

MESSIAH MESSENGER

January 2023

Volume 44 Issue 1

*The star they had
seen when it rose went
ahead of them until it stopped
over the place where the child was.*

Matthew 2:9b



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 12:00 to 1:00 pm)

Ministers Message



I am Doing a New Thing!

We are opening into another New Year. And as we do, we look back at the moments of darkness and the moments of light... and all those in between.

As we move into a new year we are welcomed and invited to breathe in the breath of the Spirit for strength to release the old and enter into the new.

Not unlike last year, there will be moments in the year ahead that will be difficult. Some will be sad and full of darkness. Many are grieving deep losses. Other moments will be celebratory and full of light. Some will be mixed and the light only comes through in a small way at first. There will be some change and we will find ourselves fighting the transitions or embracing them. They also bring new life. The truth is that life is unpredictable, but God's love is ever and always there for us no matter what comes our way.

As we move into a year full of all kinds of moments, we know this... our God remains with us as we step forward.

In Isaiah we hear these words, *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."* Isaiah 43:19 NIV

As we let go of the past and move through this present moment and into tomorrow... know this... our God is doing a new thing in each of us every single day. We are being made new and transformed each moment and it's not about what we do. It's about what our Lord does for and in us. This is incredible news as we move into another year full of the "unknowns" and full of the "more of the same" and full of "what is new and becoming."

As we enter into this year, let us consider that the most important thing we can do is to live each moment in the presence and light of our God.

As I was thinking about how people often look at the new year as a fresh start and sometimes

make all kinds of promises or "resolutions" to be better or do things differently or better. I have never liked that approach because most of the time the changes don't happen. I think perhaps a different approach might be this... practise each moment going forward looking for the presence of the mystery of God's love in every moment for you and for me. In a way a new awareness that God is loving us each moment of our days. So rather than something more to do, perhaps we might try a daily practise of noticing where God is there for us each moment, where God's light and love shines on us and in each moment... a kind of "taking in of that love in a new way." Let us do so in the spiritual practice of prayer, reading God's word, living in community, in service to others in the world and sharing God's love with all.

This is indeed such a hopeful way to be in the new year. We will not live our moments perfectly for that is not possible. But as human beings loved and forgiven and taken care of by God we can walk in confidence through our days moving forward.

Indeed, "God is doing a New Thing... it will spring forth!"

I look forward to seeing how the light of God's love shines within each of us this year.

And let us begin by saying, "Thank you Lord for this year and for this present moment of this day".

I wish you a blessed beginning to this New Year as we journey together embraced in the love of God.

"May the God of all hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

In God's Love,
Pastor Bev

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



CONNECTING IN THE WORD

Check out brief recorded inspirational messages with Pastor Bev! Go to messiahcamrose.ca to find the link called “**Connecting in the Word**”. Join us in this time of making connection with one another around God’s word.



AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN:
Faith, Hope, Love,
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS
LOVE.

-1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Pastoral Acts Funerals

Julianna Friesen
Jose Ariza
Pastor Ralph Kassen
Neta Specht
Art Reiten

New Members
Ken & Daphne Gabrielson



Special Gifts In Honor of

Brett & Cliff Denham

Memorials:

Gerry Davis
Marcia Donovan
Sandra Peterson
Art Reiten
Neta Specht



Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Dear Beloved of God –

“In the time of King Herod....,”
that’s how the story begins.

“In the time of King Herod....”
He built monumental structures
including the Second Jewish
Temple, the mountaintop
palace at Masada and the

palatial Herodium complex whose desert palace
included a grand residence, a theater and large
pools, baths, and gardens. When his position
was seemingly threatened, he did not hesitate
for a second but had his wife killed and at least
two of his sons.

“In the time of King Herod....” He dominates the
story. Of the twelve verses of the Epiphany
Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12, he controls the action
in ten of them. He rules a world dominated by
his authority, his power, his ruthlessness.

King Herod so rules over the world, over this
story, that it would be easy to miss the good
news of the birth of an infant for it is almost
buried, almost hidden, almost veiled in the
reality dominated by Herod.

It is no wonder then that he, and all of
Jerusalem with him, are stunned by the arrival of
foreigners from the East who come to Jerusalem
wishing to pay tribute to a “child who has been
born king of the Jews.” It frightens him, and all
Jerusalem and he moves quickly to control, to
assess, to dominate calling the religious leaders
together and then secretly meeting the visitors.

And later we will learn that Herod had been
fooled by these wise foreigners – fooled but not
beaten. He fights back as cruelty does and has
all the infants slaughtered.

“In the time of King Herod....”

This is not an easy, gentle story – but the gospel
writer, Matthew’s witness, does not shy away
from recognizing that the good news of Jesus –

of the birth of the Christ-child, “the king of the
Jews” is surrounded by, it is immersed in, harsh
reality. And that beneath this reality as defined
by Herod – almost hidden, almost veiled – is the
truth.

Foreigners arrive in Jerusalem with wealth to
place at feet of an infant. And, in this act of
homage, they become the first to see what God
is up to in the birth of this child. An epiphany
which means something like manifestation, or
unveiling, or revealing the truth. That the
steadfast love of God is met in the flesh and
blood of Jesus, born of Mary and that it is veiled,
revealed in weakness, hidden in poverty, seen
in helplessness.

The gospel writer’s witness invites us to see that
the epiphany is not obvious. Rather, it is fragile,
tenuous, dreamlike, as vulnerable as an
unnoticed baby in a god-forsaken little village,
witnessed to by foreigners, in a land ruled by
Herod.

And this is where we find ourselves. For if we
are to be a people who seek to be disciples of
Jesus Christ, “in the time of King Herod,” then
we are invited to see God at work in the hidden,
veiled, fragile, tenuous, vulnerable, weak, poor;
in people and places and events one would
hardly notice at all.

For what child is this whose epiphany is so
quiet, so unobtrusive, little more than a whisper
and yet this one is known, is revealed in the
sharing of a little piece of bread and a sip of
wine?

For what child is this whose epiphany is so
fragile, so veiled, in a village fifteen kilometers
from the center of power in Jerusalem and yet
this one is baptized, and we are ourselves,
baptized in the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit, are named and
claimed children of God?

For what child is this whose birth in a manger is

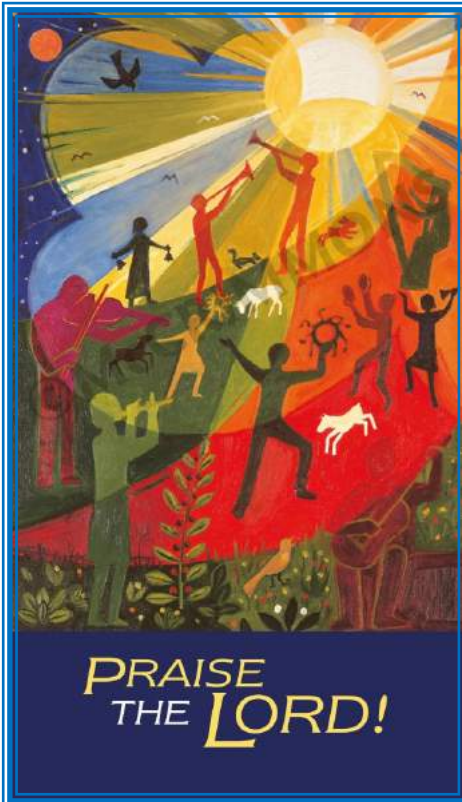
witnessed hardly at all, and who is killed on a cross, arms flung wide open embracing the whole world. A story from start to finish surrounded by loss and grief and yet a story that ends in surprising, new life?

"In the time of King Herod...." And soon this family will be running to Egypt.

God give us eyes, new eyes, to see You at work among us. And then nurtured in the water and the Word of our baptism, nourished in the communion meal, and upheld in community move us to action for the fragile, tenuous, vulnerable, weak, poor.

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom, +Larry



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Dear people of Messiah,

The call committee has been very appreciative of your prayers, conversations, nominations, and support the past five months. After a long and thorough process, we have news to share with you.

Our committee, with joy and hope, report that we believe an excellent candidate for senior pastor at Messiah Lutheran has been identified! Below you will hear from the chairperson of our congregation regarding a call meeting. The name of the candidate must remain confidential until the call meeting (for many reasons, but especially because we need to consider the communication and healing that needs to happen for the congregation that might potentially lose this pastor). Please plan to attend the call meeting where we will share information about the candidate and engage in conversation about the future of Messiah Lutheran. Moreover, please continue seeking God's guidance in this process.

Rosanna Hohm, Chair of the Call Committee

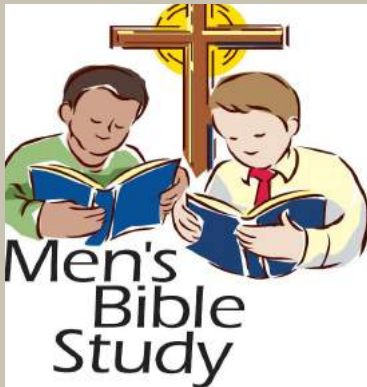
ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 12 Noon for the purpose of considering a recommendation from the Call Committee that a letter of call for the position of Senior Pastor at Messiah be issued to a particular candidate. The candidate's name will be announced at the time of this meeting.

David Dahle, President of the Congregation

Men's Bible Study - Resumes January 14, 2023

When? Saturdays, 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!!



**Adult Class, Sundays, 9:15 AM in the
Basement Auditorium**

Jan 1: No Class;

Jan 8: Start the video series "Life of Martin Luther";

January 15: "My Faith Journey" - Jane Arial & Carol Green

The video series and Faith Stories will continue on alternate Sundays.

Online Ministry

The Worship Committee would like to find ways to enrich our online ministry. We have an opportunity to make some one-on-one connections with individuals who watch our worship services regularly and may have prayer requests or would like to know more about our congregation.



Do you have any ideas?

Would you like to help?

Please call Darlene Dahle at 780 608 4521

Or email ddahle@ualberta.ca

Treasurer's Report December 2022

Last month I was happy to report a significant improvement in Messiah's financial situation. November turned it around a bit, with a deficit of \$3,919. That leaves a surplus of \$3,755 for the first seven months of our year.

We are doing well at keeping up with current expenses, but it will be a challenge to cover increasing costs and our share of the costs of the new pastor who we expect to be called soon.

There is a significant monthly variation in envelope giving, which is a bit of a puzzle for me. Total envelope offerings this year have been:

May	\$26,590
June	22,765
July	23,721
August	26,970
September	20,715
October	31,315
November	23,910



These do not include Thanksgiving, Christmas, or other special designated offerings, which are recorded separately.

If you have any thoughts or insights about this variation I'd be happy to talk with you about it.

It does remind me of the benefits of making regular offerings by preauthorized debit. Many of us already make our regular offerings this way. You still have an envelope number, and can make special offerings that way. If you aren't already using pre-authorized debit for your regular offerings, but are interested, it's easy to set up. The office has an authorization form you would need to sign, and may need a cancelled cheque to get the account number. After that everything is automatic.

Entering the new year is a good time to review the amount of our regular offerings, whether automatic or not. For example, we have come to realize that our offering has been the same amount for some time, even though what we spend on almost everything else has increased. We will be increasing ours in January, and I encourage you to review yours as well. To make a change is easy. You simply need to sign a new authorization form at the office.

This winter we are facing three capital projects that I expect will add up to about \$20,000. These include repairs to the bottom of the elevator, roofing repair to stop the leaking in the flat roof near the steeple, and replacement of all smoke/fire detectors as required by fire regulations. There is no provision for these in the regular budget, but we are fortunate to have a reserve fund for major capital expenses that can be used. If you are in a position to do so a special donation to assist with these costs would allow us to retain more reserve funds for major capital costs that are sure to come in the future. The next big one that we can see coming in a few years will be roofing on the sanctuary.

Please call me if you have any questions or concerns about Messiah's financial position that I may be able to answer.

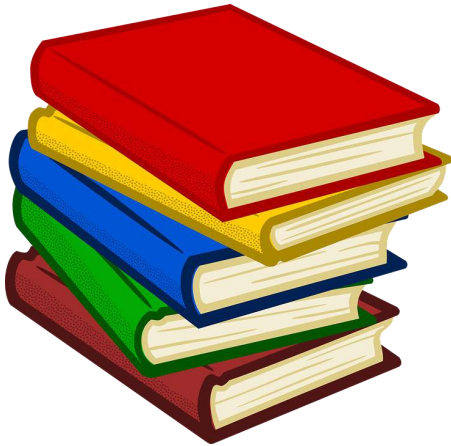
Respectfully submitted,
Dave Stolee

Library Corner

Perhaps you will find some holiday reading among these recent library additions.

Let's start close to home: ***Rescue from Darkness***, self-published by Wendy Roste, is her memoir on living with bipolar disorder. Do we know Wendy Roste? I asked our guest minister Darrel Roste, who confirmed that Wendy is the wife of his cousin in the Saskatoon area. Wendy also attended CLBI in younger years. Look for her book in our Biography section.

MLC readers must enjoy Max Lucado, as our library already hosts four of his titles in the "Christian Living" section. We have more ground still to cover — he has written over 100 books. Now we host two more from the 1990s: ***When God Whispers Your Name***, one of Lucado's best loved; and ***The Great House of God***, which is (surprise!) a meditation on the Lord's Prayer. Read it to learn the connection.



Given Lucado's traction within MLC, I was surprised to notice this month that his modern fellow-writer in the Christian Living genre, Philip Yancy, is only twice on our shelf. Now we have a third: ***What's So Amazing About Grace?*** is Yancey's best-known book in recent years. He describes how God's grace applies to you and me, in very real and personal ways. All three are on the Christian Living shelf.



Pictures from Sunday, December 11, 2022

Jesus, Our Savior: A service of carols & scripture featuring Messiah's Choristers & Handbells



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

By Zoom

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Contact the office for the Zoom link.

Food Bank Sunday - January 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 atbcares.com by entering

CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID CENTER INC.

in the Find A Cause search area.



Sunday School Update

Thank you to the wonderful, generous congregation members for dropping off individually packaged snacks and juice boxes for Sunday School. The children enjoy eating them while they watch the brief video that goes along with the curriculum. Between the snacks we purchased earlier in the fall, and the generous snack gifts from the congregation, we should be okay for snacks until at least March. Thank you very much!

Also, a special thank you to Glenys Smith for all her work and wonderful spirit in organizing and leading our Sunday School - Friendship Club Christmas Pageant and our activities downstairs later that morning. It was a memorable morning full of the most adorable shepherds and angels I've ever seen, top notch readers, special snacks, and lively activities.

We'd still love to have a couple more teachers - even if they are only available to teach a couple of Sundays! We could also use a "behind the scenes" clerical assistant to make attendance pages, help with registration in the fall, and to create our curriculum chart (lining up our lesson topics with the dates we'll use them). Please contact Michelle at mkennedyhawkins@gmail.com or 780-678-5815 if you might be able to help with teaching or clerical jobs.

Michelle Kennedy Hawkins

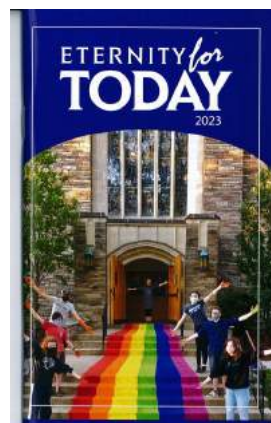


We are able to accept
E-transfers set up from your
online banking, that deposit
directly, at the following email
address:

offering@messiahcamrose.ca



Eternity for Today
devotional books for
January to March
2023 are available in
the office, or at the
Welcome Desk at the
back of the sanctuary,
for a suggested
donation of \$2.00.



NEWS BRIEFS



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

THANK YOU

Thank you from CLWR to all who purchased **Gifts from the Heart** during the Christmas season. These gifts honoured the named recipient and provided aid to someone who desperately needed it. Remember that **Gifts from the Heart** can be given all year long and are a great way to honour a loved one.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY

Together with the Humanitarian Coalition, CLWR is appealing for donations to respond to a historic hunger crisis. As a record 50 million people are on the brink of starvation, the **Government of Canada is matching donations from Canadians to provide emergency assistance** until July 17. Our gifts will be doubled to provide life-saving aid in countries like Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan which are facing years of drought, climate shocks and disruptions caused by war.



Visit clwr.org/hungercrisis or call 1-800-661-2597.



LunchFests and Potlucks
On the 3rd Sunday of Every
Month From January 2023
to May 2023

Potluck	LunchFest
	January 15, 2023
February 19, 2023	March 19, 2023
April 16, 2023	May 21, 2023



We are collecting **mittens, scarves, toques, socks, women's XL & XLL underwear & pajamas, infants & kids underwear & pajamas** until **January 4.**

You will find a tree in the Church office or a box at the back of the sanctuary for your donations.

ATTENTION HEARING AID USERS

We are equipped with T-Coil in the sanctuary. Contact your hearing aid provider to see if your hearing aid is T-coil compliant. If so, obtain the instructions for activating it.

The Support Committee



Handbells and Choristers Practices Resume on January 12

10:30 am



7:30 pm



Come and join us! There's always room for more!



MY OFFERING IS FOR:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tithe | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral/Memorial | <input type="checkbox"/> Benevolence Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missions | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Name _____
Address _____
Amount _____

2023
Offering Envelopes
are available for
pick up at the
church office or at
the back of the
sanctuary on
Sunday mornings.

A New Year's Prayer

DEAR LORD

As a new year begins, We come to You and ask for Your blessing.

We pray that you would give us joy to fill our days, peace to fill our hearts, and love to fill our lives.

Thank You for the plans You have for us in this new year.

We wait in anticipation to see all You will do!

Thanking God for you and praying your new year is blessed in every way.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

AMEN

New members are still welcome to join UBUNTU - a community church choir meant to build up the people of God and shape our very souls. The choir's name, UBUNTU, is an African word for "community" (literally translates as "I am because we are"). The music chosen will be music for and from the soul from various eras - prayers from people who need God, who sing their way back to God, and who sing their thanks to God!

Rehearsals:

Monday nights, 7-8:30 pm - resume on January 9th

Registration fee: \$60

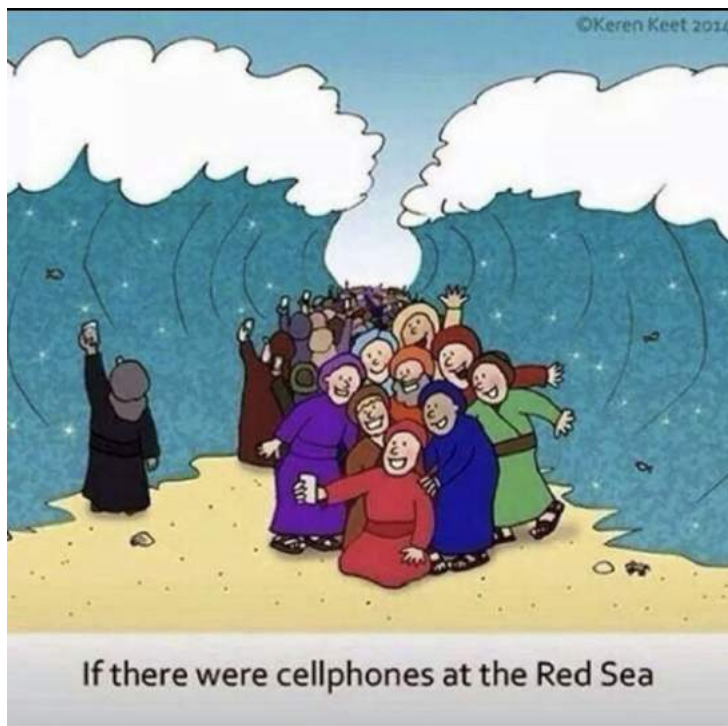
Venue: Messiah Lutheran Church

Conductors and accompanists:

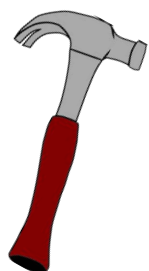
Joy Berg, Carolyn Olson



The staff of Messiah would like to thank you for all the lovely gifts, cards, sweet treats, prayers and Christmas well wishes.
Happy New Year!



HANDY PERSONS (Men or Women)

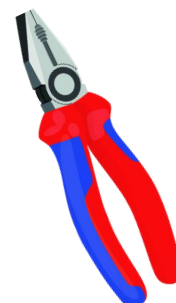


Would you like to help with odd jobs
around the church?

We're looking for people who like to work
with their hands !

Would you or someone you know like to be
part of a team - similar to the Wednesday Workers??

Please leave your name at the office if you are interested!



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

Website: messiahcamrose.ca

Email: office@messiahcamrose.ca

Acting Senior Pastor: Bev Swanson

Administrative Coordinator: Lori Mokry

Part-Time Administrative Assistant: Shirley McFall

Part-Time Administrative Assistant: Elaine Thygesen

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:

Liaising With:

Dena Grue

Worship Committee

LeRoy Johnson

Learning Committee

Mary Broen

Support Committee

Max Lindstrand

Witnessing Committee

Carolyn Andersen

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 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,


















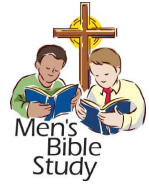







Write to: office@messiahcamrose.ca

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 19
Delivery date: January 27

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 CHRISTMAS 1 NO Adult Class NO Friendship Class NO Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 	2 NO Lectio NO Ubuntu Choir	3 NOON Martha's Table 	4 9:00 Men's Coffee Group at Tim Hortons West  10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom 11:00 Gunhild Berke Funeral NOON Staff Meeting 5:00 Church Council	5 NO Handbells 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Support Committee NO Choristers	6	7 NO Men's Bible Study by Zoom
8 EPIPHANY Food Bank Sunday  9:15 Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class NO Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 2:00 Communion at Season's	9 10:30 Lectio  1:00 Donna Snethun Funeral 2:00 World Mission Prayer Group by Zoom  7:00 Ubuntu Choir	10 10:00 Communion Hillside NOON Martha's Table  1:00 Service Committee 2:30 Communion Deer Meadows 7:00 Joy Circle	11 9:00 Men's Coffee Group at Tim Hortons West 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom  NOON Staff Meeting 6:30 Worship Committee	12 10:30 Handbells  5:15 Witnessing Committee 6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Choristers	13	14 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
15 EPIPHANY 2 9:15 Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service 11:45 LunchFest 	16 10:30 Lectio  7:00 Ubuntu Choir	17 NOON Meals On Wheels Deliveries  NOON Martha's Table 	18 9:00 Quilting 9:00 Men's Coffee Group at Tim Hortons West 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom  NOON Staff Meeting	19 10:30 Handbells <div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Messenger Articles Due </div>  NOON Meals On Wheels Deliveries  6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Choristers	20	21 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
22 EPIPHANY 3 9:15 Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class NO Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Special Congregational Meeting 1:00 Coffee Fellowship 	23 10:30 Lectio  7:00 Ubuntu Choir	24 NOON Martha's Table 	25 9:00 Men's Coffee Group at Tim Hortons West 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by Zoom  NOON Staff Meeting	26 10:30 Handbells  6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Choristers	<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Messenger Delivery </div>	28 9:00 Men's Bible Study by Zoom 
29 EPIPHANY 4 9:15 Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship	30 10:30 Lectio  7:00 Ubuntu Choir	31 NOON Martha's Table 