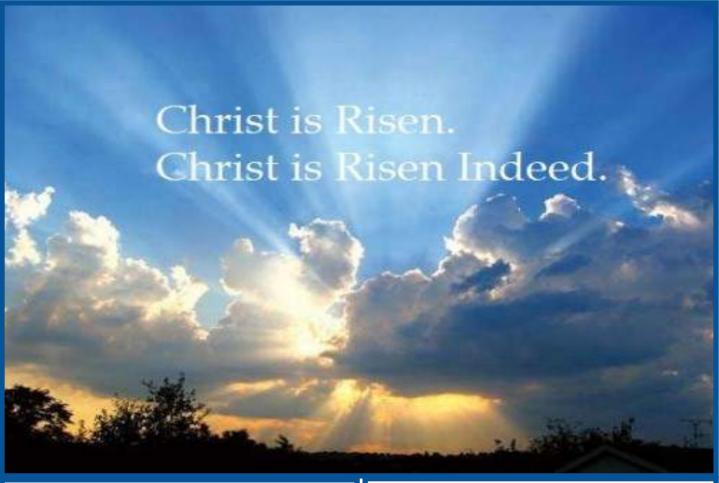


MESSIAH MESSENGER

April 2023 Volume 44 Issue 4



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)

Easter Services

Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm Good Friday, April 7, 7:00 pm Easter Sunday Communion Service Apríl 9, 10:30 am

Minister's Message



Hello beloved people of God at Messiah!

One of my favourite Easter stories is the one Luke tells of the pair (likely a married couple) who are walking along the road

from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They are forlorn over Jesus' death, and upset at the news that the tomb was found empty a few hours earlier. As they are travelling, they are met by a stranger on the road — and we know that the stranger is Jesus — but of course, they don't recognize him. Instead he meets them in their dashed hopes and walks with them. As they reach their destination, they invite this stranger in to share a meal, and it's around the table breaking bread that they see that it's Jesus who has been with them all along.

I love that Jesus is with them even when they don't know it's him!

I love how Jesus meets them at the moment when their hopes are most dashed.

I love how Jesus joins them on the journey, and it's a journey done in community, even if it's only a community of two!

I feel privileged to join you at Messiah on the journey and to be back home in the Camrose area.



A little about me...

I was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan and baptized at St. Olaf Lutheran. We moved to Alberta when I was little, and I spent my childhood in several different communities... Wetaskiwin, Red Deer and Calgary before we settled for my high school years in St. Albert. As a young child, I can remember giving sermons to my grandmother as she sat on her living room couch. I don't know the quality of those sermons but the sense of call to pastoral ministry goes way back for me!

I went straight from high school to an undergrad in History at U of A in Edmonton, and then from there to Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. My internship year was spent at Good Shepherd in Selkirk, Manitoba — an adventure moving to a new province and Synod. I had the joy of learning under Pastor David Saude — though he took a new call ten months into my internship — leaving me with with a couple of months to bear the weight of ministry solo.

I was ordained in July 2008 and was called to serve the Edberg and New Norway Parish. When Bishop Ron Mayan suggested this parish as a possibility, I had to find it on a map — but we fell in love with the beauty of the Battle River valley, the lush fields, and the wonderful welcome we received.

There were several Seminary grads who took calls in the Camrose area that year, and so it was a great place to learn and

grow as a new pastor. In 2011, we began a Thank you for your warm welcome over collaborative partnership where I also served the Bashaw Parish, and it's one of my joys of ministry that this partnership continues more than a decade later and now includes you at Messiah!

In 2014, we moved to Medicine Hat to serve Unity. In eight years, we came to love the milder winters (though it was much harder to cross country ski) and the hot summers, learning to give thanks for air conditioning. Another of my joys of ministry was in 2019 when Unity sold its church building to downsize our expenses, trading facilities with an Evangelical Free Church congregation. This was an incredible time of discernment, stepping out in faith and working together to make the move happen. If you drop into my office, I will proudly show you the pictures as we gathered one week for worship in one place, and the very next Sunday in the new.

Deanna and I are coming up to our 19th wedding anniversary, and she has homeschooled our boys and taught piano for the last few years. Our three sons are Jacob (14), Daniel (12) and Samuel (9). They all have different hairstyles — which reflect their individual personalities pretty well!

We are looking forward to get to know you, and for you to get to know us, too. the last couple of weeks, and a special thank you to all those who dropped off food as we were moving into our new home.

As we begin this journey of ministry together, I look forward to the surprises of recognizing Jesus in our midst, and travelling the road with you all.

Peace and joy in the risen Christ,

Pastor Jeff 403 502 1940 jeff@messiahcamrose.ca



Deanna, Daniel, Pastor Jeff, Samuel, Jacob

Minister's Message

A New Creation



We are an Easter
People! We are moving
into some very
different times in this
world and in our
churches. Things are
not as they used to be
all across the lands.

And so we are looking for new ways of being, new ways of growing our communities of faith and new ways to live out our lives as a resurrection people!

In the midst of change there is however one thing that never changes. We serve a Risen Lord! We stand at the grave of our Lord and it is empty for he is risen. Our God lives! And because of this we too are made new!

Our God is alive and so we live in hope because we too are people of the light. We walk forgiven and free. We walk filled with the Spirit of our living God. We are not left alone for our God walks beside us and breathes new life into our being each and every day.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come." (esv)

We too are raised out of the ashes of our lives and made into a new creation.

I love the image of a butterfly that begins as a caterpillar and emerges into flight as a beautiful butterfly. Indeed, this is how we are made new in our Lord! We are now set free to fly and allow ourselves to be made new.

Let us open as people of God to what is new that will be born out of what needs to be let go and emerge into the places the Lord wants to lead us now.

What hope! What an exciting time this can be as we allow ourselves to be made new as people of God living and being together.

We are indeed a new creation being made whole and set free to fly.

Easter Blessings to you from Pastor Bev, Dale, Brendyn and Keysha

780 678 7830

bev@messiahcamrose.ca



Installation Service for Pastor Jeff Decelle and Pastor Bev Swanson March 25, 2023









Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Dear Beloved of God -

Sometimes the demand to see is more than doubt. Sometimes it is love.

In my childhood Sunday school classes, the disciple Thomas was always

portrayed as "the bad guy." When the other disciples told him that Jesus was alive after his crucifixion and burial, Thomas refused to believe it and demanded to see Christ for himself. The moral of the story was clear for us children – Don't be like Thomas! Don't question! Believe! Don't doubt!

When I take a closer look at the biblical story, I see Thomas as a very practical, concrete kind of guy. We also learn about Thomas from two other accounts in the gospel according to John. Earlier, he insists that the disciples accompany Jesus when he goes to Bethany, a place he'd had to leave under threat of being stoned, "Let us also go that we may die with him." This is Thomas.

And then, in the midst of Jesus' long farewell discourse to the disciples on the night of his betrayal and arrest, Thomas speaks up again, cutting right through Jesus' words. "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places," Jesus says, "... And you know the way to the place where I am going." To which Thomas replies, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" This is Thomas.

Thomas is plainspoken and gutsy, honest and direct. He wants to understand what's going on and be able to face the situation at hand.

He isn't there with the other disciples on

Easter evening. Mary Magdalene told the group she had seen Jesus. They were huddled together in fear in the upper room, behind locked doors – but not Thomas.

So where is he that first Easter evening? Maybe Thomas can't imagine being locked in a room and he is out trying to discover the truth. Or maybe he just wanted to be alone in his grief. Perhaps he was just trying to move on and get back to work. Or maybe he was the only disciple with enough sense to realize that being in that room could take a long time and they would need some wine, cheese, and bread.

When the disciples tell Thomas that they have seen Jesus, he responds, "Unless I see the mark of the nails – in fact, until I touch those marks and put my hand in the wound in his side, I'm not going to believe."

Thomas is practical, concrete, realistic. He simply has to see for himself.

And when Jesus appears again to his disciples a full week later – not the next day or two – but one week later, Thomas is there. And Jesus, far from rebuking Thomas, offers to meet his request. "Put your fingers in my hands, touch my side." And Thomas responds, "My Lord and my God." What a statement of faith!

In fact, Thomas' response, "My Lord and my God!" is the high point of John's gospel. When Thomas gets it, he gets it.

There is something vulnerable and beautiful about this story. We see what Thomas needs – and perhaps our own needs – and even more, we see what Jesus is willing to give. We see that Jesus meets Thomas' need by giving of himself. Jesus comes to

him, speaks a word of peace, invites him to see and touch, invites him to believe.

And Jesus comes to us in the water and the word of baptism, through the scriptures, in the simple meal of bread and wine, and through one another until we too believe, until we also profess our faith: "My Lord and my God."

Several years ago, my paternal grandmother was rushed from the hospital in Grande Prairie to one in Edmonton. We

were living in Lethbridge at the time – five hours away. My life was busy, but no phone call could reassure me. You see, I had to see her with my own eyes and touch her with my own hands.

Sometimes the demand to see is more than doubt. Sometimes it is love.

In Christ Jesus -

Shalom, +Larry





Palm Sunday, April 2, 10:30 am
Holy Week & Easter Schedule
Maundy Thursday Service, April 6, 7:00 pm

Good Friday Service Lead Me to the Cross,

April 7, 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil @ Augustana, Saturday, April 8, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Breakfast, April 9, 9:00 am

Easter Sunday Communion Service, April 9, 10:30 am



Special Gift Memorial In Honor of

Ruby Martin

New Members
Pastor Jeff Decelle
Deanna Decelle
Daniel, Samuel and
Jacob

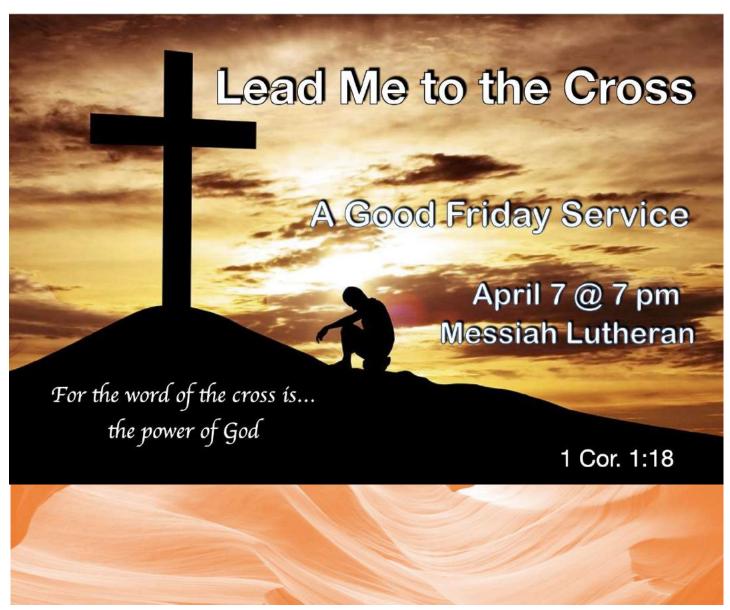


Charitable Donation Receipts

The receipts for your 2022 donations to



Messiah are either in your mailbox at the back of the church or have been mailed directly to you.



NAME TAGS

Since we are welcoming new members and now a new pastor, having a name tag on is a nice way to greet each other and get acquainted.

If you need one please contact the office or Darlene Dahle at 780-672-8488.

Please wear one if you have one! Thanks,

The Worship Committee





Donations Accepted on:

Saturday April 15 1 to 3 pm.

Monday April 17 from 9 am to 4 pm Tuesday April 18 from 9 am to 1 pm

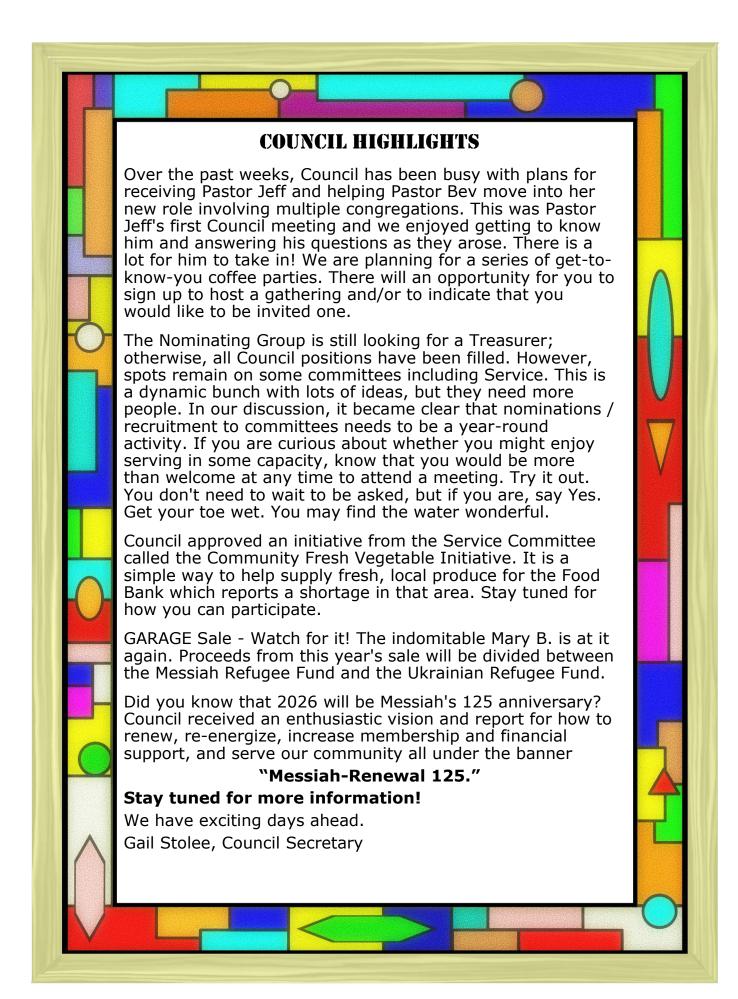
Garage Sale Dates

Wednesday April 19, 9 am to 5 pm Thursday April 20, 9 am to 5 pm Friday April 21, 9 am to 5 pm

Proceeds will go towards the support of the refugees making their homes in Camrose.

Sunday, April 16
After the Worship Service
Hosted by the Witnessing
Committee
Everyone Welcome!





Treasurer's Report

December was an above average month for income, and then there were deficits of \$4,846 in January and \$2,408 in February. But it is encouraging to see that for the first ten months of our fiscal year there is still a surplus of \$14,640. This is much improved from last year, when we had a deficit of \$21,000 for the same ten months. The biggest reason for this is that we only had one pastor during this time.

At our last annual meeting we agreed that God was calling us to move ahead in an arrangement to share pastoral staff with the congregations at New Norway and Bashaw, and in the process to add a half time position to our pastoral staff. It has taken several months, but last month we were happy to welcome Pastor Jeff to serve full time with us. We wish God's blessings to Pastor Bev as she transitions to spending half of her time with the other congregations, at the same time as she continues half time at Messiah.

This understanding of where God is leading us comes with financial implications for both our congregational and personal planning. Church council is considering how we will cover the added costs. There was one special meeting in March to begin the process of drafting a budget for next year, and another meeting is planned for April. We are be challenged to increase our income, or find ways to reduce expenses, or move into next year with a deficit budget. Because we may carry forward a bit of a surplus the latter would be possible for one year, but we need to be prepared to balance the budget in future years.

It is encouraging to see the level of engagement in our congregation. You may have ideas of how we could increase income or reduce costs, and if you do please discuss them with me or any member of council. We would be happy to hear from you. And if you don't have anything specific to suggest, please pray that council may have wisdom in planning for God's work at Messiah.

Dave Stolee, Treasurer



ARE YOU A POET?

AN ARTIST?

A CRAFTS PERSON?



We'd like to share your work in the Messenger.





Take a picture of it and bring it in or email it to the office.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

By Zoom

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Contact the office for the Zoom link.

Food Bank Sunday - April 9 (Easter Sunday)

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.



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

April 2: Video Series:

Life of Martin Luther continues

April 9: Cancelled

April 16: Dale Swanson

Sunday School Update

In April we'll have regular class on April 2nd and April 16th. On April 30th Glenys Smith will lead us in some children's activities during the church service.

We have enough snacks for now - thanks everyone!

Thank you to three of our Confirmation students - Zak, Ali, and Josiah - for helping with Sunday School recently.

Michelle Kennedy-Hawkins

Praying for

Ukraine

cell 780-678-5815

mkennedyhawkins@gmail.com



FUND RAISING WALK FOR UKRAINE

Support the Ukrainian Emergency Relief and the ongoing effort to help our local Ukrainian Refugees. Meet at the Rotary Shelter at the Stoney Creek Centre, April 16, at 1:00 pm where we can walk, bike, or otherwise traverse the Stoney Creek Valley, returning to the Rotary Shelter for refreshments. Donations will be accepted at the Rotary Shelter – cash or cheques to Messiah Lutheran Church, cheques marked "Camrose Refugee Centre – Ukrainian Support". There is no obligation to donate, please come and support Ukraine and keep all affected in your prayers.

For further information:

Karen Smith

ksledz@cable-lynx.net

780 608 9892.



What is this? It's a QR code. What is it used for?

It's used by smart phone users for a

"Quick Response" to access information from the internet. Why does Messiah have one?

So that people can just aim the camera on their smartphones and go directly to Messiah's website instead of searching for it on the internet. Just

point your camera and touch the link.



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 2023 are available in the office, or at the Welcome Desk at the back of the sanctuary, for a suggested donation of \$2.00.





LENTEN PROJECT

Donations given to CLWR up until Easter are being matched 4:1 by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. These funds are being directed to reduce hunger in the South Sudan and Burundi.



Matching 4:1

Go online at www.clwr.org/lent or phone 1-800-661-2597

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? Would you like to help?

Please call Darlene Dahle at 780 608 4521 Or email ddahlea ualberta.ca





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

YOUTH EASTER EGG DECORATING



Saturday, April 8

at 2 pm

In the Fellowship Center

Men's Bible Study

When? Saturdays, 9:00 to 10:15 am

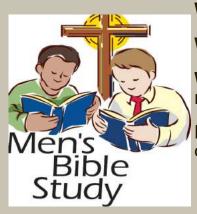
Where? Via ZOOM (call the church office for the link.)

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!!
Note: There will not be a Bible Study on Saturday, April 8









Do You Have a Favorite Hymn?

There is a box at the Welcome Centre for you to make suggestions.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

The Worship Committee

Handbells and Choristers Practices are held on Thursdays

10:30 am



7:30 pm





REVERENDEUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



O SPLENDID, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY LET MILDRED DO THE BULLETINS AGAIN

When I awoke this morning, I asked myself, "What is life about?"

I found the answers in my room.



The fan said, "Be Cool."

The ceiling said, "Aim high."

The window told me to see the world.



"Reflect before you act," said the mirror.



The calendar said, "Stay up to date."

The door reminded me to push hard for my goals.

Looking at the floor reminded me to kneel down and pray thankfulness over all that I have.



And the clock?

The clock said, "Every minute is precious."

(copied from an unknown source)

CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID Needs Your Help

Volunteer drivers to take clients into Edmonton for speciality

medical appointments. Call Neighbor Aid for more information 780-679-3220



or drop by and pick up a volunteer form.
4524 – 54 St. Camrose

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

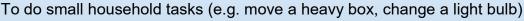
Workers?? Please leave your name at the office if you are interested!

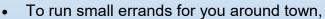




CAN WE HELP?

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





• 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

Senior Pastor Messiah: Jeff Decelle Pastor: Bev Swanson (serving 1/2 time at Messiah and 1/2 time at Bashaw/New Norway)

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
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: May Material due: April 18 Delivery date: April 28



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Palm Sunday 9:15 Adult Class	3 10:30 Lectio	4	5 9:00 Men's Coffee Group @ Tim	6 10:30 Handbells	7 Good Friday OFFICE CLOSED	1 9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM BIRLE Study 8 NO Men's Bible Study
9:30 Friendship Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 2:00 Communion at Seasons	2:00 World Mission Prayer Group 7:00 Ubuntu	NOON Martha's Table 7:00 Support Committee	10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM NOON Staff Meeting	2:30 Learning Committee NO Confirmation 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service TBD Choristers	7:00 Good Friday Service	2:00 Youth Easter Egg Decorating 7:00 Easter Vigil at Augustana
9 Easter Sunday Food Bank Sunday 9:00 Easter Breakfast NO Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class NO Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service 11:45 Coffee	OFFICE CLOSED Easter Monday NO Lectio 7:00 Ubuntu Choir	11 10:00 Communion at Hillside NOON Martha's Table 1:15 Service Committee 2:30 Communion at Deer Meadows 7:00 Joy Circle	12 9:00 Men's Coffee Group @ Tim Hortons West 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM NOON Staff Meeting 4:30 Church Council Budgeting 7:00 Faith Circle by ZOOM	5:15 Witnessing Committee NO Confirmation 7:30 Choristers	14	15 9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM BIRLE Study 1:00-3:00 Garage Sale Donations Accepted
16 Easter 2 9:15 Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Potluck Luncheon	17 9:00-4:00 Garage Sale Donations Accepted 10:30 Lectio 7:00 Ubuntu	18 9:00-4:00 Garage Sale Donations Accepted Messenger Articles Due NOON Martha's Table NOON Meals on Wheels Deliveries	9:00 - 5:00 GARAGE SALE 9:00 - 5:00 GARAGE 9:00 Men's Coffee Group @ Tim Hortons West 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM NOON Staff Meeting	20 GARAGE SALE 9:00 - 5:00 GARAGE SALE 10:30 Handbells NOON Meals on Wheels Deliveries 6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Choristers	21 GARAGE SALE 9:00 - 5:00 GARAGE SALE	9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM
23 Easter 3 9:15 Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class NO Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship 3:00 Ubuntu Spring Concert	24 10:30 Lectio 7:00 Ubuntu	NOON Martha's Table	26 9:00 Quilting 9:00 Men's Coffee Group @ Tim Hortons West 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM NOON Staff Meeting 5:00 Church Council	10:30 Handbells 6:45 Confirmation 7:30 Choristers	Messenger Delivery Messenger Delivery	9:00 Men's Bible Study by ZOOM BIRLE Study 9:00 East Central Area Gathering at St. Paul's Ellerslie 10:00 CLBI Graduation
30 Easter 4 9:15 Adult Class 9:30 Friendship Class 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:45 Coffee Fellowship						