

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

**Messiah Lutheran Church
1796-15TH Avenue East
Prince Albert, SK S6V 8A1
E-mail: messiah@sasktel.net
Website: www.messiahluthpa.com**

Monday – Office Closed
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Íris Kristjansdóttir
Iriskrist71@gmail.com
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Dolyce Brown
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2014 Council

EXECUTIVE

Chairperson: Wayne Hyde
Vice Chairperson: Troy Hufnagel
Secretary: Deanna Rind

COMMITTEES

Trustees: Troy Hufnagel
Waynne Cowan
Robert Bratvold
Ron Scansen

Education: Deanna Rindal

Deacons: Colleen Bowen
Jennifer Rust



Council Corner

Greetings from Council:

MESSIAH'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2015 following worship service. Stay tuned for more info.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our committee is actively **seeking Members who would be willing to let their name stand for church council in 2015**. If you feel at all called for this important ministry of service, please contact:

Cheryl Bauer Hyde: 306-982-2079

Merv Bender: 306-764-8467

Elaine Serfas: 306-763-8217

Talking to God

By Íris Kristjánsdóttir

It has often been said that to keep a friendship you have to communicate with your friend. And we know this to be true, don't we? So if we want to keep our friendship with God, we got to keep the communication between us and God wide open with constant conversation. To do that, God gave us prayer. A very useful tool when it comes to talking to God.

It's there for us to use whenever we want to. The problem is, all too often we disregard it or we feel inadequate when it comes to speaking with God. Fortunately Jesus gave us a little help with that when he walked this earth. To him we credit the greatest prayer of all, the Lord's Prayer. It is really fascinating how that short prayer manages to sum up every hope, need and wish we have for ourselves and others as Christians. If we would have been commanded by God and invited by God to pray for all the needs we have



and all the gifts he has to give us, how many words would we have put into that prayer? Probably thousands! Well, Jesus used about 70 words. In his short prayer, which we can pray every day, we are invited by God to come to him and call upon him, asking for all of his gifts, seeking his help in all of our needs. The Lord's Prayer is truly a prayer that sums it all up.

In our Lenten services this Lenten season we will focus on this wonderful prayer and go through all its layers of petitions and praise. Each service centers on one of those petitions at a time so we will have the chance to study the prayer in details while we worship. Hopefully it will give us new insights into how to use and cherish this prayer that Christ gave us.

In the Lord's Prayer, Christ teaches us and invites us to pray and come to our dear Father who promises to hear us. It is both a prayer that works as a prayer in itself, those exact words that Christ gave us, and it also serves as a model and a pattern for further praying. Look how each line can lead to more praying:

"Our Father, who art in heaven." Know first who this God is who you are coming to in prayer, that he is your dear Father who loves you and cares for you. Meditate on God's character as you have learned to know him, and put that into words. "Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Seek first God's kingdom and glory and honor, the things that pertain to what God is doing in the world, make them your concern, too. "Thy kingdom come" can be a springboard for particular petitions related to the spread of the gospel, that God's kingdom of grace be extended in the world through the ministry of the church. Likewise, when we come to the petitions about *daily bread and the forgiveness of sins* we can ask ourselves what are the particular needs of this body and life that we have or that our fellow Christians have. Put them into words, and bring your supplications before your Father in heaven. What are the sins you are aware of, that trouble you and for which you need forgiveness? Confess them

before your gracious God, Christ your Savior. Are there those who have sinned against you? Pray for a heart of forgiveness, and ask God for help to restore your relationship. The words “*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,*” remind us that God wants you to call on him in the day of trouble. When temptations fly about your head, call on God for help. Name the things for which you need help, and call on God for protection and deliverance. He promises to hear you and to help you. And then we conclude our praying the way we began, by praising and glorifying God. “*For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.*” This end could as easily be turned into a song of praise where we rejoice in the Lord who is always there for us. With such a prayer as the Lord’s Prayer, whether we pray it by itself or use it as a pattern for praying our own specific petitions, when we know that we have a gracious and merciful God who hears us and promises to answer, then what else can we say but “Amen”? Yes, it shall be so! For God has commanded us to pray, he has promised to hear us, he invites us to come to him as his dear children, and Jesus himself teaches us to pray these very words and in this very way! If that doesn’t merit an “Amen,” I don’t know what does!

Jesus gave us this prayer and taught us to pray in this way, and because of it, we can be certain and confident in our praying. The Lord’s Prayer is most certainly a prayer that sums it all up. Only 70 words, but it will take us 70 years, 80, 90 years, to pray it, every day of our life, until the good Lord gives us a blessed end and graciously takes us to himself in heaven. Amen to that!

Come join us also this month for A Moment of Prayer each Tuesday at 12:15 noon here at Messiah. See more about it on another page in this Newsletter.

Council Corner

Greetings to all from Church Council. This past year has been a busy one for council especially on the facilities side as we dealt with a roof replacement, an ant infestation, a failing phone system and photocopier and the replacement of our six furnaces. All of these issues presented a challenge but through the encouragement and generous support of our members, we succeeded in completing all of these projects. We continue to be blessed as a congregation as we work together to learn of and spread God's love for all.

As most of you have heard or read in the newspaper, Messiah was one of many churches in Prince Albert that were broken into. It appears that the individual(s) involved were experienced in what they did and had the appropriate tools to gain access without leaving much damage behind. Luckily our only significant damage was one desk drawer and Council will be implementing some new policies and procedures as well as looking into a security system for the office.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place following a pizza lunch on February 22 so we encourage all to attend.

In His Service
Church Council

Jennifer Rust is happy to inform us that she has been booked for surgery on March 27 to have the hardware removed. Good luck Jenn – you will be up dancing before you know it!

Lenten Services

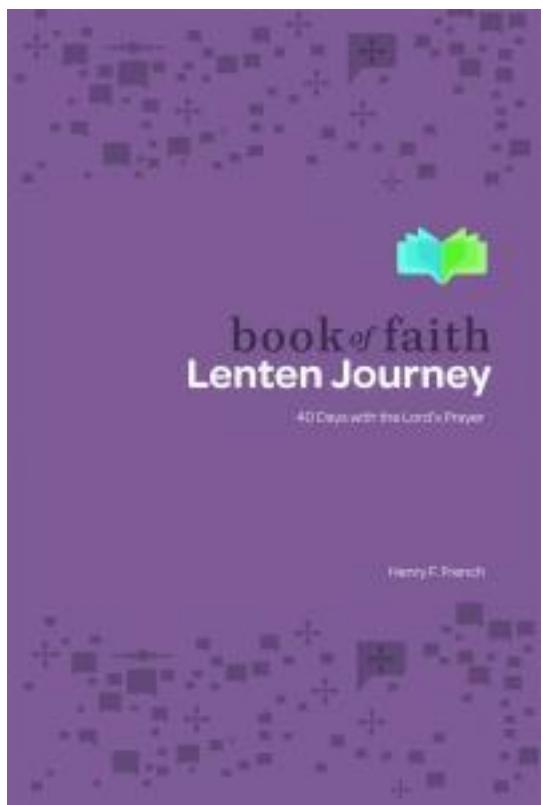
Our Lenten services in February and March will be shaped around the Lenten resource: *Book of Faith Lenten Journey: 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer*. This resource focuses on one petition of the Lord's Prayer for each of the seven weeks in Lent. Our Lenten services will therefore both be a Bible study of the Lord's Prayer joined with worship that hopefully gives us better understanding of this beautiful prayer that Jesus taught us. Each participant gets a copy of the resource book to read and study in between services.

Our first Lenten service is on Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 7pm, and then the services continue each Wednesday during Lent at 7pm. In the last week of Lent, the last service will be on Maundy Thursday instead of Wednesday.

Join us for our Lenten services. May our Lenten journey with the Lord's Prayer be an adventure that leads us to Easter and beyond in the grace of God.

From the introduction of Book of Faith Lenten Journey: 40 Days with the Lord's Prayer:

"The Lord's Prayer is packed with words that represent the Bible's central themes and motifs—the name of God, the kingdom of God, the will of God, the provision of "bread," forgiveness, rescue, and deliverance. As we move through the prayer, we will use other passages of scripture to help unpack these themes. You will notice many biblical references in the daily readings; follow those back to the pages of the Bible and ask yourself how they help to interpret the Lord's Prayer.



Moment of Prayer

One of the most important things that we do as a Christian community of faith is to pray together, for others and ourselves. Starting in February, our church welcomes you to join us for a moment of prayer every week on **Tuesdays at 12:15 noon**. Each prayer meeting will take from 15-30 minutes and after the meeting we have the opportunity to enjoy bag lunch together and some conversation. We hope that these moments of prayer will provide spiritual growth within our church as we move forward as a family of believers.



KINASAO LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP NEWS

Kinasao's Annual general Meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2015 and will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Saskatoon at 3:00 p.m. A Potluck meal will follow the meeting and childcare will be provided. Everyone is welcome to attend. All members of a Kinasao Member congregation are eligible to vote at the AGM. Messiah Lutheran Church in Prince Albert is a member congregation.



The Summer program brochures are available here at Messiah and are in the Kinasao file in the hallway.



Woodhouse News

Robyn Woodhouse McKenzie of La Ronge, the granddaughter of Darlyne and Kirby Woodhouse, graduated from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Distinction, including a Registered Nursing Degree. Robyn has full time employment with the Jeannie Bird Medical Clinic in La Ronge. Robyn also was married on November 22, 2014 to Scott Klassen of La Ronge. They plan to live and work in La Ronge.

T4T NEWS

This month we have been busy preparing for our annual Parent's Night Out which took place on Saturday, Jan. 31st. We were excited to care for the young ones in our church while the parents took a well deserved break. After the kids all left to go back home, T4T stayed at the church for a sleepover...and some birthday cake, mmmm. Thank you to everyone that helped make this a successful event again this year. Our youth really enjoy giving back to the parents in our community through this event!



Youth Ministry

On Tuesday the 27th, 5 of us travelled to Saskatoon to attend the weekly evening service and supper at the Lutheran Campus Centre by the U of S. It was such a nice evening and so good to meet Pastor Paul and some of the local students attending post-secondary in Saskatoon. This is a place that students can go to have some quiet time, study, eat cookies out of the bottomless cookie jar, attend services and bible studies and just get to know some other Christians on campus. There are many of these Lutheran Campus Centers at universities across Canada.

We will have our next Youth Service on March 22nd. We are hoping for it to be a 'joy'ful service and we will spend the upcoming weeks preparing for this in hopes that it will be a meaningful worship experience for all.

**Belinda Bratvold
Youth Co-ordinator**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Sunday School we have begun collecting offering from the children this month. This money will be put into the "Giving Jar" and used at Christmas to help a local family in need of Christmas Cheer. Since they are given "Bible Bucks" for attendance, etc. they have also decided that they may contribute their bible bucks earned on Sundays to go to the Charity. I will keep you posted further on their wonderful ideas of giving back to the community



.A couple of weeks ago, I made an announcement in church of the need for teachers. If you have a gift or hidden gift for teaching or simply want to contribute in some way in the program, I would love to hear from you. Please call, email or leave a message at the church office to contact me. Have a good family holiday that is coming up. Sunday School will run on February 8th and then resume on March 1st due to the family holidays.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning the Sunday School program.

Lori Amyotte

COFFEE & CRAFTS

Tuesday, February 24 – 1:30 p.m.

Peace Chapel



If you have an afternoon free, please stop by and share in some fellowship over a cup of coffee/tea/juice and maybe even some knitting or crocheting. If anybody has some extra yarn or wool that is not being used, the ladies would be happy to take it off your hands to use for crafts. Thank you. All are welcome!

Grandmothers for Grandmothers

Grandmothers for Grandmothers (P.A. Chapter) meets Wed., Feb. 25, 2015 at 7 p.m. at St. Alban's (basement area). Please use the north door of the Cathedral. Learn how Canadian grandmothers support African grandmothers through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Everyone welcome. Call 306-981-6834 for more information.

The Prince Albert Ministerial Association invites you to 2015 **Lenten Lunch Series:**

"Music Word & Fellowship" Thursdays February 19th - March 26th, 12:00-1:00 pm at Calvary United Church, 114-25th Street EasNB: March 12th only will be at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church. A free will offering for lunch will be collected.

All are welcome!



World Day of Prayer 2015

Jesus said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

Written by the Women of The Bahamas

“Showing genuine interest in others is a positive step forward in maintaining unity among believers and reaching out to the community.”

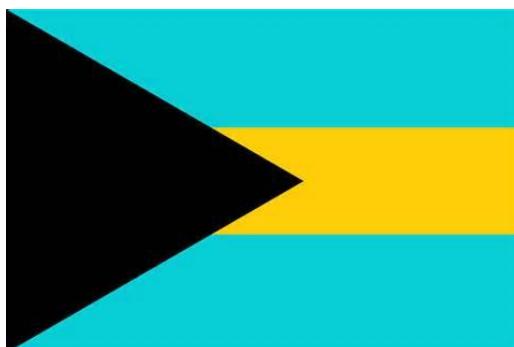
With these words the women of The Bahamas encapsulate the World Day of Prayer. On Friday March 6, 2015, these women invite you to join with them in this year's World Day of Prayer, a celebration of their culture and history, their land and their legacy.

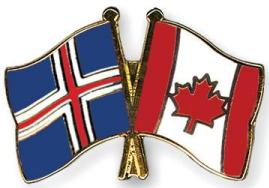
The sounds of the ocean breeze, of Junkanoo, of rake ‘n’ scrape and the beat of a goombay drum leave us poised to listen for more. The women of The Bahamas have stories to tell. Their stories begin with a question: “Jesus said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you?’”

Please join us and invite your friends and family to attend the World Day of Prayer service and learn more about the culture and heritage of The Bahamas. Join Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and in 2,000 communities across Canada who will gather on the World Day of Prayer to pray and act in solidarity with the people of The Bahamas.



A local World Day of Prayer service will be held at our church, Messiah Lutheran, on March 6th at 2pm.





ICELANDIC CORNER – by Íris Kristjánsdóttir

Have you had enough of reading about the little island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean? Well, then stop reading! ☺ But if you haven't, here's some more information on Icelandic history. Let's see what happened in the middle ages and a little later

ICELAND IN THE MIDDLE AGES

In the 11th century the Norwegians were converted to Christianity. The Norwegian kings sent missionaries to Iceland. Some Icelanders accepted the new religion but many were bitterly opposed. Eventually a man named Þorgeir, who was the Lawspeaker of the Althing, realized there was likely to be civil war between the two. He may also have feared Norwegian intervention. (The Norwegians were quite prepared to 'convert' people to Christianity by force!). He persuaded the people to accept a compromise. Christianity became the 'official' religion of Iceland but pagans were allowed to worship their gods in private.

From 1097 people in Iceland had to pay tithes to the church (in other words they had to pay one tenth of their produce). As a result the church grew rich and powerful. Paganism was stamped out and monasteries were built. Iceland was given a bishop in 1056. In 1106 another bishopric was created at Hólar in the north.

However in 1152 the Icelandic church came under the authority of a Norwegian archbishop. In those days the church was closely allied to the state. When the Icelandic church became subordinate to the Norwegian church it meant the Norwegian kings influence in Iceland slowly increased.

Meanwhile during the 12th century conditions on Iceland deteriorated. It may have been partly due to overgrazing. The forests were also cut down and the result was soil erosion. With no wood to build ships the Icelanders were dependent on Norwegian merchants. At that time wool, animal hides, horses and falcons were exported from Iceland. Timber, honey and malt for brewing were imported. Some Icelanders began to look to the king of Norway to protect trade.

The Icelandic commonwealth was also undermined by feuding between clans. Then in 1218 a man named Snorri Sturluson visited Norway and agreed to support the Norwegian king's interests in Iceland. He returned home in 1220. Meanwhile bishops who were born in Norway also supported the Norwegian king's ambitions to rule Iceland. However the commonwealth really ended because of the feuding between clans. The Icelanders desperately wanted peace and they eventually realized the only way to obtain it was to submit to the Norwegian king.



Therefore in 1262 an agreement called the Ancient Covenant was accepted by the Althing. The Icelanders agreed to pay a tax of woolen cloth each year. In return the king promised to uphold law and order in Iceland. He also replaced the Goðar with royal officials. In 1280 a new constitution was drawn up. The Althing continued to meet but its decisions had to be ratified by the king. Furthermore the king appointed a governor and 12 local sheriffs to rule. Meanwhile slavery slowly died out in Iceland.

The 14th and early 15th centuries troubled years for Iceland. In the early 14th century the climate grew colder. Then in 1402-03 the Black Death struck Iceland and the population was devastated. However prosperity returned in the 15th century. At that time there was a big demand in Europe for Icelandic cod and Iceland grew rich on the fishing industry. Icelanders traded with the English and with the Germans. (At that time there was no single German nation but German ports were joined together in a federation called the Hanseatic League). Meanwhile in 1397 Norway was united with Denmark. Afterwards Iceland was ruled by the Danish crown.

ICELAND 1500-1800

During the 16th century Iceland, like the rest of Europe, was rocked by the reformation. Denmark became Protestant in the 1530s and in 1539 the Danish king ordered his men to confiscate the church's land in Iceland. The bishops of Iceland resisted and in 1541 the Danish king sent an expedition to enforce conformity. Skálholt was given a new bishop but the bishop of Hólar, a man named Jón Arason continued to resist. He was a powerful chieftain as well as a bishop and he had soldiers to fight for him. He also had two sons, by his concubine, who supported him. In 1548 Arason was declared an outlaw. His soldiers then captured the Protestant bishop of Skálholt. However in 1550 he was defeated. Arason and his two sons were executed.

Afterwards the people of Iceland gradually accepted Protestantism and in 1584 the Bible was translated into Icelandic. However during the 17th century the Icelanders suffered hardship. In 1602 the king made all trade with Iceland a monopoly of certain merchants in Copenhagen, Malmo and Elsinore. In 1619 the monopoly was made a joint stock company. The monopoly meant the Icelanders were forced to sell goods to the company at low prices and buy supplies from them at high prices. As a result the Icelandic economy suffered severely.



Furthermore in 1661 the Danish king made himself an absolute monarch. In 1662 the Icelanders were forced to submit to him. The Althing continued to meet but had no real power. It was reduced to being a court. Worse in 1707-09 Iceland suffered an outbreak of smallpox which killed a large part of the population.

In the mid 18th century a man named Skúli Magnússon was made an official called a fógeti. He tried to improve the economy by bringing in farmers from Denmark and Norway. He also introduced better fishing vessels and created a woolen industry in Reykjavik with German weavers. Finally in 1787 the monopoly was ended. However in 1783 the fallout from volcanic eruptions caused devastation in Iceland. By 1786 the population of Iceland was only 38,000. Finally in 1800 the Althing closed. A new law court replaced it. It sat in Reykjavik which at that time was a little community of 300 people.

Your Love

Your love out loves all earthly love.
Your love loves the unlovable.
Your love cries out to the sinner.
It's done the unforgettable!

Words can not express your pure love.
Men can not comprehend your love,
Yet sinners can receive your love;
Comforted by your holy dove.

Your love shines of rarest beauty.
Your love was given at great cost.
Through Love, you shed your perfect blood;
And hung from that old rugged cross.

*Your love out it was love that drove you to die; Only Love.
and brought life to that cold dark grave.
Now love is looking down from heaven;
Seeks the souls of the lost to save.*

Twas awesome Love, wonderfully shown;
To helpless men lost in their sin.
No greater love, there's ever been;
Than God came down to die for men

Susan Y Nikitenko
Treasure Box Poetry And Praise



♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥