

MESSIAH MESSENGER

January 2022

Volume 43 Issue 1



Worship Schedule Sunday 10:30 am

*In-person worship:
masking and physical distancing
are required 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

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

Office Hours

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.

Minister's Message



IT'S A NEW DAY! IT'S A NEW YEAR!

It is the beginning of another new year. We peer into the year with anticipation of new life and with a wondering what the year will hold. Things are still a bit unstable in our world. But perhaps in reality they have always been so. We are just so aware in these days of the uncertainties... like never before.

The truth is we never know what any year or any day will bring but we can count on our God who is ever with us no matter what comes our way.

As we open to a new year we always have the assurance that our God never leaves us. We know that we are loved beyond measure and we know that that love will always be there for us.

We can also know that no matter what this life holds we are in the hands of the one who is ever faithful. What blessed assurance this is!

I think of a new year like a sunrise. As the sun peaks over the land... there is something inviting reminding us that something new is on the horizon. It's a fresh start and the Spirit invites us into the new day. In the same way, I look into a new year with expectation for the new that could arise. I wonder how we might grow in our faith and how we might serve our God and our world.

I look forward in this year as we begin 2022 as a church to what the Lord might lead us to do and be as we discern God's will for our lives.

I look forward to wondering what God's Spirit is going to lead us into this next year that will be new and also what in our church that is already so good that might be celebrated.

We will be discerning and listening to God in the next months and asking the Lord where we are to go as a people of God.

It is exciting to wonder where our Lord might lead us.

Isaiah 43:19 encourages us in this way: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." ESV

The Spirit of the Living God wants to do new things in our midst and in our world through us. Let us open our hearts and our ears to hear and see what is being called within us to spring forth!!

I wish you a very joyous new year... and peace in your hearts as we open and wait together for our God to speak and to lead.

I look forward to waiting and listening with you as we discern together and as we journey forward.

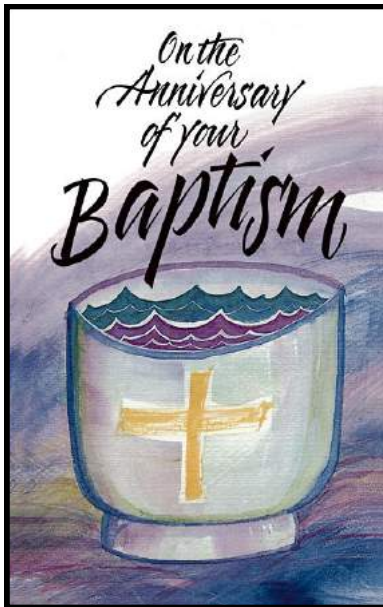
The sun is rising on a new year... and God is indeed doing a new thing among us!

It is a new day! It's a New Year!

Pastor Bev

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





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

Brett Enright – Jan. 13
*Let your light so shine
before others that they
may see your good works and
glorify your
Father in heaven.*



Sunday School will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

This month they will be

January 2 and 16.

Canada Lutheran Subscription Renewal

Please contact the Church office 780-672-3444 or
email office@messiahcamrose.ca if you would like to
continue receiving the Canada Lutheran magazine or
if you would like to start a new subscription.

We can still get you added.

The suggested donation is \$20.





Dear friends and family in † Christ -

So here we are. We celebrated the coming of the Christ child into the world. Worshipped with candlelight and carols, smiles (even through masks) and family (however that may have looked).

It has been and continues to be my favorite time of year. And even during the pandemic, now edging itself towards the completion of its second year, the power of this season cannot be masked. It is a season of hope that cannot be denied. Hope echoes repeatedly as John triumphantly proclaims, that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:5, NRSV).



This common translation of the text seems to pit the darkness against the light, indicating that these two forces have always been locked in struggle with each other. That is often how we view the light and the dark, good and evil, as two diametrically opposed forces that are constantly struggling against each other. That is how our faith has often been taught to us. God against the devil, good against evil. War raging for the very soul of creation. And though there is a great deal of truth to that image, how that conflict plays out may look different than what we expect.

I recently encountered another translation, one that seemed to change the focus of this text. The text reads,

5 . The light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has not understood it .
kai ho phōs phainō en ho skotia kai ho skotia katalambanō ou katalambanō autos

(Mounce Reverse Interlinear New Testament). I had not heard that translation before.

The darkness did not understand the light. What does that mean?

I often think of our belief that good is warring against evil. It is common language, and it has been used as a justification for many terrible things done in the name of Christianity. The crusades, the residential schools, the wars against believers who “corrupted” the pure faith are all examples of such acts. We insert the word “warrior” into a lot of things to do with our faith. We take passages from books like Ephesians, which references the armor of God, and talk about how we need to arm ourselves against the dark.

A video game in a local Christian bookstore was like a Dungeon and Dragons style role playing game. The goal was to find and use the armor and sword of God, again derived from Ephesians, to defeat the evil one. Both were patterned after the Roman armor of Paul’s own day and age, an inherently war like empire that had known more years of war than of peace throughout its 1000-year history.

Many find comfort in this image of warring against the principalities of evil and being guarded by God in the process. But I harken back to this interpretation of John from Mounce Reverse Interlinear New Testament and wonder if there is a little bit more to it.

For me, comprehend means to understand and so this text would seem to be saying the light has come into the world, and the darkness cannot understand it. Something about the light, the way it

shines, confounds the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome it because this light, this Christ, is so different from anything it has ever encountered that the darkness just doesn't understand.

The darkness is about hate and exploitation, about harm and destruction. It is about breaking people's relationship with God and with each other. It is about chaos and a destruction of all that is beautiful and good in God's creation. The light, Christ, is about love and restoration, about healing and the end of warfare. Christ is about healing the relationship between ourselves and God, with each other as part of God's creation.

And Christ does not seek to win the day with the same means as the darkness. Jesus wields no sword and bears no shield. His way is the way of God's peace and love, and it stands in direct opposition to the darkness, so much so that the darkness cannot comprehend it. The love Jesus shows is a love that is contrary to everything that hate and greed and the worst forces in our world represent, and the darkness is befuddled and confused by the light. It cannot overcome it. It cannot begin to understand it.

My daughter loved the movie 'Frozen' when it first came out. Two sisters left orphaned; one of them with mystical powers to freeze things, which she cannot control, and of which she is terrified; the other full of life and a desire to fully engage in life; talking snowmen; and the apparently incessant sound of 8-year-olds singing "Let It Go". Cinematically, the film was a triumph for Disney's animation team. Throughout the movie, Anna is struggling to heal a broken relationship; her sister Elsa is struggling with the fear of her uncontrollable power. The message throughout the movie is that 'True love can melt a frozen heart'. At the climax of the movie, Anna performs that selfless act of love that brings healing to the frozenness – The Act of True love melts the Frozen Heart'.

Think about the moments that changed the world. On one hand, we have the acts of love. Mary said "yes" to God and she and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to bring the Saviour of the world into that world. She was not a person of power, nor did Jesus grow up as an influential member of society. But God chose that way to work into the world. Or think of people like the disciples, or Paul, who stood even against the empire to declare their message of the Gospel. We wouldn't be here, celebrating, if they had not done this. Or the works of others, like Martin Luther King Jr., or non-violent protestors that altered the fabric of society for the better. Their legacies are legacies of love and have given us hope, God's hope, by which to live.

Thus, when we say the light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it, it is not simply a statement of trust or a defiant statement to the powers and principalities of darkness. It is a faith statement. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not comprehend it. As people of the light, our way forward is a different way. It is God's way. To state these words is to say that as children of the light, our path will take us down very different avenues.

The light shines on us, as we sing our praise to the light of this world, the love of our lives, Jesus the Christ, born in Bethlehem, born for us all, born for all creation. And it will guide our feet into the way of light, the way of Christ, the way of love.

For dear friends and family in Christ, the light indeed shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. The darkness cannot comprehend it, this light, which is world changing, this love which is life altering.


Christ is born!! Let us all cry out, "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!" Amen.

Blessing and Peace in † Christ,

Rev. Prema

***See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God;
and that is what we are.***

1 John 3:1

A decorative border of globes in various colors (blue, green, yellow, cyan) surrounds the text. At the bottom left, there is a larger globe with several black silhouettes of people running around it.

Messiah Lutheran Church of Camrose

WORLD MISSION MONTH, January, 2022

The words of Peter to Jesus (John 6:59) NRSV:

"Lord to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

How do those words get shared around the world?

Each week in January, 2022, a different organization and person or persons serving with that organization will be featured.

For the first week, however, we will be bringing readers up-to date on people and organizations which were featured last year:

Ministry of Rev. Brian Rude in El Salvador

Ryan and Siobhain Cole serving under Mission Aviation Fellowship, Canada, in the country of Papua New Guinea

Bible Teaching in Tanzania as described by Connie Landstrom

If you are inclined to support through prayer the person or organization which is featured, of course, that would be great. But of course, money is also always needed for personnel and organizational support.

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

The World Mission Group acknowledges with appreciation the full support of Pastor Bev Swanson, Music Ministry Coordinator Tova Olson, the Messiah Office Staff, and the Technical Broadcast personnel.

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

To God be the Glory!
January, 2022



Dear friends of Messiah ELC:

Both before and after my "official" retirement at the end of August, ministry focuses on:

- 1) migrant ministry (deportees, returnees, forcibly displaced within El Salvador)**
- 2) pandemic illness and death (comforting and accompanying the bereaved, covered most expenses for 7 burials--caskets and cemetery plots--4 siblings, aged 20, 17, 14, 10, in June, 2 adults, and another 10-year-old orphan girl Dec. 13)**
- 3) accompanying the "*Fe y Esperanza*" Historic Memorial Association in numerous meetings and activities, and several food hamper distributions to our widely-dispersed "family" / community**
- 4) accompanying and sharing leadership with the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod, especially the pastoral team, in daily WhatsApp prayer chain / devotionals, and a variety of worship, learning, and justice activities, often online, sometimes in-person**
- 5) maintaining a COVID-exposed household for several housemates and many houseguests**
- 6) a full week of election observation early in 2021, with a multinational team (again in 2024)**
- 7) continuing communication and liaison with justice-oriented folk globally, often in solidarity with El Salvador**

Mutually, we share and exchange the Word of eternal life, abundant life, Jesus Christ incarnate, through words and actions. Thanks be to God for mutual ministry, in El Salvador, and together with you supportive sisters and brothers of Messiah, Camrose. Thanks so much, on behalf of our Salvadoran sisters and brothers.

God bless you all in life and ministry.

Paz,

Pr. Brian Rude



Happy New Year! From Ryan & Shiv Cole

Missionaries to **Papua New Guinea (PNG)**,
working as Pilot and Deputy Ground Operations
Manager for Mission Aviation Fellowship (**MAF**).



*"The name of the Lord is
like a strong tower.*

*Those who do what is
right can run to him for
protection."*

Proverbs 18 v 10

Medical Evacuations

Ryan literally flies to
save lives on a weekly
basis. In this photo, he
is preparing the MAF
stretcher to take this
unconscious man from
Miyanmin to hospital in
our home, Telefomin.



hello@RyanAndShiv.net

Follow our blog:

www.RyanAndShiv.net

www.Facebook.com/
RyanAndShiv

Greetings friends at Messiah Camrose!

2021 was not much of an
improvement on 2020, except that
we were able to fly continually
throughout the year. As in most
countries around the world, COVID
restrictions changed continuously
meaning some months we could
only fly cargo and one month Shiv
couldn't even fly out of our home
in the remote village of Telefomin.
Thankfully MAF have been allowed
to fly **Medical Evacuation flights**
throughout COVID (see pic left).
We have flown **COVID vaccines** to
many remote communities, but
sadly there is a huge amount of
fear throughout PNG.

We are planning (hoping?) **to
come to Canada**, May to August,
we look forward to visiting you in
person, if restrictions allow.

If you would like to hear more
personal stories about our work
serving the world's most isolated
people, please **drop us an email!**

We are thankful:

- To **have each other** and Ray
the dog! :-)
- For **internet connection** to
be able to speak with family.
- For **electricity, hot running
water & a working fridge!**

Prayer Corner:

- For plans for our **2022
Home Assignment** to start
coming together.
- For **reasonably priced** inter-
national flights to get home.
- For the **4 new families**
joining our MAF PNG team in
mid January 2022.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PRAYERS AND SUPPORT
THIS PAST YEAR!**

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY
THROUGHOUT 2022!**



FOR MORE STORIES ABOUT OUR LIFE & WORK, VISIT WWW.RYANANDSHIV.NET!

TANZANIA MINISTRY UPDATE

It has been three years since I was last able travel to Tanzania and my heart is yearning to return to pick up the ministry I enjoyed so much. Bible teaching, leadership training, Pastoral care and encouragement in the areas of Arusha and Komakundi and the dear people in those many villages and congregations where I served, all remain as fresh memories and regularly fill my prayer times.

I have always packed two large hockey bags stuffed with hand-knitted pneumonia vests for newborns, baby blankets which I have taken to three Lutheran Hospitals, and about 150 small stuffed toys for kindergarten classes and village children. Since I'm not able to travel to Tanzania in the near future, and since those items have be waiting to be used in Tanzania, they are now packed in apple boxes ready to be shipped. I know they are going to bring great joy to the new Moms and lots and lots of smiles to young children.

Women in Messiah have been involved in the Tanzania Project over the years. This congregation is truly amazing in its generosity in supporting such a variety of global ministries through its long history. God bless your warm and caring hearts.

Together in so many ways we bring The love of Jesus to the nations.

Connie Landstrom



The vests, hats, blankets and toys start here and travel across the world to Tanzania, East Africa.



When the boxes arrive and are opened, the items are gladly received and taken to Lutheran Hospitals and church kindergartens.



Children are delighted to receive a toy since most children have no toys at all.



Some very poor village children don't even have a chance to go to school—their widowed grandmothers or poor parents cannot afford school fees. I make sure the ones I meet get a toy.



Thank you to everyone who came out to Hastings Lights!
The drive thru Christmas light display was attended by more than 1300 people, 33 dogs and 3 cats.

Go to <https://www.hastingslake.com/hastings-lights> to see photos of all the displays, a video of the display provided by Gradient Imaging, and to see which displays were the fan favorites.

The Scarecrow Christmas Pageant



Tova's cat Tyv!

Well, we didn't win a placing in the Hastings Lights drive-thru so the scarecrows have been put to bed in the church basement. Thank you to the team: Rena Anderson, Jim Brager, John Harder, Ivar Saugen and Shirley McFall!!! We had fun scouring the Thrift Store, Camrose Restore and Centra Cam for boys housecoats (the shepherds), Baptismal gown (the angel), purple cape (one of the Wisemen), a chair for Mary and the stuffed moose (the audience). Special thank you to Jim Brager for painting the back drop. Do you recognize the country church? It's available for anyone who is willing to give a donation to Hastings Lake Camp. Also thank you for your votes, if you did!!
Signe Harder

January
18-25,
2022

WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

*"We saw the star in the East,
and we came to worship him"*

(Mt 2:2)

weekofprayer.ca



Senior High Girls Youth



Hello Everyone! We are a youth group for grades 10-12. In the past couple months we have been getting together for meals, baking, learning more about God's Word and spreading encouragement to the community. We meet Tuesdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please contact us at (403) 415-5142 for additional information and meeting locations or if you are interested in joining us! We would love to see you there!

Boys Youth Group for Gr. 8-12

Boys youth events will take place Friday evenings

January 7 and 21 from

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

Come out for boys youth nights of pizza and hanging out playing games and foosball.



Food Bank Sunday - January 9

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.





Welcome!

Greeters



Communion Servers

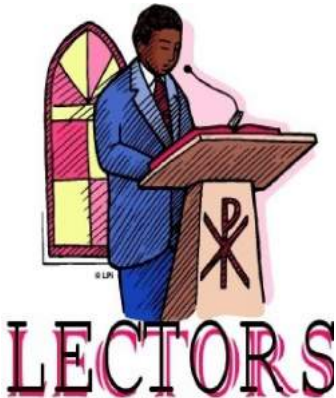


USHERS

Volunteers Needed

As we have returned to a regularly scheduled worship service, Loretta Foshaug is preparing a schedule of volunteers to greet, usher, read the lessons and 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).



LECTORS

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

Sacramental Preparation



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



SNOW SHOVELLERS NEEDED



It's that time again!

If you are able to take a turn this winter please
give us a call at the office.

780 672 3444

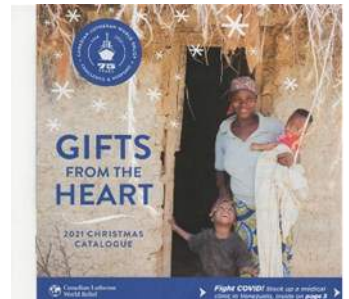
NEWS BRIEFS



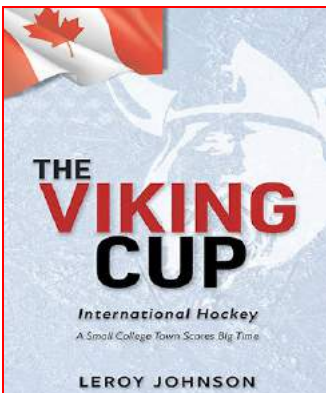
Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

As we look back over the last year, it was inspiring to see that Lutherans and friends helped to provide provisions and emergency food, delivered medical assistance, built shelters, and protected farmers against the effects of climate change. It was a great way to mark the 75th anniversary of CLWR's work.

However, the needs never end and we are reminded that although the Christmas season has come and gone, **GIFTS FROM THE HEART** can be given for any occasions throughout the year, which in turn would help to alleviate some of the world's problems. Some of the gifts are matched several times.



In the battle against Covid-19, countries like Venezuela still have a real fight on their hands. **A GIFT OF JUST \$15 WOULD GIVE ONE PERSON ACCESS TO THE HEALTHCARE THEY NEED.**



Available at Fox and Fable
in Camrose by calling
587 386 009 or on
their website.
\$36 Softcover
\$45 Hardcover

How does a small college in a rural Alberta city of just over 12,000 people become host to the finest hockey players in the world? Now called University of Alberta - Augustana Campus, Camrose Lutheran College and the community embraced the potential of the Viking Cup in 1980, opening their doors to the world of hockey through this unique international exchange program. Outside, the Cold War was raging but barriers seemed to melt as the love of hockey played on. By the time the Cup had its last hurrah in 2006, the NHL had drafted more than 400 players from its ranks.

The Viking Cup, memoirs and stories of the program's founder, is a joyful account of an important chapter of Canada's hockey history.

I am enjoying this book immensely. The stories and information are fascinating. Makes me proud to be from Camrose and from Augustana!

(Dena Grue)



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP BY ZOOM

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Phone the office for the Zoom link

780 672 3444



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

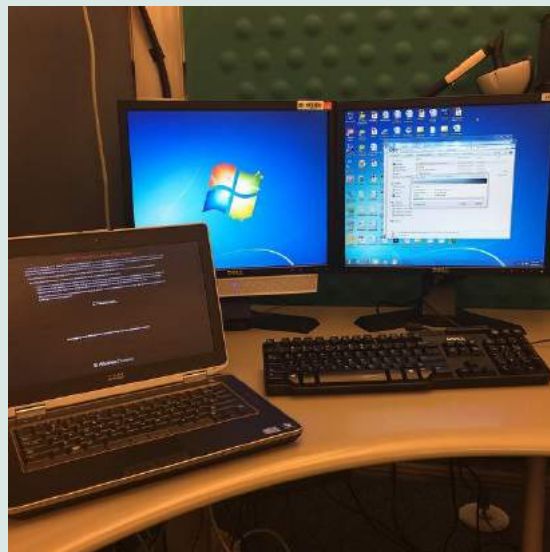
Skills needed: multi-window use, attention to visual detail, mouse and keyboard operation.

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 volunteer group of people at Messiah who are available to help you or do tasks for you...



To do small household tasks (e.g. move a heavy box, change a light bulb)

**To run small errands for you around town, or
Give you a ride to an appointment**



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.

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
Email: office@messiahcamrose.ca

Acting Senior Pastor: Bev Swanson
Administrative Coordinator: 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>
Dena Grue	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!



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

Published 11 times a year
September to July
























Also available online at: messiahcamrose.ca
under the Communications tab.

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: February
Material due: January 20
Delivery date: January 28

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Years Day NO Men's Bible Study 
2 Epiphany 10:30 Communion Service 10:30 Sunday School 	3 OFFICE CLOSED NO Lectio 2:00 World Mission Group by Zoom 	4  4:00 Senior High Girls Youth	5 9:00 Wednesday Workers by Zoom 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom 	6  11:45 Staff Meeting 3:30 Learning Committee by Zoom NO Confirmation	7  5:30 Boys Youth Group Gr. 8-12 6:00 Goodbrand/Brady Wedding Rehearsal	8 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom  2:00 Goodbrand/Brady Wedding
9 Baptism of Our Lord Food Bank Sunday  10:30 Worship Service NO Sunday School	10 10:30 Lectio 	11 11:15 Service Committee by Zoom  4:00 Senior High Girls Youth 7:00 Joy Circle	12 9:00 Wednesday Workers by Zoom 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom  7:00 Council Discernment by Zoom 7:00 Faith Circle by Zoom	13  11:45 Staff Meeting 5:30 Witnessing Committee by Zoom 6:45 Confirmation	14  5:30 Boys Youth Group Gr. 8-12	15 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
16 Epiphany 2 10:30 Communion Service 10:30 Sunday School 	17 10:30 Lectio 	18 NO Senior High Girls Youth	19 9:00 Wednesday Workers by Zoom 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom  7:00 Church Council by Zoom	20  11:45 Staff Meeting Messenger Articles Due 6:45 Confirmation	21  5:30 Boys Youth Group Gr. 8-12	22 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
23 Epiphany 3 10:30 Worship Service NO Sunday School	24 10:30 Lectio 	25 NO Senior High Girls Youth	26 9:00 Wednesday Workers by Zoom 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom 	27  11:45 Staff Meeting 6:45 Confirmation	28 Messenger Delivery	29 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
30 Epiphany 4 10:30 Worship Service NO Sunday School	31 10:30 Lectio 