Schmitke
- Rev. Martin Garber-Conrad
- Rev. Dale Olsen

50 Years (1969-1971)

- Rev. David Taeger
- Rev. Vernon Begalke
- Rev. Gary Nickel
- Rev. Gerald (Jes) Schienbein

60 Years (1959-1961)

- Rev. Daniel Berg
- Rev. James Chell
- Rev. Laverne Hoveland

*Appendix 1, 2, and 3 and all graphics are taken from www.albertasynod.ca

**MAY GOD BLESS YOUR
NEW SCHOOL YEAR
ABUNDANTLY!**



We are able to accept
E-transfers set up from your online
banking, that deposit directly, at the
following email address:

offering@messiahcamrose.ca



Volunteers Needed

As we have returned to a regularly scheduled worship service, Loretta Foshaug is preparing a schedule of volunteers to greet, usher, prepare for and serve communion. Thanks Loretta!

If you would like to volunteer for one of these roles, please phone or email the office (780-672-3444; office@messiahcamrose.ca). If you want to learn more about a particular volunteer opportunity, contact Loretta directly at (780-672-6852).

Another opportunity to serve is taking Holy Communion to the residents at Seasons Retirement Community. Prior to the pandemic this happened following the first communion service of each month. For more information call Pastor Bev Swanson.

Thank you.
Darlene Dahle
Worship Committee Chair



Food Bank Sunday - September 12

Food Bank donations **are still needed** and can be left in the grocery cart **in the Church foyer during the week** or **at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings** 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 by entering

CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID CENTER INC.

in the Find A Cause search area.





Farewell Pastor Calvin - Thank you for being our Shepherd!

Dear Messiah Members,

Thank you so much for all your support, willingness to serve, generosity, love and prayers for the last 5 years we have been with you. The farewell you had for us on August 22 was overwhelming. Thank you.

We pray for you as you discern where God is leading you into the future. Share Jesus always.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God look on you with favour and give you peace. Amen.

Pastor Calvin and Lori Skriver



News from the World Mission Scene

August 5, 2021

Greetings from George and Susan Watts

In Transition from Kibuye in Burundi to Kigali in Rwanda

Early in July, we made the incredibly difficult decision to move to Kigali, Rwanda. We were recently asked to consider joining an organization in Kigali that focuses on helping local businesses develop. *Karisimbi Business Partners* was started 12 years ago by three Christian friends from the US who felt called to use their skills in a place where they were most needed. I, George, will help to mentor and lead the Rwandan team at Karisimbi, and work with them to help Rwandan organizations impact communities and the region.

We are currently sorting, packing, trying to wrap-up work and trying harder to wrap our heads around the fact that in two weeks we will be leaving our home in Kibuye.

We travel to Bujumbura for COVID tests 2 days before we fly, have a 1-day quarantine in Kigali, which hopefully gets us to our new (temporary) home by Aug 23. With the land borders between Burundi/Rwanda still completely closed, flying is unfortunately the only option. We then have one week together before Matea and Micah fly back to Kenya, Alma starts her new school and George is fully engaged in his new role.

To answer a couple questions we've gotten:

- Yes, we are staying on with Serge, and Great Commission Foundation
- Financial support in the US continues in the same way through Serge, and support in Canada continues through Great Commission Foundation
- Yes - it's hard to leave this place and this work - but we feel confident this is what God is calling us to at this time

We are excited for what this next chapter may hold for us, while grieving leaving what we have here. Susan's work at the malnutrition program, my Burundian construction team, the community we have, and so many other things - are all things that we will never have the same again, and that warrants grief.

We are anticipating a lot of new things, big changes, and are excited about what God is going to bring into our lives.

Prayer Requests

- for protection as COVID infections are currently spiking in most parts of East Africa right now as Delta arrives in full force.
- that somewhere, somehow - our family would be able to access COVID vaccines
- PRAISE - that the Burundian Min of Health just announced they will accept the free vaccines offered to them. Hopefully they will arrive soon (so far the country has a 0.0% vaccination rate)
- for Jonah as he starts his second year of University back in Edmonton. His first year was online/isolated - so we're praying that he'll find ways to get involved, meet some good friends etc.
- for the logistics of our move - so many things can go wrong even with a simple move like this and even more so right now.
- for our hearts - that amidst all the hustle of the next few weeks, all the moving, changing, good-byes, and new things that we would stay centered on Jesus, the author and completer of faith

Thanks for your continued prayers!

George & Susan

Jonah, Matea, Micah & Alma



Back left: Jonah; Centre back: George; back right: Micah
Susan (Mrs. Watts) between Jonah and George
Matea to the right, and Alma in front.

(Submitted by Ray Blacklock on behalf of the World Mission Group)

Further News from the World Mission Scene

1. In a few days, **Rev. Brian Rude will retire** from his official connection with the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. A special "Thank you" event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on the 31st. Your World Mission Group has already recorded and sent to the Synod Office a message acknowledging his 30+ years of service and witness in El Salvador. The Synod Office will be making available a day or so before the event on the 31st a link by which interested people may participate in the event.



The World Mission Group hereby extends sincere thanks to the many who have financially supported Rev. Rude's ministry over the years. Some of you gave on a monthly basis, some once per year, and others as you felt moved to give. Each gift was blended with others' gifts from across Canada, the US, and elsewhere to support "In Mission with El Salvador."

Official retirement does not mean that Rev. Rude is concluding the ministry to which he was called. Not at all. He is staying on in El Salvador and will continue to do that which he still feels called to do, be a witness there to our Lord through word and deed. Therefore The World Mission Group will continue to pray for him, and other Messiah members are encouraged to do so also.

When Brian is back in Camrose for a visit, it is anticipated that Messiah will honour him in an appropriate face-to-face manner.

2. Your continuing prayers are encouraged for **Connie Landstrom** who recently suffered from a broken right femur (upper leg) and broken shoulder in an unfortunate fall. "O Lord, grant mercy, patience, and thorough healing!" During the coved pandemic, Connie has been waiting for the opportunity to return to **Tanzania** to continue the Bible teaching which she has been doing for a month or two each year for several years.



3. The **World Mission Group** will resume its monthly meetings at 2:00 p.m. on the first Mondays of each month, with an exception in its very first meeting. In acknowledgement of Labour Day, the September meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 7**. The meeting will be via ZOOM. The first meeting of this season will be a good time to explore who the Group is and what it does. Therefore, contact Ray

Blacklock @ 780-672-7902 or e-mail raynorblack@gamil.com to obtain the link for the ZOOM meeting.

Jesus says, "Go into all the world..." (Matthew 28).

The "world" starts in Camrose, and extends to wherever the Spirit leads!

Ray Blacklock
Chairperson, WM Group

NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

JOIN IN CELEBRATING CLWR'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY ON **CLWR SUNDAY 2021**

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

**Morning worship service will highlight the work of CLWR.
Envelopes will be available for a special CLWR offering.
Cheques given at the service should be made out to Messiah.**



The ELCIC and CLWR are asking for prayers and donations to assist Haiti following the earthquake and tropical storm. There are several ways to donate. You can make a designated offering donation for "CLWR Haiti Crisis" in an offering envelope with the cheque made out to Messiah OR call CLWR at 1-800-661-2597 to donate by credit card OR go online at <https://clwr.org/Haiti> OR mail a cheque made payable to CLWR to CLWR, 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5. Please indicate that your contribution is to "Haiti Crisis."

Men's Bible Study is Starting Again



When? Saturdays, beginning September 11,
9:00 to 10:15 am

Where? Via ZOOM (call the church office for the link.)

What? To study the lessons which will be highlighted at the next day's worship service.

Reading Material? Copies of the lessons are provided ahead of time.

Leaders? Some men take turns as leaders, others join in as they wish.

All Men Are Welcome!!

MLW

Greetings,

Summer is passing quickly and we must make MLW decisions for the fall. I will arrange a time for meeting with the circles and the Executive.

'Food for Thought' - Will we be able to continue our quilting? There are many, many quilt tops to be put together and tied. Where do we send them when they are done?

How will our MLW look as we learn to cope with the virus? Will we just have our Bible Study Circles?

Should we let outside (authorized) caterers do funeral lunches as they are trying to run a business in these difficult times? This too has changed. We may not have enough ladies to take this function on now. I know I would like to quit.

If you have any suggestions please e-mail me at broenmary05@gmail.com or 780-672-3442.

Now we want you to know about the garage sale held on July 1, 2, 3 at Messiah. The proceeds were \$3,100.40. Of which \$2,790.40 was given to Messiah where needed and \$310.00 to The Hospice Society of Camrose and District. We try to give some to a local charity as the local people support us.

Now sometimes we think about leftovers from the sale. Here is what we did. This is the 'Rest of the Story!!'

We separated the leftovers into different items distributed as follows: Habitat Restore; Camrose Thrift Store; Grateful Grannies; The Refugee Centre; The Railway Station; Emergency Clothing Depot; Diabetic Bins; Augustana give and take fall program (to be delivered); CLBI garage sale; and an individual.

A special thank you to Messiah Council for giving us the green light to go ahead with the sale, especially in these confusing times. Thank you to all the people who donated their treasures in such a short time, and to all the purchasers.

A very special thank you to the Ladies and Men who helped set up and worked all the days to make our sale a success. Couldn't do it without you.

Mary Broen MLW



Financial Report



I am happy to report good news as we begin our new fiscal year.

A review of member donations for May to July, the first quarter of our year, shows that envelope and related giving is about the same as last year. Our faithful members have continued their support of our congregation even though we have been through more than a year of not gathering together. These donations are Messiah's primary source of income, and critical to our continuing operations.

We are happy that Messiah has received a generous donation from the estate of Arlene Person. Under existing policy this would be added to one of the Mission Endowment Funds, but we are holding it in a reserve fund while the endowment fund policies are being reviewed. More on that below.

Recently we were advised that Norma Branes has also named Messiah to receive a generous donation from her estate. Messiah continues to be blessed by the generous provisions that many members make in their wills to support our mission after they have passed on.

Faithful members have made special donations to cover most of the cost of the recent roof repairs. Now we can celebrate that these costs are completely covered. Church Council has decided that a portion of the Norma Branes bequest will be used to cover the amount remaining to reach the goal. This is being done with the agreement of Norma's executor, as being consistent with the provisions of her will. We don't know how soon these funds will be received, but are confident they are coming. As of August 15 the amount remaining to be raised was \$17,217. Thanks to all who have helped to cover the total goal of \$92,431.

But, we still have concerns about our budget. The annual report for 2020-21 reported that there have been deficits in each of the past four years, for a total of \$127,000. There were reserved funds to cover these shortfalls, but these have almost been depleted. It has been agreed that this cannot continue, and we need to balance our budgets going forward.

In June, the annual meeting approved a budget with a further deficit of \$ 45,738, but with an understanding that this would need to be revised. Currently having one Pastor will make a difference, and is one of the factors that Church Council will look at in examining options for how to balance our income and expenses. Please pray for Council as these deliberations continue.

One of the other things happening is a review of the Mission Endowment Fund and Panoptic Endowment Fund. Council is considering suggestions about how these funds are structured and invested, and will likely have recommendations for the congregation this fall. These funds were created by the congregation at annual meetings, and a congregational meeting would be required to change them. One item being considered is the present policy of adding all bequests that are not designated for another purpose to one of these funds. There is a suggestion that they might rather be held in a special Bequests Reserve Fund to be available for special or unexpected projects rather than permanently invested. This was how they were managed before 2005, when the Mission Endowment Fund was established. Another item being considered is how these funds are invested. At present they are in GICs, which pay a very low level of interest. There have been discussions with ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada) which pools the investments of many Lutheran congregations and institutions for investment. While their name still says Eastern Canada they now have congregations participating all across the church. Members can expect to hear more sometime this fall.

This is my first report as treasurer. It has been interesting to learn more about Messiah's budget and accounting. Many thanks to council members, former treasurers, office staff and others for their helpfulness with my many questions. I hope that you will contact me if you have any questions or concerns about Messiah's finances. I would be happy to talk to you.

Dave Stolee, Treasurer

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.

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,



fall 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.



LOCK UP VOLUNTEERS

The Support Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with evening lock up checks of the Church. It requires a commitment of one evening per week and takes about 20 minutes to complete. Contact the office if this is something you can assist with at 780-672-3444. If you would like more details on this opportunity to serve, speak with Ron Foshaug.



Wednesday Coffee Fellowship



**You are invited to participate either in the Fellowship Centre or outside on the lawn - depending on the weather.
Every Wednesday at 10:00 am**



Lectio...Journeying Through Prayer

is planning to resume on Monday, September 13.

This group is for those of you who love to sit together in silence and hear the Word, sharing together how this word reaches into your hearts and souls.

Gather with us in the Nursery every Monday morning at 10:30 am.

This is not a closed group.

You may come and go as your schedule allows.

All are welcome. Masking and physical distancing are recommended.

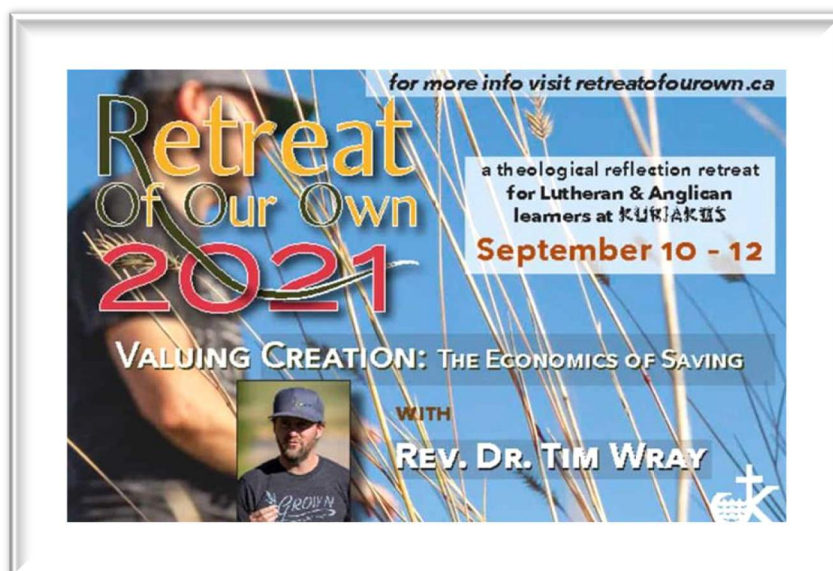
For more information call Jane at 780-672-7982.

Registration is now open for the **2021 Retreat of Our Own!** This year's retreat will be held in person at Kuriakos, **September 10-12**, following Covid-safe guidelines in effect in September.

The speaker, Rev. Dr. **Tim Wray**, will explore the intersections of climate change, farming, theology, and salvation in his theme, "Valuing Creation: The Economics of Saving." This retreat is open both to lay people and clergy; attendees tend to be Lutheran, but this is not a requirement.

More information about the Retreat, including registration instructions, can be found on the Retreat of Our Own website, <https://www.retreatofourown.ca/>.

Questions may be directed to the organizers, Joe Stolee (joestolee@shaw.ca, 403-478-9684) and Pamela Giles (pamelagiles@shaw.ca, 306-717-1209).



Celebration of Life

Verna Margaret Lindholm passed away peacefully March 12, 2021 at her home in Calgary at the age of 87. Her family is laying her ashes to rest and celebrating her life on October 2, 2021 in Bittern Lake, Alberta.

11:30 am - Interment and prayers at the Bittern Lake (Rosenroll) Cemetery, friends and family are welcome.

12:30 pm - Fellowship at the Bittern Lake Hall, with informal words from the family followed by a light lunch, coffee, and visiting.

Both gatherings will follow any changes in Provincial health orders.

Messiah Lutheran Church

Sharing Jesus Christ with All People

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Pastoral Ministry: 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

Messiah Church Council

David Dahle, President
Agnes Hoveland, Vice-President
Gail Stolee, Secretary
Dave Stolee, 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 resumed June 20.



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

Our services are on YouTube. Search for MessiahCamrose.

There is also a link for 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."

Messiah Messenger

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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 what is happening in our congregation.

Next Issue: October
Material due: September 14
Delivery date: September 24

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 	2 11:45 Staff Meeting 	3	4
5 Pentecost 15 10:30 Communion Service 	6 Labor Day Holiday LABOR DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	7  2:00 World Mission Group by Zoom 4:00 Service Committee 	8 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 	9 11:45 Staff Meeting  5:15 Witnessing Committee 	10	11 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
12 Pentecost 16 Food Bank Sunday  10:30 Worship Service	13 10:30 Lectio 	14 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Messenger Articles Due </div>	15 10:00 Coffee Fellowship  7:00 Church Council	16 11:45 Staff Meeting 	17	18 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
19 Pentecost 17 10:30 Worship Service 	20 10:30 Lectio 	21	22 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 	23 11:45 Staff Meeting 	24 <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Messenger Delivery </div> 7:00 Wedding Rehearsal for Skretting/Rohuede	25 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom  2:00 Skretting/Rohuede Wedding
26 Pentecost 18 10:30 Worship Service CLWR Sunday 	27 10:30 Lectio 	28	29 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 	30 11:45 Staff Meeting 		