

MESSIAH MESSENGER

December 2023

Volume 44 Issue 11



Worship Schedule **Sunday 10:30 am**

Services are broadcast on YouTube, search for MessiahCamrose or find a link anytime on our website messiahcamrose.ca.

We also broadcast live 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.

Regular Office Hours

Monday to Thursday
9:00 am to Noon
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
(Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm & Closed Fridays)

Holiday Office Hours

Closed from December 25th to 27th
Open on Thursday, Dec 28, 9 am - Noon
Closed Friday, Dec 29th and Monday, Jan. 1

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve, December 24
10:30 am 4th Sunday of Advent
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

9:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service

Christmas Day, December 25
10:30 am Communion Service

Pastor's Ponderings



One of my favourite hymns from our new hymnal supplement, *All Creation Sings*, is *May This Church Be Like a Tree* (#1042). I hope to introduce it to you in the coming months. It's a text from an Argentinian pastor, Pablo Sosa, and he imagines the church planted beside God's river of life. The third verse asks

God to shape us into a church that offers its shade, fruit and wood for the sake of others:

*"May this church be like a tree, O God,
that thrives where you have planted,
may it stand to show the way,
your way of loving and self-giving,
offering shade, and fruit for sharing,
giving up its wood for burning.
May this living church that names you
be a tree of life eternal"*

The hymn prays that we would become a thriving church by living into Jesus' self-giving love.

During the call process when I met with Messiah's staff, and I asked around the table what they loved about this place, one of the answers was: "we are an inner city church," to which I said in surprise, "Camrose has an inner city?"

Over these last couple of months, on my walks to the church office in the mornings, I have often come across people sleeping on a park bench, or in the underpass tunnel, or right outside the Link doors in the alley behind the church.

Messiah was approached by Camrose Family and Community Support Services (CDFCSS) as a possible location for a **Warming Hub**. It was noted that we are planted right in the center of where people are, and conveniently across the alley from CDFCSS, where multiple community support services can be accessed.

A Warming Hub is different from a homeless shelter. It is not a permanent shelter space with beds that would be open 24/7. Instead, the hub would only operate on nights when the temperature goes below -20 C. It would be open limited hours from 10 PM until 7 AM. No beds or mats would be set up, but space would be available

with places to sit and with coffee to drink so that no one would have to be outside on the coldest winter nights. In the morning clients would be given a coffee gift card and transportation tokens, so that they are not sent out with nothing back into the cold.

Our Church Council, along with the Service and Support Committees, have worked hard to identify a space that would meet the needs of this Warming Hub. We have determined together that the Fellowship Centre makes the most sense, with its easy access to the alley, as well as with bathrooms and a kitchen.



We recognize that there are security considerations in our large building. However, with relatively minor modifications — alarms added to the interior Fellowship Centre doors — we can prevent access to the rest of the church. These alterations would be paid for by the community partnership that would sponsor this project.

It's this aspect that's important. This isn't Messiah's project — instead we are working collaboratively with community partners. The Warming Hub would be staffed by an organization that has operated hubs in other cities, and understands the complex needs of those who are living unsheltered. These staff members would be supplemented by Camrose volunteers, organized by CDFCSS. The staff would be responsible to ensure that there are no wanderers through our building and trained to know when the police and paramedics are required.

This is a huge experiment! We are stepping into the unknown. We don't know how many people will use the Hub. We don't know how many days this winter will be below -20, and so how much it will

be needed. We can't predict all the consequences of opening our building to this project. But we do know that God has planted us right in the middle of Camrose, and that we have had people sleeping right outside our doors. And so, we will offer our space as a place of shelter and warmth through this winter, and we will see what happens, and evaluate this experiment in the Spring.

Church Council approved offering our space to this community experiment at our November meeting. Our hope would be to have the Warming Hub open within the next few weeks, depending upon the timeline of our community partners.

Lyndel Kasa, Executive Director of CDFCSS will be present during Coffee Fellowship after worship on **Sunday, December 3rd**, so that you can ask questions and hear about this project directly from her.



May this church be like a tree, O God, that thrives where you have planted.

Peace be with you all,

Pastor Jeff Decelle

403 502 1940

jeff@messiahcamrose.ca



Pastor's Ponderings

We are beginning the Advent season. This is a season of waiting and of opening. It is always a good idea to be open to more than the external things that are a part of this season. These things can be quite empty if our soul is longing for something deeper

and often we **are** longing for something much deeper.

There can be so much that distracts us from the real "soul stuff" that this season is about. We can get caught up in the physical stuff of the shopping, baking, hanging lights and the preparations of this season and forget to prepare our souls for the coming of the Lord into our lives in a fresh new way. Without the latter the external stuff becomes empty.

I love Advent because it is a time of waiting in openness for our God to enter our lives afresh through the Spirit; to be born anew into our lives. I think of Advent as a time where there is invitation for stillness, for reflection and for the Spirit to breathe into us the very life of God in a fresh new way. And I think that need is different every year and different for each of us.

My Soul Waits for You ...

My God

And so I wonder this time of year...

-Where in your soul is there a need for God's healing and renewing love to be with us?

-Where are you feeling empty and in need of renewal?

-In what ways are you weary or lonely or discouraged?

-Are you lonely or afraid?

-Where are you joyful and want God to join you in that joy?

So I wonder, how is it that we do this intentionally as people of God? I think there are many ways to be open in this season to new life.

I think one of the first and most important things we can do is take some time for worship and for quiet reflection. Some places are joining in an Advent devotional time and reflection time. Others find this in worship. Others like to have a more private daily reflection time with God that is more focussed. I think the key thing here is that we wait with openness and intentionally making space for the presence of the Divine to enter our souls anew.

So what is it that you need this year? This season?

Another important thing we need to do is be open and aware of places we can “give and share” God’s love with many who are lonely and in need. It is so deeply important this time of year to pay attention to these needs among us. This can be one of the loneliest seasons for those who are alone and for those who struggle and are in need. It can also be a really depressing time for many. Is there someone you can think of that might need the gentle love of God through you? And we can always pray...and ask for guidance as we open in this season.

Jesus came into this world not dressed to the nines. He came as a poor lowly child and the only place open to him was a bed of hay in a manger. He cares deeply for those who are depleted, grieving, weary and struggling as well as those who are celebrating.

We enter this season in expectation. As we wait in hope, in peace, in joy and in love for the presence of God to come anew into our hearts and souls and lives... let us be intentional about being open to the deeper parts of ourselves, where God wants to be present with us and with our neighbors.

Psalm 42:1 is a good verse and song for our Advent journey and perhaps could be our prayer: “As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you O God.”

Many blessings as you enter into this time of waiting and of rebirth and renewal.

Waiting with you....

Warm Advent Blessings...

Pastor Bev Swanson

780 678 7830

bev@messiahcamrose.ca



Welcome to our Advent Reflection by ZOOM!

As you know, Advent is such an important time of waiting and openness so that Christ might come anew to each of us bringing; hope, peace, joy and love.

For the three Tuesdays leading up to Christmas, (Dec 5, 12 and 19th) you are invited to join me for some advent moments of reflections, scripture and song.

You won't even have to leave the comfort of your own home. We will meet on Zoom between 6:30 and 7:30 pm. Please contact Messiah's office at 780-672-3444 or email us at office@messiahcamrose.ca to put your name and email on the list to receive the ZOOM link.

As well, if you cannot come all the nights, it is fine. Just join in as you can. The reflections are individual and do not build on each other.

I am looking forward to this time of connection, spiritual reflection and renewal.

Warmly, Pastor Bev





Dear Beloved of God –

We are taught by the morning newspaper headlines and by the evening news broadcasts to know names like: Donald Trump, Kim Jong-Un, Vladimir Putin, Emperor Augustus, Quirinius - governor of Syria. World leaders. Politicians, some of whom use

power, who keep records - who announce that the world should be registered - and the entire world moves at their command - even the poor and the pregnant!

Rome reaches out its long arms to the little towns of Nazareth and Bethlehem and tightens its grip on its subjects through taxation and military might and population control – the empire-building business!

But the name Augustus meant more than just an inconvenient government decree for an imperial document carved forever in marble heralded the birth-day of Augustus as the birthday of a god! Set in stone, this declaration announced the birth of Augustus as good news to the world! As emperor he was called *soter*, which means, “savior.” He was: “god on earth in human form, protector of the state, cause of peace and of blessing in the inhabited world!” His laws were presented in official propaganda as, “good tidings of great joy.”

The official party-line proclaimed that if you want to see deity at work look to the Emperor, savior, god, the rising star, the bringer of peace, the one who brings “good tidings of great joy!” And yet, what the record tells is of organized violence, militarism and exploitation of the poor. Of an emperor - a savior - who killed three of his sons and one of his wives, and a number of close advisors because he feared their disloyalty.

This is how the Christmas gospel begins - with a word of power - a decree - with powerful, important people in the powerhouse cities of Rome and Jerusalem. But the gospel writer doesn't stop there instead the writer tells of a bunch of politically powerful nobodies - like Joseph and Mary from the backward town of Nazareth - in a stable, in a dot-on-the-map-town called Bethlehem, surrounded by a group of scraggy low-life shepherds who lived in the fields and who, likely as not, smelled to high heaven!

The gospel writer invites us to listen carefully and to look closely as the stone-cut declaration about Emperor Augustus is countered with another word - this one delivered by heavenly messenger rather than Roman decree.

This gospel writer, you see, is busy re-arranging and contrasting our ideas about power, about history, about good news of great joy - in this child lying in a manger - heard against the backdrop of empire builders, power brokers and census takers.

To people suffering under unbelievable oppression, under the thumb of imperial Rome - Luke proclaims that they will hear and see truly good news not in imperial decrees, but in a manger in this “good news of great joy for all the people” - in a birth announcement which calls forth worship and adoration, amazement and awe, wide-eyed wonder and running feet - and hope.

If we are not stunned by this declaration, perhaps it is because we fail to see what God is up to for when God chooses to challenge the empire and the idolatry of imperial power God comes as a helpless infant; when God chooses to bring hope God comes not as a declaration cut into marble but as a babe wrapped in strips of cloth; and when God chooses to embrace us and all of humanity with the gift of love God comes not as a decree but in flesh.

This gospel writer invites us to ask the very real questions. The very real questions during the candle lighting and the gathering with family and friends, with strangers and friends; in the midst of our very real grief, and our very real concerns for our family and friends and for this world: who saves and who gives peace? And who claims our ultimate loyalty? And who is it that brings good news of great joy?

Come to Bethlehem and see

Him whose birth the angels sing

Come, adore on bended knee

Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

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,

+Larry



A PSALMS STUDY ONLINE

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A PSALMS STUDY ON-LINE
WITH PASTOR BEV IN THE NEW YEAR!**

It might be a good connection for you during the cold winter months!

Hello all!

I have been leading a study on the Psalms in the country parishes. What a powerful, practical and wonderful book in the Bible! We have been discovering just how much! The Psalms teach us so much about our God and also give us words to use in our lives.

We will begin this study by ZOOM on **Tuesday** evening, **January 16** from **6:30 - 7:45 pm for 6 weeks except on Feb 6** when I am away at the Pastor's Study Conference.

Note: If you cannot make every evening for different reasons, this study is easy to catch up on. **The study will begin with an evening of introduction to the Psalms.**

Basic Outline for our Study:

A basic introduction:

- Psalms as accessible and real – “a little Bible” according to Luther
- Psalms as prose, poetry and metaphor
- Psalms as real and honest, connecting us to our hearts and souls
- Psalms written in prose, poetry, Metaphor and imagery
- Authors of the Psalms
- Where we use the Psalms in our daily lives and in worship
- The arrangement of the Psalter

Psalms of Thanks and Praise:

How the psalms teach us how to give thanks and Praise.

The cost of the loss of praise.

The Rhythm of our Lives - Orientation, Dis-orientation, re-orientation.

Hymns of Praise: Enthronement, Royal and Zion Psalms:

We get in touch with God who reigns and as we do we reminded of who our God is.

Penitential and Wisdom Psalms:

Psalms of confession and righteousness - God's holy expectations and our response to our loving, forgiving God.

Psalms of Lament:

The Heart Cries to God in the “real” of our lives and God's presence in these moments.

Closing: Bringing it all together:

The practical use of the Psalms in our Lives as people of God living together.

Please sign up in the office and leave your email address and contact information there.

We will send you out a link for the first study on January 15th.

I look forward to spending this time with you.

Pastor Bev

Sunday School

We have had a fun fall semester in Sunday School. I am extremely grateful for our Sunday School team.

We have had enough teachers to offer Sunday School every Sunday (except for special holidays or long weekend Sundays), and to have the teachers scheduled in such a way that I've been able to stay upstairs in a few more worship services, and to be away for a Sunday for a family trip without worry. It has been rewarding to have Sunday School be available more regularly for families to bring their children. Our attendance ranges from 8 or so, to 20. We have to be ready for anything! Thank you to the teachers, teen assistants (mostly Confirmation students), and "background" helpers, for allowing us to be adaptable and flexible.

A huge thank you to all the people who have donated snacks to us. I was trying to keep track of who had donated, so that we could thank you specifically, but some things were donated anonymously, and then one of the lists I had of donors was on a sticky note that I accidentally washed in the laundry, nestled in the pocket of my pants. While the paper survived remarkably well, the ink was completely gone! Therefore, my list is very incomplete. My apologies for no specific thank yous/ acknowledgements, but please know that we are extremely grateful and have been enjoying the snacks and beverages very, very much. We are continuing to use prepackaged snacks since we are in a season where there may be more Covid and flu germs circulating, so items like granola bars, chips, boxes of the little individual bags of crackers or mini cookies, etc. are good. We tend to run through juice boxes quickly, so we usually can use more of those, too.

Recent activities:

We participated in the lively King Josiah play at the start of the worship service on November 27th.

Ingrid Nordstrom taught us sign language for Kumbayah.

Upcoming activities:

The Sunday School kids are inviting you to help with our Christmas Giving Project through [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](http://www.clwr.org).

Your gift will help give someone access to schooling, a career, and a new future through an education program in the West Bank for women and girls. Click on the link or go to <http://www.clwr.org/messiah-camrose> to donate! In the comments section of your gift online you can designate what items you wish your money to go towards:

Computer Mouse \$5, Wrench \$6, Hammer \$9, Garden Tools \$10, Chef's Hat \$15, Help make a classroom accessible/open to everyone \$30, a Whole Classroom \$75.

December 17th - The Sunday School children are honoured to be joining the Friendship Class in the presentation of their Christmas Pageant. Please come watch the pageant and sing-along before the church service. The pageant will be held at 10:00 am in the sanctuary on Dec. 17th.



NEWS BRIEFS

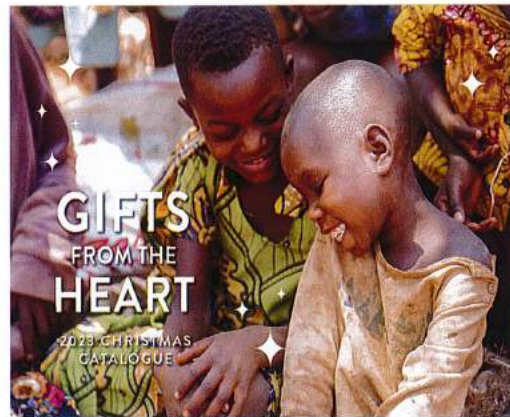


Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Christmas will soon be here and along with that comes shopping for those special gifts! CLWR's **GIFT FROM THE HEART** catalogue offers many wonderful idea. You purchase a gift for someone in need, but in honour of someone special to you. Gift cards can me mailed to you from CLWR or printed out at home. Some of the gifts will even be matched 3:1!

Gifts can be given three ways:

- *Return the enclosed order form.
- *Call toll-free 1-800-661-2597
- *Online at www.clwr.org/gfth



The **Sunday School** kids are working on a Giving Project through CLWR called Tiny Hearts. This Christmas we are supporting GRIT, an education program in the West Bank for women and girls.

We invite you to help change lives around the world. Your gift will help give someone access to schooling, a career, and a new future!

To support this project scan the QR code or talk to Deanna Decelle.





The ladies' BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES of Messiah Lutheran are gathering for a Christmas celebration on Wednesday, Dec 6th, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Centre. All ladies are invited to come and celebrate the Christmas season.



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 pm each night.

TREASURER'S REPORT

October was an amazing month, with a surplus of \$12,480. With the special gift mentioned last month and with the Thanksgiving offering I had dared hope there might be a slight surplus at the end of October. The Thanksgiving offering was \$13,571, more than \$5,000 over the budgeted amount. The year to date surplus after six months is \$8,195. Thank you to the faithful members and friends who made this possible. Praise the Lord!

The replacement of all smoke detectors has now been completed at a cost of about \$11,000. This was required by fire regulations. We were fortunate to be able to pay this from funds in a reserve for major capital projects, so it did not impact the operating budget for the year.

We can expect much higher utility bills as we move into winter, but we trust generous offerings will continue to cover the increased costs.

Please call me if you have any questions or concerns about Messiah's financial situation.

Dave Stolee



Food Bank Sunday - December 10

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.



CURRENT FOOD BANK NEEDS

TUNA

PEANUT BUTTER

CANNED MEATS

CANNED VEGETABLES

DICED TOMATOES

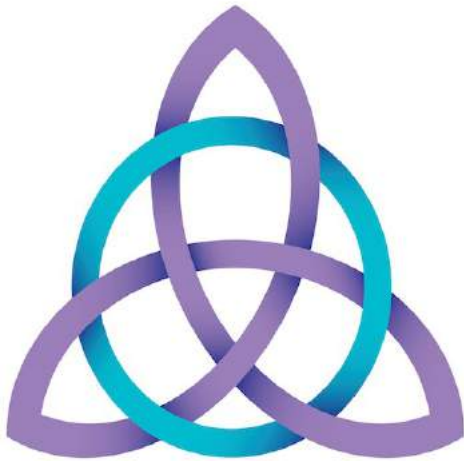
TOILET PAPER



Lectio...Journeying Through Prayer

Mondays 10:30 AM

No Lectio on Christmas Day or January 1



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.

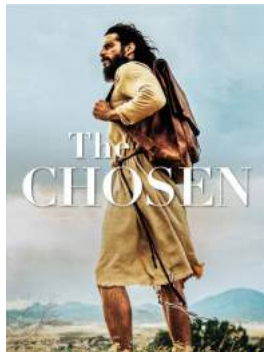
For more information call Jane at 780-672-7982.

The Adult Sunday Morning Class

**9:15 AM in
the Basement
Auditorium**

**December 3
and
December 10
View**

'The Chosen'



Men's Bible Study

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 December 23 or 30)



**THANK YOU FOR THE PRAYERS, CARDS,
FLOWERS, THE LOVELY ORCHID PLANT
AND WARM WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT
AFTER ORVILLE'S DEATH. THANK YOU
ALSO FOR THE DONATIONS IN ORVILLE'S
MEMORY. IN LIEU OF THANK YOU CARDS A
MEMORIAL GIFT HAS BEEN MADE.**

AGNES RUPERTUS

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





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our organization is looking for dedicated individuals to join us in our mission to make a positive impact in our community.

If you are passionate about our community and want to share your time to help make a difference in someone's life, please consider volunteering.

For information call
780.672.0141




fcss
 Camrose & District Family and Community Support Services

Volunteer Expo
Norsemen Inn
December 5
10:00am - 2:00pm





Christmas Hymn Sing

Wednesday, December 13th

**6:30 pm - At Hastings Lake
Bible Camp**

in Trinity Lodge

**Please join us in Trinity Lodge
for a hymn sing. Looking
forward to seeing everyone!**

***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.



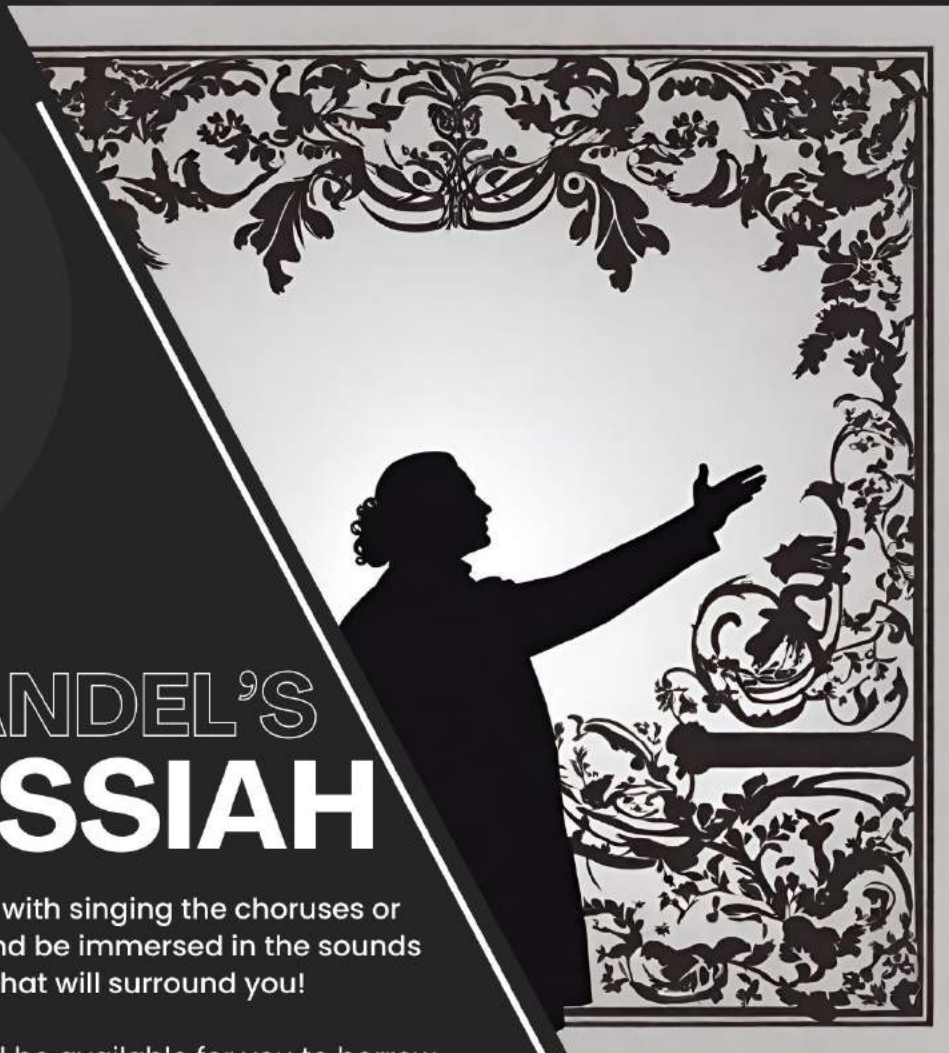
Hearing Loop
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

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



offering@messiahcamrose.ca

UBUNTU:COLLECTIVE & CAMERATA CHOIRS
present



**HANDEL'S
MESSIAH**

Join in with singing the choruses or
come and be immersed in the sounds
that will surround you!

Scores will be available for you to borrow,
or bring your own cherished copy to use.

Special Guest Choir: SingAble

Soloists: from the voice studio of Mairi-Irene
McCormack from the Augustana campus

Orchestra: members of Wye Strings and the
Camrose community

Accompanist: Jane Kristenson

Organist: Tova Olson

Conductors: Dr. Joy Berg & JoyAnne Murphy

DECEMBER 10th @ 3PM

Messiah Lutheran Church

Free-Will Offering

Sponsored by:





Volunteer Opportunity!

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

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




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.




FRIENDSHIP CLASS & SUNDAY SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
DEC 17 AT 10 AM

On **Sunday, December 17** the Christmas Pageant will be presented to the congregation in the church sanctuary at **10:00 am**, a half hour before the regular service. The Friendship Class, the Sunday School children and a music team will be involved, as well as the congregation who will be invited to sing some of the Christmas carols throughout the play.



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.

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.



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



Camrose Women's Shelter Society

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".



Songs for the Season

Sunday, Dec 3, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Camrose United Church

freewill offering
call 780-672-3372 for more info

Camrose
Camerata

Camrose & Area
CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Embellish
Camrose United Church
Handbells

Silent Santa 2023
Kinette Club of Camrose

November 6, 2023

For well over 65 years, the Kinette Club of Camrose, in conjunction with the Merry Christmas Fund, has provided gifts for children in families facing economic hardship. This year, as you may expect, the need will be even greater than usual!

Each Christmas we ask our community to donate **new, unwrapped gifts** at various locations around town. In addition to the generous help we get in the form of gifts, we also require **monetary donations** to purchase toys, books, hat and mitts where there is a short fall. We write today to ask for your help, whether it be a monetary donation, a collection of toys or manpower for the project. We appreciate it all!!

Packing for this year's toy hampers takes place early to ensure delivery for Christmas!
Please help us by ensure your gifts are in by Dec 15th!

Monetary donations may be left with Shuman Insurance Ltd, 4882 – 50 St, Camrose, AB T4V 1P7.

Feel free to contact any of the following Kinette members for answers: Chris Shuman 780-608-4332; Holly McLennan 780-781-6831; Cathy Pacholek 780-672-0976; Kathy Schwab 780-672-8073; Erin Upton 250-889-7420; or Stephanie Hvenegaard 780-781-4431.

Thank you in advance for helping us to bring Christmas to children in our community!

Sincerely,

The Kinette Club of Camrose





MESSENGER BULLETIN BOARD



Sausage Making

"God has given us eyes not to insult but to look beyond situations. Lips, not to criticize but to speak truth. Hands, not for vengeance but to give a helping hand. Ears, not just to hear but to listen to understand. Everything has it's purpose. May we use it well."

Submitted by Donny Loewen

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not shouting that I'm clean living. I'm whispering that I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven.

When I say I'm a Christian, I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean up my mess.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes that I am worth it.

When I say I'm a Christian, I still feel the string of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say I'm a Christian, I'm not "holier than thou." I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace somehow.

Submitted by Carolyn Olson



Extreme Couch Makeover



Praying for Peace at Bethel Lutheran





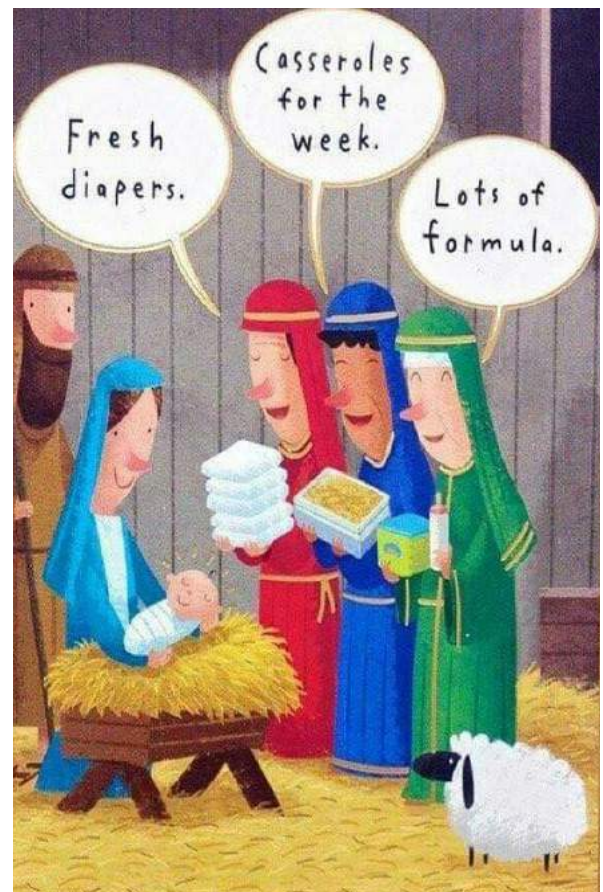
THE MITTEN TREE

We are collecting mittens, scarves, toques and socks until January 3, 2024

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



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2001
THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN



After the Three Wise Men left, the Three Wiser Women arrived.



(See Luke 2:1-16) 12-19-201
IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

C MMUNITY



Supports

Camrose Community Pantry

- Camrose & District FCSS 4821 - 51 St. (Across from Camrose Co-op grocery store.)
- Stop in & take what you need. Stock for Community Pantry is dependent on donations received
- Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - noon & 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Also available @ Camrose Public Library
- 4710 - 50 Ave.
- Mon. - Fri., 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Sat. - 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. & Sun. 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Camrose Neighbor Aid

- Bread available on Mondays at Camrose Community Church - 5204 - 53 Ave., 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & Community Cupboard; Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Bread & coffee available on Wednesdays at Camrose Center Point Church; 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. 5807 - 47 Ave.

Food Bank (4524 - 54 St.); Tues., Wed., Thurs.; 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 780-679-3220

Martha's Table Soup & Sandwich from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

- Tuesdays - at Messiah Lutheran Church; 4810 - 50 St.
- Wednesday - Camrose United Church; 4829 - 50 St.

Community Spaghetti Supper - Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. @ Moose Hall Basement; 5001 - 52 Ave. (may take July & August off).

Community Table @ Camrose CityLights Church - 4920 - 48 St., Thursdays @ 12:00 noon. Fresh meal (different each week).

Transit Token - worth \$4.00 to subsidize the cost of participating taxi, handi-van or community bus rides. Tokens available from different social agencies. When you are paying for a ride, you give the driver the token(s) to go toward your fare & responsible for paying the remainder of the fare.

Visit the HelpBook

@www.camrosefcss.ca
for other resources.





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

<u>Members at Large:</u>	<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: January 2024
Material due: December 21
Delivery date: January 2**

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<p>9:15am - Adult Class</p> <p>9:15am - Friendship Class</p> <p>10:30am - Communion</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:45am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>2pm - Seasons Communion</p>	<p>9:30am - Centra Cam Volunteers</p> <p>10:30am - Lectio</p> <p>2pm - World Mission Prayer Group by ZOOM</p>	<p>12pm - Martha's Table</p> <p>1:30pm - Service Committee</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Reflection by ZOOM</p>	<p>12pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>2pm - Ladies Circles</p> <p>Christmas Event</p>	<p>10:30am - Handbells</p> <p>6:45pm - Confirmation</p> <p>7pm - Support Committee @ Larson's</p> <p>7:30pm - Choristers</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>7pm - Qlor Choir Workshop</p>	<p>9am - Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>9:15am - Adult Class</p> <p>9:15am - Friendship Class</p> <p>10:30am - Communion</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:45am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>2pm - Seasons Communion</p>	<p>9:30am - Centra Cam Volunteers</p> <p>10:30am - Lectio</p>	<p>10am - Hillside Communion</p> <p>12pm - Martha's Table</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Reflection by ZOOM</p>	<p>12pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>2pm - Ladies Circles</p> <p>Christmas Event</p>	<p>10:30am - Handbells</p> <p>6:45pm - Confirmation</p> <p>7pm - Support Committee @ Larson's</p> <p>7:30pm - Choristers</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>9am - Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Food Bank Sunday</p> <p>9:15am - Adult Class</p> <p>9:15am - Friendship Class</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>3pm - Handels Messiah Concert</p>	<p>9:30am - Centra Cam Volunteers</p> <p>10:30am - Lectio</p>	<p>10am - Hillside Communion</p> <p>12pm - Martha's Table</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Reflection by ZOOM</p>	<p>7pm - Learning Committee</p>	<p>10am - Handbell Cleaning</p> <p>12pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:45pm - Confirmation</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>9am - Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>10am - Pageant - Friendship Class/Sunday Communion</p> <p>10:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>11:45am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>2pm - Tova Olson Studio Student Recital</p>	<p>9:30am - Centra Cam Volunteers</p> <p>10:30am - Lectio</p>	<p>12pm - Martha's Table</p> <p>2:30pm - Dear Meadows Communion</p> <p>6:30pm - Advent Reflection by ZOOM</p>	<p>12pm - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Messenger Articles Due</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>9am - Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>4pm - Worship Service</p> <p>9pm - Communion Service</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p> <p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>With Potluck Goodies</p>	<p>Boxing Day</p> <p>10:30am - Meals on Wheels Deliveries</p> <p>12pm - Martha's Table</p>	<p>10:30am - Meals on Wheels Deliveries</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am - NOON</p>	<p>10:30am - Meals on Wheels Deliveries</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am - NOON</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>9am - Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</p>
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>10:30am - Worship Service</p> <p>11:45am - Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p>January</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>Messenger Delivery</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>10:30am - Meals on Wheels Deliveries</p> <p>OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am - NOON</p>	<p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>9am - Men's Bible Study by ZOOM</p>