

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*January 31, 2021
Fourth 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.*

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

(January 31, 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: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

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

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN This Is My Father's World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901
Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

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: *Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen*

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Lector

A reading from Deuteronomy.

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] 15The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 16This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." 17Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. 18I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. 19Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 20But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Lector

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

1Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 2Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; 3but anyone who loves God is known by him.

4Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." 5Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—6yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

7It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 8"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 9But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 10For if others see you, who possess

knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? 11 So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. 12 But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 13 Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

21 [Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. 22 They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. 23 Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, 24 and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." 25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" 26 And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 27 They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." 28 At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

Have you ever heard of a backseat driver? The person who is very clearly not behind the steering wheel, but couldn't help giving "tips" and "directions" to the person who is? Well, my mother was a passenger-seat driver. Really, whatever seat she was in. Sometimes she was even a driver-seat driver, telling other drivers what they should be doing (even if they couldn't hear her), and telling other people in the car how they should be driving next time they got a turn.

I can't tell you how many times, even after I'd been driving for lots and lots of years, that I heard about how you needed to drive defensively. How leaves that had fallen on a road could be wet and therefore deceptively slippery. (Look out – there's leaves – slow down.) When she was in the passenger seat, she'd often be observed pushing down on what my sister called the "floor brakes." She would often get into the passing lane on a freeway and do 68 in a 65, and when cars angrily began to pile up behind her, she'd respond to our requests to move over with a "What? I'm going over the speed limit. If they don't like it, too bad." Or something like that.

Please know that my mother was an awesome person. Kind and generous and loving. There was no road rage, nothing like that. It's just that when it came to driving, she was going to do her thing, her way, regardless of anyone else. A little bit of vehicular "mother knows best." She always had good intentions when she was backseat driving. But that didn't make it any less frustrating.

I think that's probably the makeup of most people: a mixture of endearing and annoying, good intentions and selfish motivations, simultaneously saint and sinner if you want to get all Lutheran about it. Each of us with our hang-ups, and also our moments to shine. So how do we live with each other in community, with harmony and peace outweighing the rolling of eyes or worse?

We have a case study of this today in our lesson from 1 Corinthians. The overall situation in Corinth is a little precarious. It's one of the many new Christian communities that have started since Jesus died, was raised, and ascended into heaven. Paul is writing them in response to some infighting and crisis within the church. It seems that there is a hierarchy, with some folks seeing themselves as a little more worthy than others. Some people are hoarding the community meals and Communion servings, while others get none. Some are acting like they can do whatever they want because of the freedom of the gospel, and sinning up a storm, while others are calling out every little sin they see their brothers and sisters committing.

Paul writes this letter to try to set them straight. He uses the first part of the letter to give thanks to God for them in positive terms, in terms directly opposite of the harmful behaviors he's trying to address. "I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind..." In other words, in God's eyes no one is better than anyone else, whether in terms of wealth or knowledge or anything else, so stop acting otherwise. "[Y]ou are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the

revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." All of you have unique gifts, and together you make up the fully-formed body of Christ, with Christ as your head, and no one else. You need each other, and you have enough, so please act like it and trust in Christ until he comes again.

In this particular chapter, Paul is addressing the issue of eating meat sacrificed to idols. Here's the quick summary from the Lutheran Study Bible: "Temples to several gods existed in Corinth. Animals were sacrificed to those gods, and the sacred meat from the rituals was often eaten in communal meals in those temples. Though Paul saw those gods as powerless and the offerings as just food, he warned the believers that they had to consider how others who were weak in conscience might view such eating and in so doing compromise their faith in Christ."

Paul says, "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." The Study Bible continues on, "Thus love trumps knowledge, even when knowledge is absolutely correct...For Paul, what was the problem with knowledge? Knowing requires subjects and objects. Love overcomes the distance between subjects and objects. With knowledge, lives are observed, studied, understood. With love, however, lives are shared and communion happens...The elite within the church may have approached the question of idol meat with 'knowledge.' They may never have considered that their consumption of meat was a privilege afforded to them by their 'better' knowledge and their wealth, which allowed them routinely to eat a relatively expensive food. Paul does not say they are incorrect about the inconsequential nature of meat, but that knowledge itself must take a back seat to love for the sake of the one for whom Christ died."

In his book *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer talks about how to live in true Christian community. (By the way, this book will be basis of our Lenten study starting on Wednesday, February 24th, at 10am, on Zoom.) Bonhoeffer talks about the difference between the ideal (what we think and dream the community should be), and the divine reality and gift of having community in and through Jesus Christ. Even when the others in the community push your buttons or partake in some backseat driving, or when you do the same to them. In and through Christ, the head of your body and the reason you have community at all, your annoyance takes a backseat to love. Your "I know better" takes a backseat to love.

Paul says, "We are no worse of if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak...Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall." The "ideal" is based on us.

The divine reality uses God's love to help us navigate the inevitable messiness of interacting with other human beings, whether they're Christians or not.

The source of that divine reality, the source of that love, the roadmap of how to love and live in community, no matter who thinks they should be driving, is Jesus. When it comes to living together in community, we all end up being backseat drivers, or passenger-seat drivers, and acting like we know better than everyone else. When really, Jesus is the driver, the prophet promised in Deuteronomy, the one who will speak with God's words in his mouth. The one we should heed, the one who should drive, the one we should yield to. Jesus, the Christ.

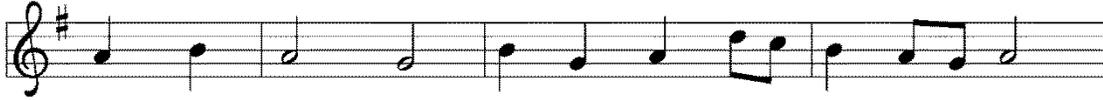
Paul tells the squabbling Christians in Corinth: knowledge takes a backseat to love. Jesus teaches with amazing and astounding authority, but still heals someone with an unclean spirit in the middle of the synagogue, on the sabbath. Very much against the rules. But those rules took a backseat to love, and healing. Jesus' fame spread far and wide, but the fame took a backseat to love, on a cross. Anything we think that is more important than the core of the gospel of our salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God on earth, needs to take a backseat to love.

Our tendency, for whatever our reasons, is to try to steer each other. And, granted, sometimes that's part of what we're called to do. To speak the truth in love. To share or use our knowledge in love. To let somebody know when they're doing something destructive or harmful. To work to change systems in our world that work against the gospel. To make sure our loved ones really understand the risks posed by wet leaves. But it's a tricky balance. Just take this cautionary line from Paul to help you navigate the tricky balance: "So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed." Christ died for every single person in your life, in love. In and through Christ, the divine reality of community helps us see others through that lens first and foremost: as ones for whom Christ died. Weigh your knowledge, and how you use it, and how you think the driving should be going, against that. Everything else takes a backseat to love. Even ourselves. And that's ok – that's good news! – because Jesus is at the wheel, and he will get us home. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - dianc e of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

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 all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need (especially); for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community (especially), let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

A: For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

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 Mahovtas, Major and Martin 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 Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan's office hours for the week of January 24th 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:

Wednesday-Friday, 10:00 am-3:00 pm

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

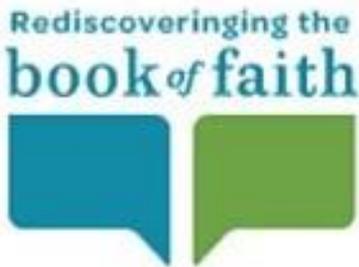
Here is this week's information based on our 2021 budget.

- Contributions to general fund averaged \$3,645.53 (down from \$4,286.71 through January 24, 2021.)
- We received a \$1000 from the Bee Newell estate that went to current.
- We are \$1,381.87 behind the year-to-date budget needs (change from +\$887.13 the week prior).
- Weekly budget need is \$3991.

2020 STATE TAX STATEMENTS & 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

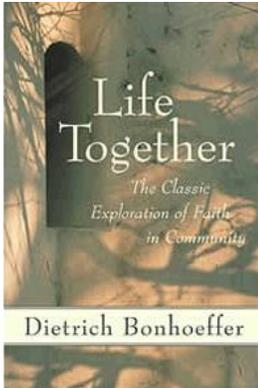
Tax statements for 2020 and envelopes for 2021 are ready and in the Narthex. Please note numbers have changed so in order to get proper credit for the correct year use the new envelopes only for Sundays in 2021. Let Bill Weaver know if you do not receive one

"REDISCOVERING THE BOOK OF FAITH" - MIDWEEK MESSAGE MINI-SERIES



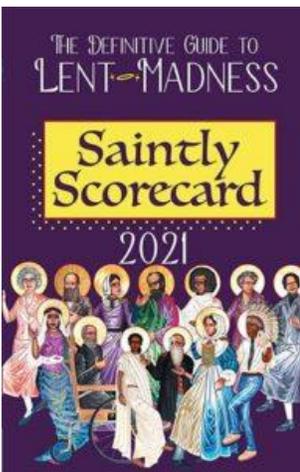
You are all invited to a three-week series called "Rediscovering the Book of Faith," on the Wednesdays of February 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 10am. This series walks through the story of our Scriptures: how the present form of the Old Testament and New Testament came to be, and the impact the Reformation had on the Bible. We're going to try an experiment - we'll be offering this course over Zoom. The Zoom invite will be sent out prior to each session, and all are welcome. Invite your friends! A Zoom account is not required. Because of some copyrighted material such as videos, we can't post the videos of our class on the church website, but Pastor Ryan will provide a summary each week. Please contact Pastor Ryan if you have any questions.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY: LIFE TOGETHER (APART)



You are invited to join in a Lenten book study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *Life Together*, Wednesdays at 10:00 am, beginning on February 24th. This book was written out of Bonhoeffer's experience leading an "underground" seminary for church leaders in Germany in the build-up to WWII. What does genuine Christian community look like? And for us today, what does community look like when we are separated in so many ways? You should be able to find this book through bookstores, libraries, online vendors, or through some form of digital download. Please read the Chapter 1 - "Community" - in preparation for our first session.

WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN HALO?



Lenten Madness is back and getting ready for Lent 2021. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints, this unique Lenten devotion is now in its 11th year! Fashioned after NCAA March Madness, the format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. Go to

<https://www.lentmadness.org/about/> to learn more about Lenten Madness and to fill out a bracket go to <https://www.lentmadness.org/bracket/>. Be creative and have some fun while learning about some amazing people!

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.

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!

Even though the most recent holiday shopping season is behind us, the Stewardship team would like to remind everyone to sign up and use 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!



Messiah Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor

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Vice President	Donna Shaw
Secretary	Karen Morris
Treasurer	Shawn Warmbrod
Financial Secretary	Bill Weaver
Parish Nurse	Sue Gilnett, RN

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES/LIAISONS

Christian Formation	Anita Philp
Evangelism	Donna Shaw
Fellowship	Karen Morris
Finance	James Anderson
Property	Roger Schroeder
Social Ministry	Dianne Absher
Stewardship	Diana Sondor
Worship	Debbie Walker

Messiah's Mission Statement:

"To share the good news of Jesus Christ and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service."