

Coaldale Mennonite Church

2316 – 17 St., Coaldale, Alberta

***“Rooted in Jesus, Growing in Grace, Connected in
Community, Branching into the World”***

Keeping in Touch – June 5, 2021



- ✓ **The Covid restrictions have been adjusted. We are now allowed 15% of our fire code capacity which is 33 people. Masks, physical distancing, and registration are still mandatory. Please register with the church office by Thursday.**

Please do not attend in person if you are experiencing the most common symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat).

- ✓ **The Live Stream of the Sunday Service will begin at 11am. You will be able to find the Live Stream on You Tube and searching Coaldale Mennonite Church.**
- ✓ **Sunday School via Zoom will be discontinued for the summer. Sunday School will resume in the fall pending any Covid restrictions.**
- ✓ **This Sunday's service is being led by the Education committee in lieu of our annual church picnic. After the service, pop and ice cream vouchers will be handed out, outside the foyer door.**

- ✓ **Sharing and Announcements via Zoom** will be at 10:30am on Sunday. Zoom invite is below:
Topic: Sharing & Announcements
Time: Jun 6, 2021, 10:30 AM Edmonton

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81389295463?pwd=NjZkREcyVkkzOUVXeUx6b2ZreWtQZz09>

Meeting ID: 813 8929 5463 Passcode: 669309

- ✓ **Men's Prayer time – Until Covid restrictions have been lifted, Men's Prayer time will be cancelled.**
- ✓ **Delegates Needed:** The EMC is holding their Bi-Annual Conference Council meeting on **Saturday, June 19th**. This meeting will be held online. We are looking for people to be delegates at this meeting. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Gary, Rob Wedel, or the church office.
- ✓ **Mennonite Central Committee Alberta (MCCA) AGM 2021 will be held on June 26th 9:00 – 11:00am via Zoom.** The main topic of discussion will be revision of MCCA By-laws, including a proposal to update the definition of *Membership* in the MCCA Society. Registration information for the meeting will come in the next few weeks. If you would like a copy of the By-laws, please contact the church office.
- ✓ **Givings for May 30, 2021:** \$3500.00 Budget \$3000.00 Food Grains \$500.00
 - **E-transfer** is available for your donations to the church email:
cmchurch@telusplanet.net



GO!100 is Returning!

No Relief Sale in 2021 means **you are once again invited to GO!100**. Last year you walked, sewed, and more to raise almost \$245,000 to help MCC provide aid for vulnerable people. We can do it again!

Plan your "100" activity and watch for registration details coming soon! New for 2021: Kids GO!100 project to support education projects around the world.

Leading us in Worship this Sunday:

Worship Leader/Speaker: Education Committee

Theme: Gentleness (Practicing strength under Control)

Music: Jodi Reed

Sound: Mike Marriott Media: Elyse Janzen

Usher Team: Team 3



PRAYER FOCUS



Pray for:

- † **Peter Janzen** who is recovering at home from Covid.
- † **David Giesbrecht** who is recuperating at home.
- † **Staff & students at R. I. Baker Middle School**
- † **Our seniors at the various lodges and those in their homes.**
- † **Rock Solid Refuge**

(If you would like to have a prayer request in this weekly update, please contact Jodi at cmchurch@telusplanet.net or 403-345-3363.)

Note from Pastor Gary

When the masks come off!

As more people are vaccinated, the rhetoric of lifting the sanctions all together is becoming a reality, at least we hope it is a reality. When the sanctions are lifted, what would be some of the first things you would want to do? Perhaps some would throw away the masks, and not put a mask on for a long time. Perhaps some would travel to see family members that they have not seen in a long time. Perhaps some would like to travel as in a vacation to some other place and see another part of the world. Perhaps some would like to plan a special celebration and invite family and friends. But a bigger question is this, can we just pretend that this did not happen and pick up life the way it was over a year ago and continue our journey? What has changed that we cannot pretend this did not happen?

As a church we need to ask the same questions. When the sanctions lift, how do we continue as a church? As a matter of fact, I believe most churches must ask the same question. We have learned to get along with Zoom and Live streaming our services. What will happen when the pandemic is over, and we open our doors to everyone to attend on Sunday morning? Has the place of worship (in our homes) become a convenient way to worship? What will our Sunday morning worship services look like? As you ponder, reflect, and pray what opportunities or what doors might be open to us that before the pandemic we did not notice or were closed? What have we learned about resiliency that will help us build on strengths that we have experienced during the pandemic? To be sure, your thoughts on these and other questions that I have not asked, would be very helpful as we plan to open our doors. While I have not asked Rob, Trina, or others on the council about this, I am sure we would all appreciate the wisdom that you could share with us. For my part you could contact me by phone (church office, or cell) or by email garygiesbrecht71@gmail.com. I am sure you could do the same with any member on council, their contact numbers etc. are in the front of the new church phone directory.

As a church community, we stumbled into this pandemic not realizing what it would demand of us, and we have found our way through. One indicator is that our giving has remained strong through this storm. Thanks to each one who has demonstrated your commitment to Coaldale Mennonite Church in this way. We made a significant decision to join the EMC denomination. Some continue to struggle with this decision (it is OK to struggle), it gives us some direction for the future. We have learned to use Zoom effectively for teaching, funeral services, prayer times, for announcements and sharing and so on. We have also learned how to live stream our services and we have reached people beyond our congregation. As we step into the “promised land” what do we need to claim from this experience, what do we need to let go of? How do we celebrate the presence of the Lord in shaping our church in this promised land?

Proverbs 3:3-6 have some words of wisdom for us at a time like this.

- ³Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
- ⁴Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.
- ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
- ⁶in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Pastor Gary Giesbrecht



To Contact the Church

Admin Assistant: Jodi Reed
Office Hours: 9am – 12noon Monday – Friday
Church Office: **403-345-3363** & **403-345-5255**
Lead Pastor, Gary Giesbrecht: **403-795-0350**
Pastor to Seniors, Lil Thompson: **403-331-0297**
Lay Pastor, Eric Giesbrecht: **403-345-3946**