

*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*October 25, 2020  
Reformation Sunday*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ  
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(October 25, 2020)

For video go to:

<https://messiahmech.com/messiah-digital/>

**GATHERING SONG, "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters (ELW 445 41)**

### Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

**C: *Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen***

## **FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

**Lector**

A reading from Jeremiah.

*The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: *Thanks be to God.***

## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 3:19-28**

**Lector**

A reading from Romans.

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and

is attested by the law and the prophets, 22the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **\*THE GOSPEL READING**

John 8:31-36

*Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.*

<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." <sup>33</sup>They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

### **SERMON: PASTOR RYAN RADTKE**

*I don't know much about Douglass MacArthur. I remember the name from history class, the WWII general. But not much beyond that. I looked him up this week, and I learned that he has a complicated history during his long and storied Army career. On the one hand, he rose through the ranks faster than anyone, fought in multiple wars and conflicts, was awarded many medals and commendations, and was put in charge of the entire Pacific area during WWII. He was also put in charge of the U.S. forces during the Korean War. On the other hand, he had a tendency to do things his own way, and for insubordination at times. He was removed as commander of the Korean War forces for insubordination, along with some decisions that went too far and intensified the conflict.*

*Why was I looking up Douglass MacArthur this week? Because of this saying: "Rules are made to be broken." I looked it up to see where it came from, and I learned that it was said by none other than Douglas MacArthur. I also learned that the full quote goes like this: "Rules are mostly made to be*

broken and are too often for the lazy to hide behind." That makes it a little more controversial, wouldn't you say? But it fits with some of what I learned about the man.

I was thinking about rules and breaking them because of the apostle Paul. Today's reading from Romans has Paul talking about rules, talking about the law. Laws show the lines between just and unjust, the limits that you're not supposed to cross beyond. And the Law – capital L – that Paul is talking about is God's Law, given to God's people in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Law that Paul is talking about is the Torah, given as a gift by God to the people, a gift to make their life together better, a covenant.

But, as Paul says, the law also names and exposes sin. Without the law, there would be no language for sin. Through the law comes the knowledge of sin. If the teacher didn't hang a sign up on the wall with the rule "No talking in class without being called on," you wouldn't know it was a rule you might be breaking, if it wasn't there spelled out for you. If God didn't say, "You shall not covet," you could just covet to your heart's content, blissfully ignorant that your coveting was breaking a commandment, and that it was bad for you and your neighbor. I don't personally think that rules are made to be broken; but as soon as you know the rule, you know where that breaking point is, and when you've broken it.

The law is good; it's a gift. But Paul says that following the law is still part of the whole sin-system, so that means that following the law can't possibly justify you. It can't make things right between you and God. It's a gift, for life, a corrective and a set of healthy boundaries; but it can't save you from the sin it defines.

Jesus kind of says the same thing in a different way: "Very truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin." You can't break free of the system. You know what counts as a sin; and when you commit sins, you know it. And so Jesus promises freedom, from all of that, through him.

The prophet Jeremiah gave a preview of what that freedom might feel like: the old covenant, given to God's people as they were freed from slavery in Egypt? The people broke that covenant, that law, those rules, and how. But God promises a new covenant; instead of writing the laws on breakable stone tablets, God says, "I will put my laws within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." They will know me as I know them.

Paul and Jesus and Jeremiah all know the same thing: God didn't make rules to be broken, but we sure do break them anyway. So instead, let's write the rules on their hearts; let's teach them to know God in their hearts. Let's build a relationship. They will be my people, and I will be their God. A relationship initiated by God and sustained by God, through Christ. Paul sums it up like this: all of us sin and fall short of the glory of God; the rules can't save us. No, we are justified by God's grace as a gift, through Christ. Irrespective of the law, Paul says, it's God's righteousness that saves us. Instead of writing the laws on breakable stone tablets, God creates relationships with broken people. And

God forgives iniquity and remembers sin no more. With divine forbearance God passes over the sins previously committed. God sends the Son to reform our hearts, to atone the broken rules, to at-one the broken laws, and it's Jesus's righteousness, Jesus's sacrifice, that justifies, that makes things right once more. And we have faith not in God's rules, but in God. We have faith in Jesus.

All of this is to say: even if rules were made to be broken, hearts were not. Even if rules were made to be broken, hearts were not. We break each other's hearts all of the time; we grieve God's heart all the time, too. The law, all of the rules God gives us, they're all meant to protect our hearts – and our bodies and our livelihoods and everything else – from harm and danger and each other. But rules alone can't save us, not from sin. They just describe it, define it. Laws are written in stone, or in layers of legal codes; but relationships are written on your hearts. God's love through Christ reforms our hearts. God's love through Christ saves us.

You know, there are other traditions, other branches on the Christian family tree, that really stress having a relationship with Christ; at least, they talk about that relationship more than we Lutherans typically do. And maybe we Lutherans should talk about our relationship with Christ more. We are saved only by God's grace, not by anything we do or don't do; it's that faith we have in Christ, the trust that the Holy Spirit fosters in us, that binds us to that saving grace. It's not the knowledge we have of the Bible, but the way the Bible helps us get to know our Lord. It's not our good works or charitable actions, but the foot-washing, cross-bearing Lord whose example we follow. It's not the rules we keep; it's the relationship that keeps with us.

Relationships are a two-way street; rules are not. If I break a law, if I jaywalk or something, the legal code doesn't feel disappointed in me. It doesn't feel anything. But when I sin, not only might I break the heart of someone around me, I grieve God's heart. It hurts the relationship. Incredibly, though? God's ultimate response to my sin isn't to cut me off or throw the book at me. God's response is love, in the shape of a cross. God loves us so much that Jesus takes the punishment for our rule-breaking and nails it to a cross and buries it in a tomb so that we might be raised to new life in him, through him, with him. God's response to sin is forgiveness, forbearance, passing over iniquities, remembering sin no more. God's response to the sin that enslaves us is to grant us freedom.

It's Reformation Day today. It's the day we celebrate and remember Luther starting that whole Reformation ball rolling, by posting those ninety-five theses on the church door. It wasn't about "rules are made to be broken"; but it acknowledged and called out some human rules that were breaking God's people. He was railing against a system that enslaved people, that made them purchase indulgences to shave time off their loved one's punishment in purgatory, a system that was all about earning your way into heaven and paying penance, balancing the scales of rules broken and rules kept. But Luther's main concern wasn't the artificial lines and limits, or anything like that.

*Luther's main concern was to re-center the church of the love of God that led to the cross of Christ. Luther's main concern wasn't about broken rules, but Jesus broken for us – the body given, the blood shed – so that we could be freed to risk brokenness and honesty and humility and service in our relationships with others and the world.*

*Luther's main concern was that the church was reformed to re-focus on the iniquity forgiven, the sin un-remembered, the broken rules passed over with divine forbearance. And we celebrate Reformation Day still, not as a crystallized remembrance of something he and other reformers did five hundred years ago; we celebrate it because God calls us to continually reform our hearts and our churches to be more aligned with this gospel of Jesus Christ. It has nothing to do with our ability – or inability – to follow the rules. No, our salvation and our hope is all from God, God's righteousness, which is demonstrated, proven, and shown through mercy that overcomes our own sinful aversion to righteousness, our own insubordination, our own tendencies to justify our actions by saying silly things like, "rules are made to be broken."*

*Our ongoing prayer of reform is that God would overwrite the sin in our hearts, the broken rules and brokenness, with forgiveness, and with life-giving relationship. Our ongoing prayer is that God would free us from that slavery of sin and free us for loving others the way that we are loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY, "Baptized and Set Free"**

1 We are people created,  
chosen by God.  
Then we're washed, ever gently,  
in mercy and love.  
Sin has power no more.  
Jesus opened the door  
to a fountain bringing healing,  
and wholeness and more.

2 We are fed and we're nourished,  
filled and refreshed.  
Then our hunger returns and  
again we are blessed.  
For whatever the need,  
God is greater indeed:  
endless ocean, always deeper  
than all of our need.

3 We are nourished by water,  
all living things,  
and by life that the Spirit

abundantly brings.  
As we journey toward home,  
may your presence be known:  
precious river, ever-flowing,  
now carry us home.

4 Now with praise and thanksgiving,  
we join the song.  
All are welcome! We gather  
to sing loud and strong.  
Not enslaved, but set free!  
From now on, all will be  
one in Jesus, one in water,  
baptized and set free!

### **\*CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *[Brief silence]*

A: Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: *hear our prayer.***



A: As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, our church as we face the challenges of coronavirus. We pray for those who grieve the loss of loved ones, for the sick and their families, for those fearful of an unknown future. We pray for the millions of unemployed, for children and others at home - that they be safe from abuse. We pray for those who are alone and isolated during this time that they may feel your loving presence. We pray for all the hospital and health care workers, and all first responders, that they receive needed supplies and be kept protected in the work they do. We pray for those making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen. Keep us all in your care as we wait for a new day. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of all families, you have given us families to be sanctuaries of blessing, comfort and love for each other. Under your protection fill us with harmony, hope and health. We pray this week for the Anderson, Anton and Arnold families as well as our Messiah family. Guard all of our hearts that we may display love instead of hate, anger or bitterness. Lead us all to be grateful for your abiding love and enable us to glorify you by sharing that love with others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: ***Our Father, who art in heaven,***

***hallowed be thy name,***

***thy kingdom come,***

***thy will be done,***

***on earth as it is in heaven.***

***Give us this day our daily bread;***

***and forgive us our trespasses,***

***as we forgive those***

***who trespass against us;***

***and lead us not into temptation,***

***but deliver us from evil.***

***For thine is the kingdom,***

***and the power, and the glory,***

***forever and ever. Amen.***

### **BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen**

# SENDING SONG, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Here are Pastor Ryan's office hours (posted below)! Dedicated drop-in hours (= Pastor Ryan is there if you want to drop in) will be: Tuesdays from 2-4:00 pm. Otherwise during posted hours he will either be in the office or making visits, but still in the area. Other times Pastor Ryan will be working from home (to help with his kids' distance learning), and will still be available via phone and email, which are: [messiahmechpr@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com) and 507-360-7276. Pastor Ryan's day off is Monday.

**Pastor Ryan in the office - Tuesdays 1-5**

**Pastor Ryan in the office- Thursdays 1-5**

**Pastor Ryan in the office- Fridays 9-3**

## **DIGITAL WORSHIP/CHURCH TEAM**

We are searching for 2 more people as we form a new team here at Messiah. In our digital world, the last several months have shown us that the digital platform has allowed us to worship together although apart. We realize offering Worship and Christian Formation opportunities through digital means has become an important part of being Messiah. Building on information that has been presented by Synod, Council is seeking to establish a team of individuals who have an interest in helping us use digital platforms in the best possible way. We currently have 4 people, but would love to have 2 more. Please let Pastor Ryan, Karen Morris, or Donna Shaw know if you're interested. We can't wait to see where this journey takes us!

## **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, November 1st, is All Saints Sunday. The usual tradition has been to read the names of members from Messiah who have died in the last year, as well as the names of others who have held their services here, and then to invite folks forward to add flowers to a wreath for individuals in their lives who have died.

We're still working on the logistics of all of this under our Covid guidelines. So, to help us be ready for anything, please send in any names - of anyone - that you'd like us to honor on All Saints Day. It could be someone who has died in the past year, or someone who has been baptized in the past year. It could be someone from Messiah, or from some other part of your lives. Please send the names into the office by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 28th.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Lost and Found, the annual Virginia Synod weekend retreat for youth in 7th and 8th grades and their adult advisors, will be DIGITAL this year! The event will take place via Zoom during four blocks of time on Nov. 20-21, 2020 (Friday 6 PM to Saturday 7:30 PM). For more information and to register for this year's event, visit <https://www.vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found/>.

### **MCEF – THANKSGIVING BAGS**

THANKSGIVING BAGS at MCEF will begin being distributed the last week of October. Clients will have an opportunity to choose the items they will use (this is good stewardship of resources). The following items are needed to complete their meal: canned collards, boxed mashed potatoes, brownie mix, cake mix and frosting in addition to the items normally provided. These items can be placed in the shopping cart in the narthex or make a monetary donation for the purchase of needed items by going to the website, 4MCEF.com and use the "Donate" button. Thank you for your continued support of your Mechanicsville neighbors.

### **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>, we began providing a summary of the financial well-being of our congregation. Here is this week's information:

- Contributions to general fund averaged \$2840 through October 18<sup>th</sup> (slightly down from \$2918 on October 11<sup>th</sup>.)
- We are \$23,690.50 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$22,082.50 behind the budget the week prior).
- Weekly budget need is \$3404.00.

### **PASTOR WALTONEN MEMORIAL DONATION**

Church Council would like to offer the opportunity for members to help Messiah honor Pastor Waltonen by making contributions to a designated fund in his name. Monies given to this fund will be sent by Messiah to the Lewy Body Dementia Association in honor of Pastor Tim. It is such a privilege for Messiah to honor this gentle giant of a man who was among us for 2 years (prior to Pastor Lou) as an interim pastor. When donating, please make any checks payable to Messiah and then designate your contribution to the "Pastor Waltonen Fund" and put it in the weekly offering plate by December 1, 2020.

### **CAROLINE FURNACE UPDATES**

Adventure Weekend, October 30 to November 1 - Come and get outside with your family! Late October will be perfect for horseback riding, rock climbing, hiking, biking, and fishing. Our family rate is \$200-250 per night for your own heated cabin + meals provided; some activities may cost extra. Contact us at (540) 449-0012 or [julie@carolinefurnace.org](mailto:julie@carolinefurnace.org) to reserve your cabin. Basic health pre-screening is required for all overnight guests. Book at least 14 days in advance!

### **SMALL GROUPS**

If you'd like to have a small group or committee meeting at the church, please check out the Small Group Meetings and Cleaning Protocols. You can contact Davina when wanting to schedule a time for your group to meet and get the latest protocols. The only areas open at this time include the Fellowship Hall, the hallway to the restrooms, and the restrooms. All other parts of the building remain 'closed' for now. There are also copies of the forms at church on the kitchen counter for you to use at your meeting along with necessary cleaning supplies. Davina will maintain the completed forms in her office. Thanks for all you do! Stay well everyone!

### **LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: HURRICANES AND CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES**

Following the devastation caused by hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, as well as the impact of wildfires across California and the Northwest, Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) is responding. You can help LDR as they assist the communities who have been impacted by these natural disasters, through prayer and giving through [Lutheran Disaster Relief](#). Your gifts designated for "[Hurricane Response](#)" or "[U.S. Wildfires](#)" will be used entirely (100%) for direct response until it is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes or wildfires.

### **REBUILD RVA GRANT PROGRAM**

The Rebuild VA Grant Fund is a program to help small businesses and non-profits whose normal operations were disrupted by COVID-19, including restaurants, brick and mortar retail, exercise and fitness facilities, personal care and personal grooming services, entertainment and public amusement establishments, and campgrounds. Businesses and non-profits that are approved for a Rebuild VA grant may receive up to 3 times their average monthly eligible expenses up to a maximum of \$10,000.

### **WEBSITE CHANGE**

A new tab has been added to our church website entitled "E-Messages". Under this tab you will find links to Bible Study Handouts, weekly Sunday Bulletins, and the monthly Messenger. Hope you find this change helpful when you're looking for these items.

### **VIRGINIA RENT AND MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM (RMRP)**

The Virginia Rent and Mortgage Relief Program (RMRP) is designed to support and ensure housing stability across the commonwealth during the coronavirus pandemic. Depending on availability of funds and household need, the RMRP may provide financial assistance for rent or mortgage payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent or mortgage payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward. Financial assistance is a one-time payment with opportunity for renewal based on availability of funding and the household's need for additional assistance and continued eligibility. For more information please visit: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): [www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/rmrp).

### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT – COMING BACK**

We're continuing the getting-back-together process. Small groups have already been meeting, and now we're making the first go and worshiping inside together again. As we come back together in person, we also encourage you, prayerfully and as you are able, to come back in your giving, too. Thank you for the generosity you have already shown through these difficult times! Please mail in your offering to the church office, 8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111, or use on-line giving through Vanco which is available on the church website. See [messiahmech.com](http://messiahmech.com) for more details. Thank you!