

MESSIAH MESSENGER

May 2022 Volume 43 Issue 5



Worship Schedule

Sunday 10:30 am

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)

Masks are not required but you are welcome to wear a mask if you wish.

Minister's Message

Easter is Every Day!



In our Easter story, the day between Good Friday and Easter Monday is what I call an "in between day." It is a really important part of the Easter story. The followers of Jesus had just watched him die

and did not know the end of the story and so they were hiding away and hoping no one would find them. They were afraid. They were grieving, and they did not know where to turn. Their world had been turned up-side-down with not much hope of things being righted. All their hopes were dashed and their dreams were squashed. And now they did not even feel safe. They did not know really how to be. They were not sure how the future would look and were not sure how things would unfold. It was an uneasy time. It was a time of "not knowing". Does this sound familiar?

I think so much of our lives are "in between" moments... and sometimes these times can seem to go on and on without an end. The waiting can feel unbearable.

Sometimes it can feel like "nothing" is happening while without our knowing it, new life is taking place. The "in between" days remind me of the growth of a small seed underground. We plant the seed in the ground and for a very long time we wait for signs of new life. This can take many weeks. And while we wait it is hard to believe anything will grow out of the earth. Then suddenly without notice a little sprig of green pops up. At first its

In our Easter story, the just a small sign of life... and after more day between Good time of waiting a beautiful flower appears.

I bet for the disciples that day in between Good Friday and Easter morning felt like an eternity also. They did not even have hope that things might improve for them.

The tomb was a grave that their Lord had been put into and that meant all was lost. Little did they know... just how God was going to spring up out of that grave and come to life. The symbol of this was the Easter tulips we placed on our cross on Easter morning.

We are in a time of being "in between" also in the world right now. Things seem to be falling apart all around us. The gas prices are sky rocketing. Wars are breaking out and we can only just watch and wait and hope that it stops and hope for peace. The land and creation is suffering and dying. Churches are limping along and some are closing because of this pandemic the past couple of years. Life has really changed. The world as we know it is in such an "in between" place. Everywhere there are shifts and changes. The earth looks pretty bleak and black, much like a grave.

This is the place where things can feel stuck; where we have no more moves. It is a place of waiting and wondering. Being "in between" is not a terribly comfortable place to be... and yet there can be some peace in those moments if we are open to letting God be there with us. It's ok to just be there. There is something freeing about allowing ourselves to be in the moments of being in between because even there our God accompanies us.

None of us know how our story will end on this earth... but we do know one thing... our God is with us... no matter where we are. And we can know that new life will spring up out of that dark place because our God is here and with us and is the bringer of new life. We also know that our story will find its way into the next part of the story. As someone said to me not long ago... "We do know that we will be with our Risen Lord at the end of our story." The thing that is most important about this time is that our God is not dead! Our God is alive and well and with us.

As we pass through these times of waiting and being in between... God is here. In Psalm 27:14 we hear, "Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord."

And in Isaiah 40: 31 we hear these words, "but those who hope (wait) in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

"In Between" moments are moments of waiting and hoping. We often try so hard to wiggle out of these times and moments because its super uncomfortable to be "in between" but we can actually be at peace in those moments if we remember the ONE who waits with us; the ONE who is ever and always with us... and who loves us at all times no matter where in life we find ourselves... And as we remember that we are free and forgiven and loved.

The Good news of Easter is not just for Easter morning moments. It is for the ordinary moments of our lives because Easter is every day; in the moments of death and of new life and all those "in between". The disciples of Jesus had no clue how to be in that day in between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. What they did

not know (which we often forget) is that God had not left them there at all. God was with them in that time every bit as much as God was with them on that Easter morn.

Are you in an in between time? Are you waiting for something to change? for someone? Well you are in good company because our whole world is there right now and God remains with you and with me and with this aching world and our churches as we wait and hope for the hope of Easter to spring forth on this earth.

Meanwhile, Easter has already come through our LIVING LORD who is ever and always with us for Easter is for all the ordinary moments of our lives!

Christ has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!!



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



Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Dear Beloved of God –

We meet the disciples huddled together. The doors are shut and locked. They can hardly breathe in that airless tomb. Their hearts are racing. Their minds spinning.

It was evening on that first day, the first day of the week. They had heard from Mary Magdalene that she had seen Jesus alive, that he had called her

by name and turned her toward the new dawn of the empty tomb.

It was the death of Jesus that brought them together that evening, but it was not simply the death of Jesus that drew the disciples together – it was his resurrection. It was Mary Magdalene's witness: "I have seen the Lord."

And the doors were shut and locked. They could hardly breathe. They were afraid of everything on the other side of those doors: afraid of the forces that killed Jesus. Afraid, perhaps, of living. They were winded by fear. What now? Yes, what now?

It isn't hard for us, to imagine ourselves in that room. No, not after two plus years of pandemic. And not when we know for ourselves, and for others, of war and trauma and anxiety and fear and constant change and uncertainty and grief and losses of many kinds. And we are ourselves hardly breathing in our airless tombs. Our hearts racing. Our minds spinning.

All of which points me in the direction of the disciple, Thomas.

I know that we tend to think of Thomas in terms of his doubting, but what if that doubt were part of a larger insistence on dealing with reality, on getting things back to normal, on moving forward now that the worst has happened?

Why isn't Thomas in the house when Jesus makes his first appearance? I wonder if unlike the other disciples, who are behind shut and locked doors, Thomas has already accepted what has happened, has moved on, and is now out and about rebuilding his life from the fractured pieces that were left to him after the horrific events of Good Friday – or at least was attempting to, attempting to put things back in order and get back to normal.

It would explain why it's so hard for Thomas to accept the witness of his friends: "We have seen the Lord." The joyful confession of the other disciples may have seemed like oh-so-much wishful thinking to this hardboiled realist. Which is why, when one-week later Jesus came and stood among them, I wonder if the noticeable change in

Thomas's tune is less about simply coming to faith – to belief – and more about realizing that, after the resurrection, reality itself had changed and there would be no normal to go back to.

For how do you even talk about "normal" when someone has been raised from the dead? What can possibly be the same? Your work, your sense of meaning, your relationships, your purpose, your view of past, present, and future – all of it is changed irrevocably by God's act of resurrection.

When Thomas confesses, "My Lord and my God," he is abandoning all his conceptions of "normal" and opening himself to a very different reality than he could have previously ever imagined. And here is the promise for us. Here is the promise – the good news for us – today and each tomorrow: Jesus comes to us.

Jesus comes to us...yes in this time of pandemic, yes into our communities and our fearful hearts, into the airless tombs in which we dwell, behind the shut and locked doors.

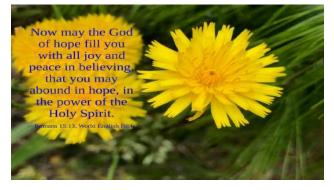
Here is the promise – the good news: Jesus comes to us, bearing the marks of suffering and death, revealing that the body of Christ, though risen, is always wounded.

Here is the promise: Jesus comes to us, speaking a word of peace and revealing the startling truth for our present and future, that what is true of Jesus will be true for those who bear Christ's name.

Here is the good news: Jesus comes to us, with a word of forgiveness, with grace that unbinds the clenched heart, with love that loosens the power of death, with mercy that unbars the doors we shut and swings them wide open.

Jesus comes among us...and is with us amid necessary changes and faithful adaptations, calling us forward, blessing us to believe though we do not see, and promising to be with us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia! In Christ Jesus –
Shalom, +Larry



Council Highlights for May 2022

Our year is winding down. We are peeking our heads out of Covid knowing that many things have changed but not knowing what the future holds. As Donny so appropriately said in the opening devotion *God*, *grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.* (Serenity prayer - Neibuhr)

Thank you everyone who took part in the discernment process. You will find a summary here in the Messenger. Council and Committee members are looking forward to a full day retreat with a facilitator to go deeper into the detail and develop a vision for the future using some of the insights that have come through this process. This took place on April 27.

Meanwhile we are also engaged in the exciting business of budget preparation, and planning for the Annual General Meeting to be held on **Sunday**, **June 12**. Details will be announced later.

The Support Committee will arrange to have the leaky roof over the front doors fixed as soon as possible. It is expected to be a relatively small repair.

If you have things to donate to the garage sale being organized for the benefit of the families coming from Ukraine, let Mary Broen know. Every bit helps.

Gail Stolee, Council Secretary



Special Gifts: In Honor of Pastor Bev Swanson Memorials Laverne Hoveland Doreen Hoyme



DISCERNMENT PROCESS SUMMARY:

PREAMBLE

Purpose:

Every church and organization has been fundamentally impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. As a result, Messiah is contemplating and refining its focus during this time of transition. We ask God where the Spirit is leading us as a church to focus our ministry. We step aside and ask for new eyes to open to God's guidance for our community. From the themes brought forward from this discernment process, we can now choose our direction and next steps as a church and a faith community.

Process:

Over several months, our discernment process evolved. Initially, a discernment planning group of 7 people was formed. This group discerned what types of questions would best lead our prayers and thoughts as the church entered the process. Pastor Bev reflected with Spiritual Direction Colleagues as the process evolved.

The questions that were discerned, follow:

HOW DO WE HELP ONE ANOTHER TO GROW IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD/ JESUS?

WHAT DO WE APPRECIATE AND CELEBRATE ABOUT BEING HERE AT MESSIAH - WHAT IS SPECIAL AND UNIQUE?

WHAT DRAWS YOU AND OTHERS TO THIS FAITH COMMUNITY?

HOW CAN WE BEST LIVE OUT OUR FAITH FROM THIS TIME GOING FORWARD?

The selected guiding scriptures, follow:

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Psalm 1:3

Ephesians 3; 17-19

John 15:5 Isaiah 40:31 Psalm 46:10 Micah 6:8

Groups were identified to explore where God might be leading us. Together we resolved to think outside the box and consider the gift the pandemic has brought us. The gift of opening to the new ways that God desires our church to show up in this world as a faith community.



The groups that were gathered to contribute, follow:

The staff

The committees

The council

The senior youth girls (met with their leaders)

The boys youth group (met with their leaders)

The men's bible study

Two groups that were offered on line for all to join

Individuals who discerned on their own

Each group met for 1.5 to 2 hours. We listened to God through prayer, hearing scripture, silence, and dialoguing as we discerned the questions. It was good to see the connections strengthening between one another. Pastoral connections also evolved from this time together. As the Holy Spirit spoke to our deep hearts, careful notes were taken. The compilation of these notes gave rise to the following theme:

"MAKING CONNECTIONS AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH OUR FAITH COMMUNITY IN-PERSON AND ON-LINE"

This theme from our discernment process, leads us to connect with God and others, through our faith community in the following ways:

- through small groups (some to be formed and others already connecting)
- through fellowship opportunities that allow for social connection (a chance to meet together and build relationships)
- through sharing our faith together in: Bible studies, Lectio, sharing of faith stories, prayer for and with each other, Sunday School, Youth groups, Worship, music, etc.
- through joining together in service, and in outreach beyond the walls of our church
- through connecting on-line in our Worship Ministry, Connecting in the Word and our Zoom groups (it is felt we need to look at expanding our on-line and social media ministry)
- through being an established presence on the streets of our Camrose community and using our building (and its location) in more effective ways to reach out into the community
- through helping people feel a sense of belonging and purpose in our Faith community
- through collaboration with other churches and communities

This document is a compilation of many pages of notes that arose from our discernment times together and individual responses from people.

Additionally, there are many unique ideas collected through this process that will be brought forward and reviewed as we seek to grow as a faith community.



SCAM ALERT

Hello Messiah family,

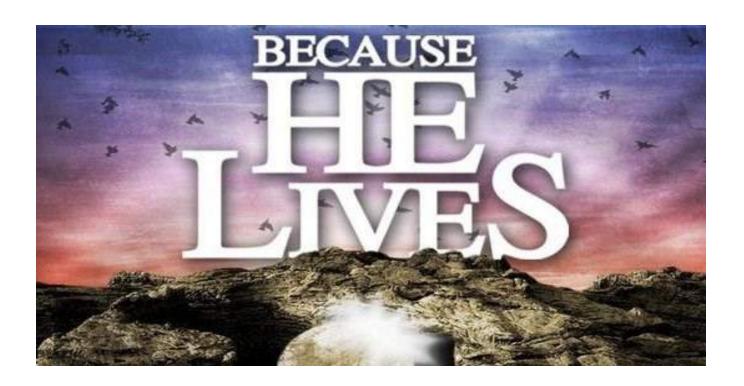
Please be advised that an email scam is circulating from Pastor Bev's email address asking for money in the form of gift cards.

If you receive anything that is suspicious from Pastor Bev or from the office or any other person from our Messiah community asking for money, please do not respond.

Please let the Messiah office know and <u>do not provide any money</u>, <u>buy gift cards or give personal details</u> to anyone who contacts you online.

Alternately you could check with the person who appears to have sent the email to determine if it is a scam.

Hopefully we can slow or stop this scammer.







UKRAINE CRISIS RESPONSE

CLWR continues its appeal to raise funds and rush emergency assistance to over 4 million refugees who have fled Ukraine and the 6.5 million people who are internally displaced.

CLWR partners in the ACT Alliance are responding in Ukraine and the region to meet immediate humanitarian needs such as food, shelter, emergency supplies and trauma support.

Our prayers and financial support are desperately needed

Donations can be channeled through CLWR on-line at clwr.org, by phoning 1-800-661-2597 or mailing to 600-177 Lombard Ave.,
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

June 12, 2022

More details to come.



SAVE THE DATE



At Messiah Lutheran Church
Donations Accepted May 16 & 17
Sale May 18, 19, 20
Proceeds to Ukrainian Refugee Project

Neighbor Aid needs ice cream pails and lids to prepare for when Martha's Table re-opens in mid May!

Please drop them off at the Neighbor Aid office at: 4524 – 54 Street.







We are so grateful to our pastor and ministry team, volunteers, committee members, musicians, worship leaders, audio-visual people, custodians, council members and all the people who attend our services in person and online. Every member among us is a minister and appreciated and valued no matter what your role!!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH HAS RESUMED



Please join us in the Fellowship Centre after the Sunday Service for coffee and goodies.

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

Reminder:

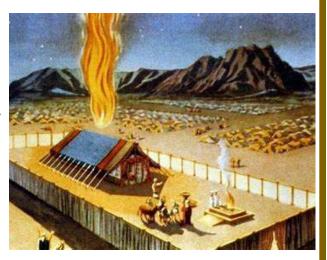
There is a debit machine at the Welcome Centre at the back of the sanctuary. Instructions are available on the desk, please follow them carefully to make sure that both the Church and your records will have a receipt for proper recording.



The Adult Sunday School class continues...
...on Wednesdays!

Join us on Wednesday, May 4 and May 11, 7 PM each evening via Zoom for "The Tabernacle in the Wilderness:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81171286272? pwd=LzJvQURLQkJLbFh3ZzV2OXArWGRMZz09





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

This month they will be

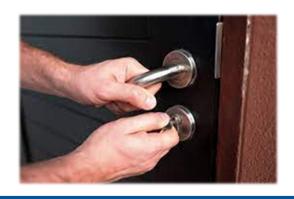
May 1 and 15

Would you like a new venue to go for a walk?

We can use some new people to do a tour of Messiah and check that outside doors are shut and locked.

Requires stairs and 45-60 minutes unless you want to stop for some reflection time to yourself. We are currently looking for people to spell off others.

Contact Carl Hoybak for info (780)208-9481.



We were very blessed when we watched your Good Friday Service. Thank you for putting it on Eastlink. We attend a church here in Wainwright.

(A lovely note received by Email)

CONNECTING IN THE WORD

Check out our brief recorded inspirational messages with Pastor Bev! Go to messiahcamrose.ca to connect to the link called "Connecting in the Word". Join us in this time of making safe connection with one another around God's word.





COFFEE FELLOWSHIP BY ZOOM

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Phone the office for the Zoom link 780 672 3444

(We will not be having Wednesday coffee in the church for May and June, but will resume on the lawn in July.)



Thank you for your kind Easter Blessings & words of thanks. They are much appreciated. I spent Sunday afternoon reading them. Serving with you for our Risen Lord is such a blessing! Pastor BeV

Food Bank Sunday - May 8

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 <u>atbcares.com</u> by entering

CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID CENTER INC.

in the Find A Cause search area.



HASTINGS LAKE BIBLE CAMP 2022

Join us for an unforgettable summer!

Youth Camps

Kids 1	July 3—8	Ages 8—11	\$470	
Jr. Youth	July 17—22	Ages 12—14	\$480	
Kids 2	August 7—12	Ages 8—11	\$470	
Sr. Youth	August 21—26	Ages 14—18	\$490	

Family Camps

Dates Price

Family 1	July 10—15	Family 1,2 & 4		Family 3 for 3	••••••
Family 2	July 24—29	Adult (19+)	\$350	\$210	• • • • • • • •
Family 3 for 3	August 2—5	Ages 15—18	\$280	\$170	
Family 4	August 14—19	Ages 10—14	\$195	\$115	
		Ages 5—9	\$115	\$70	
Phone: (780) 662 2557		Ages 0—4	Free	Free	



info@hastingslake.com



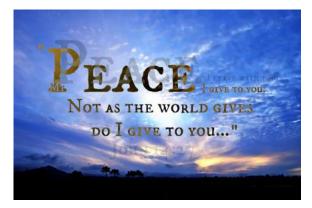
You are invited to a
Funeral Service for **Dwayne and Greta Roth,**who passed away in

March of 2021.

It will be held at Messiah on Saturday, May 28, 2022 at 11:00 am followed by lunch in the Basement Auditorium



A Memorial Service for Tage Pedersen will be held at Burgar Memorial Chapel on Friday, May 6 at 11 am.



You are welcome to attend.

Donations of Used Stamps

We are still collecting used stamps and would appreciate your donations.



You may drop them off at the church office or in the box at the Welcome Centre at the back of the Sanctuary and Shirley McFall will send them to the Canadian Bible Society.

Excerpts a letter from the Canadian Bible Society dated April 13, 2022:

"Thank you for letting us know that your

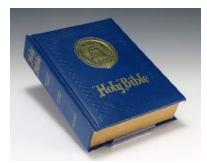
church is interested in continuing to collect stamps in the future."

"The stamps that we receive are used to create 10 pound stamp boxes that we

sell to collectors and individuals. The funds raised from the sale of the stamps are then used to purchase

Bibles for Prison Ministry!"

"Thank you again, to all involved!



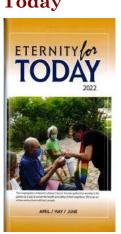
We are able to accept
E-transfers set up from your online
banking, that deposit directly, at the
following email address:

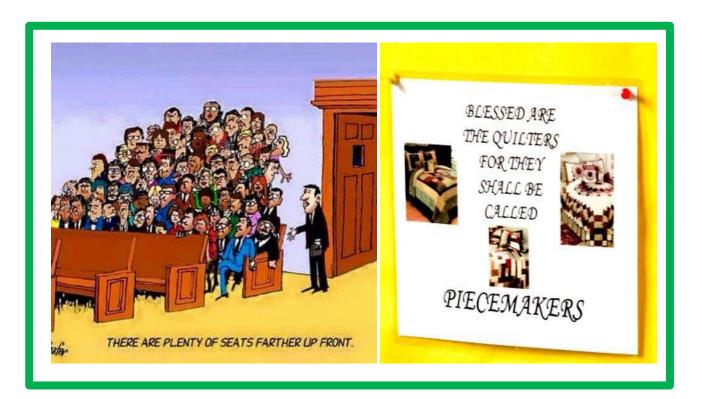
offering@messiahcamrose.ca



Eternity for Today

devotional books for April to June 2022 are available in the office, or at the Welcome Desk at the back of the sanctuary, for a suggested donation of \$2.00.









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

Members at Large: <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: June Material due: May 17 Delivery date: May 27



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter 3 10:30 Communion Worship Service 10:30 Sunday School	2 10:30 Lectio 2:00 World Mission Group by Zoom	3	9:00 Quilting 9:00 Wednesday Workers 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom 7:00 The Tabernacle in the Wilderness	5 11:45 Staff Meeting 6:45 Confirmation	11:00 Tage Pedersen Memorial at Burgar Funeral Home Chapel	9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom
8 Easter 4 Mothers Day & Food Bank Sunday 10:30 Worship Service NO Sunday School 11:45 Coffee	9 10:30 Lectio	10 11:15 Service Committee by Zoom 7:00 Faith Circle by Zoom	Bible Study by Zoom 119:00 Quilting 9:00 Wednesday Workers 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom 2:00 Grace Circle 7:00 The Tabernacle in the Wilderness Bible Study by	12 9:30 Praise Circle 11:45 Staff Meeting 3:30 Learning Committee by Zoom 5:30 Witnessing Committee by Zoom 6:45 Confirmation	13	9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom
15 Easter 5 10:30 Communion Worship Service 10:30 Sunday School 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	16 GARAGE SALE DO 10:30 Lectio NOON Meals on Wheels Delivery	NATIONS ACCEPTED Noon Martha's Table Messenger Articles Due	200m 18 GARAGE S 9:00 Wednesday Workers 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom 10:00 Worship Committee 7:00 Church Council by Zoom	19 ALE 9 am - 5 11:45 Staff Meeting NOON Meals on Wheels Delivery	om each day	21 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom
22 Easter 6 10:30 Worship Service NO Sunday School 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	23 Victoria Day Office Closed NO Lectio	24 Noon Martha's Table	9:00 Wednesday Workers 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom	26 11:45 Staff Meeting	27 Messenger Delivery Messenger Delivery	9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom BIBLE Study 11:00 Dwayne & Greta Roth Funeral at Messiah
29 Ascension of Our Lord 10:30 Worship Service NO Sunday School 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	30 10:30 Lectio	Noon Martha's Table				