

# **Messiah Messenger**

# November 2023 Volume 44 Issue 10

# Remembrance Day

11 NOVEMBER

### In Flanders Fields

poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, 3 May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, That mark our place; and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.

New Fall Office Hours We are experimenting with having the office closed Fridays.

> Open Monday to Thursday 9:00 am to Noon & 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sharing Jesus Christ with All People

# 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.

### **Pastor's Ponderings**



"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you." — Psalm 122.6

The events in Israel and Gaza have been horrifying and disheartening. It seems that it is always civilians who pay the biggest price: those who were killed or taken hostage at the outdoor dance event in Israel, or the Palestinians in Gaza isolated

now for weeks from food and emergency supplies. As the days go on, we find ourselves worried over the looming shadow of a wider war and a humanitarian catastrophe.

At a recent event, I noticed our Bishop refer not to the "Holy Land" but to the "Land of the Holy One." It's through Jesus, and our biblical ancestors, that we feel a connection to this place. In a recent worship service, we read the story of King David parading the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem as his new capital city, marking the presence of God with the people. This city is not just the disputed capital of modern Israel, but a place with a long history for Jews, Christians and Muslims. The ruins of the Jewish second temple, the church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Dome of the Rock Mosque draw pilgrims from all these faiths from all over the world.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote in his book Not In God's Name: Confronting Religious Violence: "No soul was ever saved by hate. No truth was ever proved by violence. No redemption was ever brought by holy war. No religion won the admiration of the world by its capacity to inflict suffering on its enemies (p. 265)." This is a hard lesson

psalm that I quoted above: praying for peace for a city that has been sacked and ransacked, levelled and rebuilt, more than once in in its complicated history. With so many who have loved this place, why is it so fraught with violence?

So, how can we embody this prayer for the peace of Jerusalem today?

We can learn something of the history of the conflict, especially over the last decades. Read something from an Israeli perspective. Read another from a Palestinian in Gaza or the West Bank. Check out the website of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land — https://elcjhl.org/ — for the ministry of Lutherans in the land of the Holy One.

We can consider giving to our partners at Canadian Lutheran World Relief, working on our behalf. You'll see their emergency appeal for aid to those displaced, and a matching grant from the Canadian government for all donations received before November 12. Know also that our church, through the Lutheran World Federation, is working at the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, serving many Palestinians who cannot get dialysis or cancer care anywhere else. Some of that cancer care was received at the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza that was bombed in the conflict.

We can remember our that local Muslim and Jewish neighbours don't deserve threats or violence. We can, as much as possible, seek to live in peace with all.

Jesus entered Jerusalem to the cries of "Hosanna" and left carrying a cross. How Jesus must still weep over the

for us to learn.

As Jesus approaches Jerusalem from the surrounding hills, he weeps knowing that his overtures of peace will be rejected. Jesus foresees that like many prophets before him, he will be killed. too: "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and vou were not willing!" (Luke 13:34) I hear the longing of the

God, You have told us what is good: "Act with justice, love to show mercy, Live humbly before your God." It sounds simple, Why do humans act so differently - every day. Speechless, perplexed I stand before You seeing the horrors of Your world No tears, no words Come teach us. Tell us what is good. Let us seek Your heaven Reunited. In love



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senseless destruction, and shed tears over how we so easily return violence for violence.

How important it continues to be, for those who bear his name, to pray for peace, to choose love instead of hate, and to practice neighbourliness no matter where we find ourselves.

Peace be with you all,

Pastor Jeff Decelle 403 502 1940 jeff@messiahcamrose.ca

### **Pastor's Ponderings**

### GOD REMEMBERS YOU



Here we are. The snow arrived on Monday. The roads became very icy and snow covered and we transitioned into yet another season. Driving on the highways in some places felt like the ground underneath our vehicle was moving. Not very solid. It takes a bit to get used to these changes. There are often a few more accidents because snow tires are not yet on all the vehicles, and we do not have

our "snow" legs beneath us yet.

There is a lot more in this world that is also very unstable under our feet. The wars in Israel and Palestine and Russia and the Ukraine continue to be on our hearts and minds. Then there is a mass shooting in the States.

There have been earthquakes and fires and natural disasters that have created such chaos in the lives of so many. There are so many losses.

There are also some things right here in our city and our area that are unstable. We have people who cannot find shelter. We found a little shelter that someone built beside our church building to keep the wind and cold out. We have people right here without food, shelter and proper winter gear.

And then there are those across the world who are starving. But these things often do not grab our hearts as things that seem closer to home because we do not see them every day... but so many are struggling in our world with even the basic needs of water, food and shelter.

This world is very unstable. And the ground beneath us is shaky. It has been this way throughout history.

I remember my Dad sharing as they were heading to Korea to the war as young 18 year old men how they were in a ship for months on their way. Imagine how the sea must have felt under their feet. And how it must have felt when they thought about where they were heading

can imagine. Then there are those forgotten who came back wounded in their bodies and souls from all they experienced, never to be the same from all the trauma.

We also remember this time of year, the loved ones who we have lost on All Saints Sunday.

I have had people share with me how the instability of our world affects them. It makes us uneasy. Yes, the

ground beneath us in this world is at times very unstable. And we can begin to feel that instability and at times it makes us afraid.

Where is God in all that is? Sometimes it can be hard to see where God is. We might even rail at God and ask with the Psalmist... "How long oh Lord?"

We can know that God is here. God is here in all that is happening in our daily lives. God was and is with the soldiers in the trenches. God is with the people overseas who are struggling in war as we speak. God is with those who have lost lives and homes in the fires and earthquakes. God is there and here with the hungry and the homeless. God is here with us in our daily struggles.

In this time of remembering our soldiers and the loves ones we have lost... we can know that God remembers us. God knows each of us and God remembers and holds us when the grounds beneath us are unstable. God sees each of us where we are in our lives. God knows that the ground beneath this earth feels very unstable to us. God remembers those who were in those army trenches years ago and still are today. God knows each fallen soldier.

As we remember and struggle with our losses, God remembers each of us. We are that important to God and we and all who suffer are not forgotten. It is hard for us to imagine but God sees and knows each one of us individually and collectively.

Psalm 136:23 from the Message says this," God remembered us when we were down, His love never quits". Another translation says, "His faithful love endures forever."

Indeed, whatever is happening in our lives and no matter

and thinking that perhaps they would not ever be back on these seas again. Imagine the uncertainty.

We are heading into Remembrance Day. This day is when we remember those who served our country and those in other countries who serve and protect their homelands.

I don't think we really know just how unstable things were for those soldiers.

Unless we had been there it is pretty hard to understand. But we



where we are, we are remembered by God and held in God's loving arms.

As we understand this, let us also be among those who remember others in our world and reach out in love to those who are suffering. Let us be people who also remember.

Blessings to you all in this time of remembering and of being remembered.

Pastor Bev Swanson 780 678 7830 bev@messiahcamrose.ca





Dear Beloved of God –

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling (Ephesians 4:4).

We will gather June 6-8, 2024, at the University of Alberta – Augustana Campus in Camrose for the 19 th Convention of the

Synod of Alberta and the Territories under the theme: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope. This convention marks the end of my current term as Bishop.

I am writing to let you know that following nearly one and one-half years of intentional prayer and conversation with Cathy, my spiritual director, my counselor, my Mutual Ministry Team, and trusted friends and colleagues, my discernment is complete. Dear friends, I have decided to conclude my service as Synod Bishop.

I cannot express the profound gratitude I feel for the sacred honour and privilege I have had in serving as your bishop. I began at the synod office as Assistant to the Bishop in the fall of 2010 and upon Bishop Mayan's retirement was elected Bishop in October 2012 and ordained on January 26, 2013. Subsequently I was elected in 2014 and 2018 to additional terms. Upon completion of this current six-year term I will have served in the synod office for nearly fourteen years.

God is again doing a new thing in my life and in the life of our Synod.

Although I am concluding my term as Bishop, I will not be retiring. I am open to the Spirit's leading and to the Spirit's call and am looking forward to new ministry opportunities and possibilities either within Canada or globally, following our Synod Convention and a time of transition with the bishop-elect.

Over the next months leading up to and including the Synod Convention, we will again listen deeply to the Holy Spirit, to each other, and to the world around us to discern together where God is leading and calling us, including through the role of the bishop. Transitions in leadership can be challenging; however, they also hold rich potential for unlocking and liberating new gifts, opportunities, hopes, and dreams. Over the next few months as a Synod, we will be working to discern the gifts needed in our next bishop, and I anticipate that Synod Council will be sharing a discernment process for use within congregations, councils, and specialized ministries, very soon.

We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. The Spirit is guiding us. We have the Scriptures. We have water. We have bread and wine. We have each other. Jesus is with us.

Beloved of God, as people of faith, continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honour each other. Make space for the lament that always accompanies change. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other to live into hope. Trust that God is with us in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Thank you for continued prayers for Cathy and me, for our family, and for the synod staff and council.

By God's grace, we still have several months to walk together in this work. I look forward to journeying with you and trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead, sustain and guide us all.

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

In Christ Jesus -

### Shalom,

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



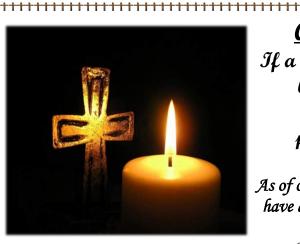




In Honour of Betty Pearson's 100th Birthday

Memoríals:

(none this month)



<u>All Saints Sunday is November 5</u> If a close family member has died and you would like that person remembered by name and to light a candle at that service, please email office@messiahcamrose.ca or call 780-672-3444. As of our publication date, we remember in our prayers those who

have died since last All Saints Sunday and those who have been brought forth by loved ones:

Lavanda Giebelhaus, Gerry Davis, Jose Hernan Ariza,

Julianna Friesen, Pastor Ralph Kassen, Neta Specht, Art Reiten, Gunhild Berke, Donna Snethun, Jason Heise, Diann Elliot, Marion Benson, Ruby Martin, Ida Kihn, Bea Kvemshagen, Paul Campbell, Robert Peterson, Linda Odegard, Dorothy Hoyme, Esther Forre, Robert Miller, Nels Loberg, Orville Rupertus, Peter Olesen, Marie Throndson, Ben MacDonald, Betty-Lou Lawrence, Dave Hoybak, Arlene Murray, Shirleyanne Michaels, Oystein Moi We will also light a candle remembering all those you hold in your heart.



# **NEWS** BRIEFS

**Canadian Lutheran** World Relief



Our daily newscasts keep us informed of the tremendous needs in that part of the world as the fighting and unrest continues. CLWR, along with its allied charities, is working to determine where best to direct its financial help. Money is already being collected and will be used in the best possible way. (Donations will be matched by the government until Nov 12.)

Other serious situations continue in various other parts of the world and our ongoing help is always needed. Gifts can be donated on-line at <u>www.clwr.org</u>, by calling 1-800-661-2597 or mailing the new address at 400-185 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1.

### GIFTS FROM THE HEART

This is just a reminder that the new GIFTS FROM THE HEART catalogues will be arriving soon. Items in these catalogues can be "bought" and "given" in honour or in memory of a loved one. It's a really easy and meaningful way to do Christmas shopping. Watch for the new catalogues!



Share God's love with the world and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others with Gifts from the Heart!

clwr.org/GFTH

Canadian Lutheran World Relief



9:15 AM in the **Basement Auditorium** 'The Chosen'. No Adult Class.



**Eternity for Today** devotional books for October to December 2023 are available in the office, or at the Welcome Desk at the back of the sanctuary, for a suggested donation of \$3.00.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Last month I was happy to report that four months into our new budget year Messiah's financial situation was encouraging and improving, with a deficit of only \$1,471. This was against the budget with an annual deficit of over \$40,000.

Then, as soon as the Messenger was distributed I had a call from a member offering to make a special offering to cover that amount. Thanks be to God for those who are willing and able to make special offerings like this.

There was another deficit of \$2,553 in September. But in October there were special Thanksgiving offerings, and I dare hope that with this and ongoing generous offerings there may not be any year to date deficit at the end of October. It is very encouraging to see that envelope and plate offerings for the first five months of our year were up \$23,496 or 19% from the same period last year.

We know that heating bills will soon be much higher, but we have many reasons to be hopeful and optimistic.

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns about Messiah's financial situation.



Dave Stolee, Treasurer



### A Drive-thru Christmas Light Experience

We're lighting up our campground for our 4th annual *Hastings Lights!* Enjoy Christmas cookies and sip hot chocolate as you drive through our one-of-a-kind Christmas light displays.

### December 1 and 2

Drop in from 6:00 - 9:00 each night

We are looking for individuals, families, groups or business sponsors to decorate a site for this event. If you are willing to decorate a site, please contact us at <u>info@hastingslake.com</u>.

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What is your favorite table grace, maybe one you learned as a child, maybe one from your heritage?
We would like to feature these and maybe learn something new, too.
Please send your contributions to
Signe Harder to my email address at
jonhardr@telus.net. Check out the
bulletin board in basement hallway,
going into the auditorium.

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COME AND SEE WHAT 'S BEEN ADDED SINCE LAST MONTH!

# Food Bank Sunday - November 12

Food Bank donations **are still needed** and can be left in the grocery cart **in the Church foyer during the week** or **at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings** or **dropped off directly** to the Neighbor Aid Food Bank located at

4524 54 Street in Camrose,

Monday to Friday from 9:00 am - Noon

& Tuesday to Thursday 1:00-4:00 pm.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and can be made online at <u>atbcares.com</u> by entering **CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID CENTER INC.** in the Find A Cause search area.





## LunchFests and Potlucks

### Potluck

November 19, 2023 February 18, 2024 April 21, 2024 January 21, 2024 May 12, 2024 June 9, 2024

LunchFest



# Lectio...Journeying Through Prayer

### Mondays 10:30 AM

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

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

This is not a closed group.

You may come and go as your schedule allows.

All are welcome.

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

Next Quilting Wednesday Morning November 15

At 9:00 am In the Fellowship Centre



### Men's Bible Study Has Begun When? Saturday Mornings 9:00 to 10:15 am Where? Via ZOOM (call the church office for the link.)

**What?** To study the Narrative Lectionary lesson which will be highlighted at the next

day's worship service.

**Reading Material?** Copies of the lesson are provided ahead of time.

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

All Men Are Welcome!!



### (No Study on Saturday, Nov 11)

### **Blessing of the Pets October 15**



Camrose Heritage Railway Station & Park

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

November 2 - December 16, 2023 Thursdays & Fridays 1:00 - 5:00 Saturdays 11:00 - 5:00

4407 47 AVE, CAMROSE AB



Gently Used Christmas Treasures for Sale



Great Gifts for Kids to Give Parents or Teachers



Cookies & Coffee Starting Nov. 2nd

Cinnamon Buns Served Nov. 4th



Featuring Quilts from Battle River Quilters' Guild

Payment by cash, cheque, or e-transfer only. For more information call 780-672-3099 or email canadiannorthern@telus.net

### Council Highlights Oct 18, 2023

There is a sense that things are settling in well. We give thanks for all the talented, loving, people who make it so.

The Learning committee reports that the Friendship Class, Sunday School, and Adult Class are off to good starts. You may want to take note of the topics for the next few weeks for Adult Class. Nov. 5 View "The Chosen" - Using episodes to lead discussion There are several more ideas in the works, but if you have suggestions, Donny or LeRoy would love to hear them.

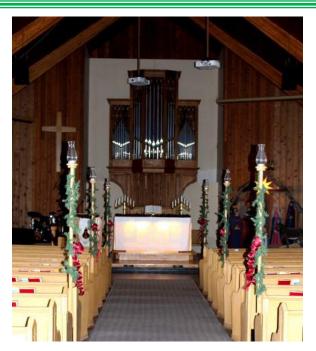
Do you have a passion for helping people in need? If so, you might want to consider representing Messiah on the Neighbor Aid board. The board is made up of people from a number of Camrose churches. It oversees some important services in the City and County including the Food Bank, Martha's Table, the Breakfast Program, Rides for specialty medical appointments, and an Emergency Fund. If you are interested or have questions, contact Deanne Decelle or Sharon Gilbertson for more information.

Gail Stolee, Council Secretary

Volunteering at the

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and December 31

Services



We have not scheduled volunteers for the three, Sunday, Christmas Eve services (10:30 am, 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm) as well as the one on Monday, Christmas Day (10:30 am) and on Sunday, Dec 31 (10:30 am). If you are available to volunteer, please look for the sign up sheet at the Welcome Centre or call the office at 780-672-3444.

Your children, young or adult, and/or your grandchildren would be great helpers!

You can offer to be a greeter, an usher, a communion assistant or a lector.

\* We can always use more volunteers, especially ushers!

### **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 780 672 8488 Or email dahledar@gmail.com

# ATTENTION HEARING AID USERS

We are equipped with T-Coil in the

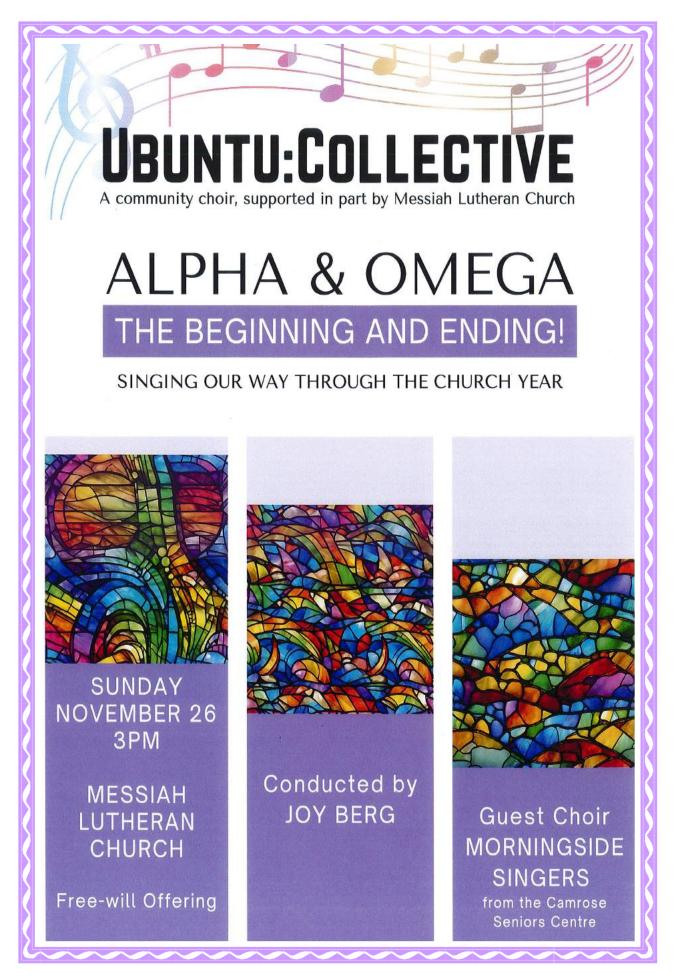


sanctuary. Contact your hearing aid provider to see if your hearing aid is T-coil compliant. If so, obtain the instructions for activating it. We are able to accept E-transfers set up from your online banking, that deposit directly, at the following email address:



offering@messiahcamrose.ca





# Volunteer Opportunity!

The CARE GROUP needs you to help people with small jobs!

Contact the church office with your skills at 780-672-3444.



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Need a Hand? The CARE GROUP has volunteers to help with small jobs!

> Contact the church office with your request at 780–672–3444. There is no cost for this service.



COLLABORATIVE CONFIRMATION CLASS with students from Messiah, Bethel, New Norway, Bashaw, Bawlf and Armena.

YOUTH EVENT



Snow Removal! Volunteers needed We need volunteers to shovel snow. Please contact us by email at office@messiahcamrose.ca or call 780-672-3444 to add your name to the list.

### New in the Church Library

### A BOX FULL OF BRUNSTETTERS!!

A recent donation to the library included 14 volumes by Wanda E. Brunstetter. While she is a popular author of Amish fiction (10 million copies sold), we had only one of her books prior to these arrivals. Now, fiction fans can enjoy another <u>seven thousand pages</u> of her work.

Brunstetter is unique among major authors in this genre, because she is of Anabaptist stock herself and is married to a Mennonite. All authors do careful research to create authenticity, but Brunstetter has the advantage of her own heritage. Reminder: If family members or loved ones are in the hospital, please let the church office know so we can make a pastoral visit.

The hospital no longer releases this information to Pastors.

My name is ...

### NAME

**TAGS...**Having a name tag on is a nice way to greet other worshippers. Please

wear one if you have one! You will find supplies to make one at the Welcome Centre.

### rs. 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



CAMROSE

**NEIGHBOR AID** 

**Needs Your Help** 

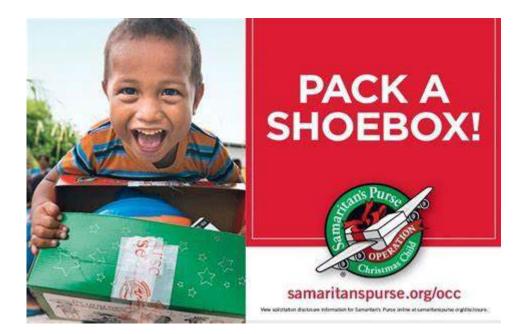
Volunteer drivers to take clients



The Camrose Women's Shelter has provided an updated list of current needs: body wash, shampoo (full bottles), conditioner, pajamas (youth 10-17), slippers (adult & child), toothpaste & toothbrushes, twin sheet sets. Items can be placed in the white wooden box at the back of the sanctuary labelled Women's Shelter.

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".





# "PACK A SHOEBOX AND IMPACT A COMMUNITY FOREVER"

PRAY – for each Child and Shoebox

GO – buy items to fill your Shoeboxes



SEND – to a Child and change a life Forever

Valued Church partner,

Last year our goal was 2022 shoeboxes and you answered by inspiring your churches (and our community) to pack 2295 boxes!

This year, our goal is ... (\*drum roll) 2500 Shoeboxes !! LET'S GO!

**Collection Week** is coming up fast! Nov. 13-19, drop-offs are received at Century Meadows Baptist Church and so we will be collecting the boxes here at Messiah until Sunday, November 12.

Boxes are available at the Welcome Center or Office during the week.



# 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: Liaising With: Dena Grue Worship Committee LeRoy Johnson Learning Committee Mary Broen Support Committee Max Lindstrand Witnessing Committee Service Committee Carolyn Andersen

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: <u>messiahcamrose.ca</u> 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: December Material due: November 20 **Delivery date: November 30**

# NOVEMBER 2023

