

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*January 17, 2021
Second Sunday after Epiphany*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

Second Sunday after Epiphany

(January 17, 2021)

For video go to: <https://messiahmech.com/messiah-digital/>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through ☩ Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

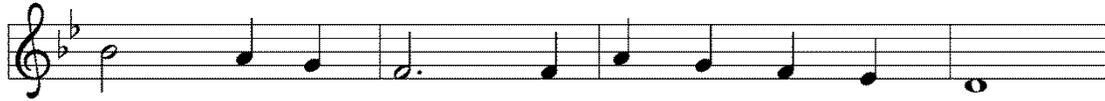
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN O Zion, Haste

O Zion, Haste



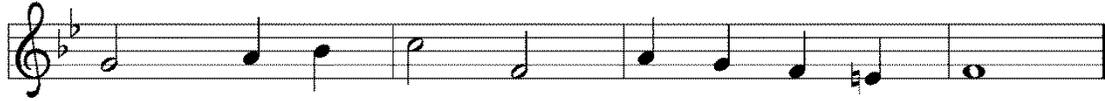
1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837–1901

THE GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *And also with you.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST LESSON: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

Lector

A reading from 1 Samuel.

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Lector

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

For a long, long time, I was never quite sure what I wanted to be when I grew up. I think I shared the story a few weeks ago about how in kindergarten I went through a period where I wanted to be a masseuse. I took various career assessments in middle school, high school, college. Either their results were inconclusive – any of these twelve careers would fit you! – or they'd tell me I should be something that just felt off, like the one that said I should be a systems analyst. (Nothing against systems analysts – it just didn't feel right for me.) It wasn't that I couldn't decide on what to be; it was just a big blank.

In college, where you're supposed to figure these things out, I just kept taking the same classes that I was good at and liked from high school. Eventually, though, things started to become clear. One of those career surveys in college included "pastor." Not something I had seen before. I was one of the only people I knew in college who still attended church regularly. I often found myself listening to my friends' worries and problems. I thought it was because I had a comfy couch in my dorm room. I started to realize it was because people thought I was a good listener.

After a while, other things started to come to the surface. Comments friends and family would make. Encouragement from various pastors. Little thoughts in the back of my head like, "Is this something I could do? Something I could be?" After another while, I floated the idea to a couple of close friends. They didn't think it was weird. They affirmed my budding internal sense of call with some external affirmation, too.

There are other parts to my call story, the path that brought me to ordained ministry; but I'll skip to the last part. In my senior year of college I had it narrowed down. I would either become an English professor or a pastor. They had some things in common. I wasn't sure which way God wanted me to go. And then one day I was reading a book in the library for my English senior seminar class, on satire. And it wasn't a book of satire, with witty turns of phrase and sly commentaries; no, it was a book about satire. You know what they say – if you have to explain a joke, it isn't that funny. I didn't want to read about what made satire, satire.

And in that moment, sitting at the little desk amongst the stacks and shelves of books in the library, I said, maybe even out loud, what is possibly one of the most anticlimactic epiphany moments you'll ever hear: "This sucks. I'm going to be a pastor."

College students, right?

That irreverence aside, though, it all started to fall into place after that. A sense of purpose. A sense that I truly was walking the path God had placed me on. Visiting seminaries. Having family support the path, even if they didn't always understand it. Starting my classes, still not sure I completely understood it either, but knowing without a doubt that I was in the right place. Unlike many of my classmates, I didn't have a "light bulb" moment, a bolt of lightning to open

my eyes and get my attention, a neon arrow pointing. My call story was more of a dimmer switch, gradually getting me there. Either way, here I am.

Call stories are pretty common among clergy folks. It's a specific call to a specific vocation. But God calls all of us. God calls all of us to roles, to situations, to vocations, to paths we are asked to walk. God calls all of us who are Christians to be ambassadors for Christ in our words and deeds. To share the good news. To love our neighbors as ourselves. To be channels of forgiveness. To be humble sinner-saints. To acts of service. To lives of faith.

Do you have a call story of any kind? For your acts of service, for your roles in the church, for your vocations? Do you have a call story for the first chapter of your faith? Do you remember being baptized, or the stories of your parents' and godparents' faith? Do you know the stories of your baptism if you were too young when it happened to remember it? Do you remember your Confirmation Day if that's something you experienced? Do you have stories of friends and family affirming the call you're feeling from God? Or maybe it was an interaction with a stranger that turned on your light bulb or started twisting your dimmer switch. Maybe there was some significant event, a blessing, even a tragedy, that functioned as a call for you to a certain path God was laying out before you. Can you tell a story about when your sense of call, your sense of discipleship, your sense of baptismal identity, your sense of following Christ, was inspired, or renewed, or rediscovered, or made real in a new way?

I bet you have stories. Maybe you haven't thought about them in these terms before, but I bet you have them. Maybe you didn't hear a voice calling you, like the story of Samuel and Eli. Maybe you didn't have something as obvious as Jesus walking up to your brother, and your brother saying, "Come and see." Maybe you didn't have something as monumental as Jesus looking you in the eye and knowing you, even more than you knew yourself at that moment. But as much as I bet you have stories, I can guarantee, no wagers needed, that God has called you and continues to call you.

The voice of God's calling might come from a familiar voice. Samuel genuinely thought that Eli was calling him. Nathaniel was called by Philip, his brother. You might not recognize the voice of the call, at first, like Samuel. You might need someone else to help you recognize it, like Eli. You might at first scoff at the call – "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" You might need to have the call repeated, once, twice, three times, more. God is persistent that way. And answering the call might not be easy. It might require a change, a sacrifice, a new responsibility, the facing of fears, the stepping out into the unknown. Answering God's call takes listening, and obedience, and willingness.

Answering God's call starts with recognition. God fully recognizes you, like Jesus did with Nathaniel, and beyond something as superficial as Jesus knowing he was sitting under a tree. In Jesus' little comment, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" it shows Nathaniel a deep recognition. And then comes the recognition in the other direction – you recognizing God, and the

source of the call. Nathaniel proclaiming, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Samuel, with Eli's help, recognizing the source of the voice calling out in the night. But the order in which this happens is important – God recognizes us first, fully knows us, and because of God's recognition, we are able to recognize in return.

Following God's calls, being a disciple – that's a lifelong endeavor. A lifelong process with ebbs and flows, ups and downs. "Disciple" after all, is related to "discipline." Recognizing – and following – God's calls in our lives takes practice, admits mistakes, and requires dedication and work and love. But it's possible because God recognizes and calls us first. Following God's call is a whole-self commitment, much more than just a membership or being on a mailing list or anything like that. It's beyond just Nathaniel's exclamation, saying "Wow! Jesus knows me!" That's where it starts, to be sure. But, just as Nathaniel got up and followed Jesus all around of Galilee, all the way to the table, and the cross, and the upper room, and beyond, so our response to God's calls in our lives is a lifetime of faith lived out, knowing and being fully known.

Paul did the same. He started as a persecutor of the church, but heard God's call (in his case less of a light switch of any kind and more of a holy two-by-four upside his head). And he spent the rest of his life, and used all of his gifts and talents, to love God and spread the good news. In the passage we heard today from 1 Corinthians, he is reminding folks that just because they are no longer bound by the Law because of Christ, it doesn't mean they shouldn't still follow God's path and live pure lives. Not because being pure would save them or make them righteous; but rather because of Jesus' saving righteousness they are no longer their own. "For you were bought with a price," fully known, sin and all; "therefore, glorify God in your body." In your whole self. With your whole life, and everything you are, follow God's calls and share God's love.

Heed God's calls in your lives. Practice every day at being a follower of Christ. Jesus isn't collecting followers in an Instagram kind of way. It's not a numbers game. It's relationship and grace and forgiveness, given to you, fully known and recognized, and called to live what you have received. You are called, by God, because God knows you, and loves you. You are called, by God, because God knows the world, and loves it. You are called, by God, to be agents of the love you know for the sake of the world who needs to know it, and feel it, too.

You are called, by God, because God genuinely wants to have a relationship with you, right there under your fig tree, lying in your bed in the temple, sitting in your car, watching your screen. You are called, by God, because God genuinely wants you to follow, wholly, wherever our Lord Jesus leads, even when we don't fully understand it, and in the process see greater things than we can imagine, greater even than recognition – like cruciform love, forgiveness of sins, reconciliation of broken peoples, promises that are

trustworthy and sure, abiding hope, abounding contentment no matter the circumstances, a thirst for peace and a hunger for justice, and new life.

You are known, and you are called, and you have stories to share. Please don't hold back in telling them, in following, and seeing where the path leads next.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons*

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?"

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

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

A: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need. *[Brief silence]*

A: For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

C: *Have mercy, O God.*

A: For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray.

C: *Have mercy, O God.*

A: For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound (especially), that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from our assembly, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us (especially Antony and Pachomius, renewers of the church), that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: God, you are life. We pray for our world, our country, our community, and 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, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

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 Jung, Kiser and Laveck 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, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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

Lord, Be Glorified



1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.
in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan's office hours for the week of January 17th are posted below. You can also reach Pastor Ryan via email at messiahmechpr@gmail.com or by phone at 507-360-7276 if you'd like to talk or set up an appointment.

Pastor Ryan hours:

Tuesday: 12-5 pm / Wednesday: 9-12:30 pm / Friday: 10 am-3 pm

ANNUAL REPORTS MEETING (SUNDAY, JAN. 24, 2021)

Our Annual Reports meeting is set for Sunday, January 24 (*snow day, 1/31*), join your brothers and sisters in Christ as we share the story of our past year and look toward a future filled with hope. It is our Annual Reports Meeting. The new council for 2021 will be installed and ministry reports shared.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is this week's information based on our 2021 budget.

- Contributions to general fund averaged \$2,742 (up from \$2,037 through January 10, 2021.)
- We are \$2,498.87 behind the year-to-date budget needs (up from \$1,954.00 the week prior).
- Weekly budget need is \$3991.
- We ended 2020 behind budget by \$14,959.70. With the usage of our PPP loan of \$17,700 however we ended the year plus \$2,740.30 and met all expenses.

MCEF FUN-RAISER

MCEF Funraiser at Chicken Salad Chick Monday, January 18, 10-8. This applies to curb-side, take-out, drive-through or eat-in purchases. Mention that you support and 10% of the sale will be donated to MCEF. Thank you for your support. 6575 Mechanicsville Turnpike (Near Publix).

HELP SECURE MESSIAH

Please make sure that all doors are locked and securely latched when leaving the building. There has been a recent instance where the narthex doors were left unlocked overnight. This is different from being locked and not latched. Please help Council ensure that all are safe when entering the building!

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for 2021 are ready. Envelopes will be distributed before services. Please note numbers have changed so in order to get proper credit for the correct year use the new envelopes only for Sundays in 2021. Let Bill Weaver know if you do not receive your envelopes.

FOSTER CHILDREN FAMILIES

The Social Ministry Team would like to thank the Congregation for their generous gift cards to the Foster Children Families. We were able to give \$75 worth of gift cards to twelve families and help make their Christmas special. Thank you for all you do! Social Ministry.

CAROLINE FURNACE FUN!

Winter Camp at Home begins TODAY, Sunday, January 17! Sign up at <https://carolinefurnace.campbrainregistration.com> and pay \$20 for three months, with weekly Zoom sessions from 4:30 to 6pm. Open to Grades K-12, with sub-groups for Elementary and Middle/High. Come spend time with your favorite camp counselors each week, building community, participating in group discussions, and having fun with games and activities together! Go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/216790710084695/> for more information.

POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Register today to join the first-ever *Midwinter Power in the Spirit Online Event* that will be held beginning, Sunday, January 31 to Thursday, February 4, 2021. The most recent summer event was forced to go online, and those who attended enjoyed the experience! So, how about gathering for prayer, study, worship, and conversation during some of the coldest days of the year. This winter's theme will center on the illuminating festival of Candlemas and our keynote presenter will be The Rev. Dr. Dave Delaney, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Virginia Synod. Go to <https://www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/> for more information as well as the registration form.

GLOBAL BARNYARD THANK YOU!

"Thank you for your donation to support the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through ELCA Good Gifts. Your generous gifts are making a difference in the world -- responding to hunger and poverty, sharing the gospel, equipping leaders, and growing the church. Thank you for all that you have graciously given so that others may experience God's love." Our \$630 purchased: 10 Clinic visits for a child; Feeding 4 children for a month; 3 groups of Goat/flock of chickens; 5 Fruit tree seedlings; 5 Sets of Honeybees; 4 Sets of Soap and Sanitation Supplies. Thank you to all who donated! A great way to begin 2021!

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!

UPDATED: REBUILD RVA GRANT PROGRAM

On October 28, the Governor's Office released information about an expansion of the Rebuild Virginia Grants. The grants are available to small businesses and non-profits. Unlike the last time round of Rebuild Virginia grants, the expansion specifically says that an organization can receive funding even if the organization received CARES Act Funding. Qualified recipients can receive a grant of up to three months' worth of expenses to help with salaries, mortgage, utilities, etc. The FAQs aren't as entirely clear, but when you combine the FAQs with the application guide (pg 4 in particular addresses what is excluded for those with CARES Act funding), it appears that most organizations in Virginia are eligible. This funding may prove particularly helpful for child care and preschool ministries that had issues with part-time employees and PPP Loan calculations. One potential hurdle for an application is the requirement for a DUNS number. The DUNS numbers appear to be standard practice in the for-profit world and almost unheard of in the non-profit world. It is possible for a church or non-profit to apply for a DUNS number, but the online process to get the number can be confusing.

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.

SMILE! MESSIAH RECEIVES .5% DONATION WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

This holiday season, online holiday shopping is expected to increase over 33% more than last year. More people will be browsing Amazon this year more than ever. With the shopping season among us, the Stewardship team would like to remind everyone to sign up for Amazon Smile! Signing up is easy and does not interfere with Prime Membership benefits. Amazon donates .5% of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Step 1: visit smile.amazon.com

Step 2: sign in with your amazon account credentials

Step 3: Search for "Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville"

Step 4: Start SHOPPING! *please remember to bookmark smile.amazon.com for easy access every time you shop. You must add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!