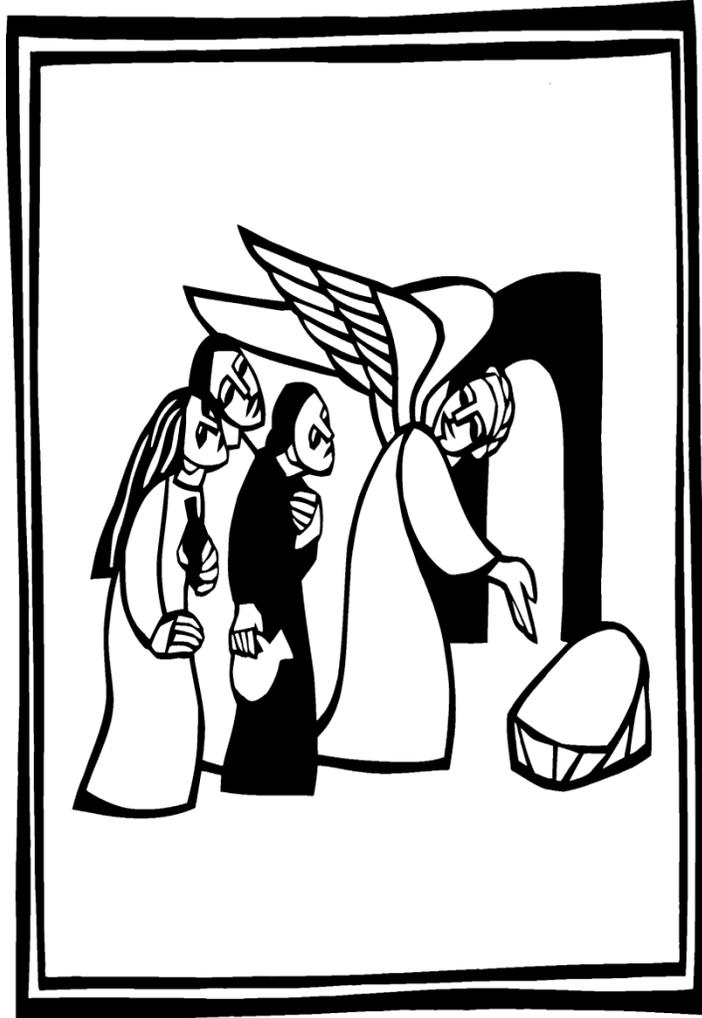


*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*April 4, 2021
Easter Day*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. There is no pre-recording of the service on YouTube this week.

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

Easter Day

April 4, 2021

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.

EASTER GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: ***He is risen, indeed! Alleluia***

*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 SONG Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

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: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Acts 10:34-43

Lector

A reading from Acts.

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Lector

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he

appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

I am a fan of rollercoasters. In middle school and high school I was lucky enough to live sort of close to a theme park: Six Flags Great America in Gurney,

Illinois. It was the go-to destination for any kind of reward day or bonus day in middle school and high school. And the place is crawling with rollercoasters.

There was the vintage wooden coaster American Eagle. There was its speedy newer wooden cousin, Viper. You had your inverted rollercoaster, where the cars hang down from the track and your feet dangle, Batman: The Ride. There was a stand-up coaster called Iron Wolf. There was one where you'd alternate between tracks and bobsled-style slides called Rolling Thunder (and it was loud). There was a Superman coaster where they pulled up the seats so it felt like you were flying, just like the Man of Steel. And a lot more, rollercoasters and other rides alike. As long as you timed your lunch of greasy park food right, you could ride all day long.

A while back we were hanging out with the cousins, and somehow the subject of rollercoasters came up. I was very pleased to hear that we have not just one, but two parks nearby, with both King's Dominion and Busch Gardens a quick loop-de-loop away. Then they got YouTube going on their TV to show me some of their favorites from some parks in Ohio. There's this whole thing where they record a ride – either with a camera mounted on the front car or on the head of someone in the front car. And you can follow all the twists and turns and loops and drop-offs from that first-person perspective.

If it was a person with the camera, you could hear everyone yelling, hear the rumble of the cars on the track and the wind rushing past. Those in the room prone to motion sickness actually still had to look away. On the other hand, it just wasn't the same as really being on the ride. Case in point: they asked me if I had some coasters to share. So I had them pull up the Batman ride: short but very good. And then I had them pull up a video for a favorite of mine: the Demon, with tunnels and lights and loops and more.

And it was...underwhelming. It was over so quickly. It didn't look that exciting. Nobody else in the room ooh-ed and aah-ed. But whenever I went to Great America, it was on the must-ride list. It was one of the ones that you would pray for a light rain for, so that the fair-weather park-goers would seek shelter and you could ride multiple times without having to get back in line. The video didn't, it couldn't, capture, the g-forces, the sound, the corny-yet-fun lights and tunnels and fake monster roars. It couldn't replicate the experience of having your friends at your side yelling their heads off as your stomach got left at the top of the first hill. No matter the coaster, none of the videos could convey how these rides were both amazing and terrifying.

The women at Jesus' tomb that first Easter morning found that the heavy stone had been rolled away, and that, instead of a body lying there for them to honor and anoint, there was a young man dressed in a white robe telling them that their Lord had been raised and had already hit the road for Galilee. And even though this angelic young man told them not to be alarmed, Mark's Gospel tells us that they "fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

I don't blame them. They had been on an emotional rollercoaster over the previous seven days, they and all the other disciples and followers of Jesus with them. Just one week prior the crowd had greeted Jesus like a visiting king, laying down palm branches and coats and calling out, "Hosanna!" – "Save us!" But there was also tension in the city, as the chief priests and other officials plotted against Jesus, as confrontations and cleansings happened in the Temple. Thursday night everything happened so fast – one minute, Jesus had gone to celebrate the Passover Meal with the disciples in the upper room, the next minute there was a crowd of police with swords and clubs arresting him in the garden. He'd been betrayed! Before long things moved to the high priest's house, then Pilate's compound. Jesus was accused and mocked and put on trial, and by Friday he'd been crucified, and now what would they all do? And through it all, these women – Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, probably others, too – had stayed close by: at the cross, as Jesus was laid in the tomb, and now on this morning after the sabbath had ended, the first day of a new week. Jesus missing. This stranger in white. Jesus raised?!

Terror and amazement are an appropriate mix after a rollercoaster like that.

Now, clearly, the terror and fear eventually faded. They eventually told other people, other disciples, what they saw, or maybe we wouldn't be here today. These women were the first evangelists, the first witnesses of the resurrection to testify and get the good news rolling. We saw it today in our other readings: they told Peter and the others. The disciples spread it to the other followers. Jesus appeared a few more times, too. Peter ends up giving the speech we heard from Acts to a Roman centurion named Cornelius and his household, God clearly showing no partiality to people who were definitely outside the original covenants. The good news makes it to Saul the persecutor, who becomes Paul the apostle, who spreads it far and wide. And here we are today, still talking about it all.

It's so clear from these early accounts of the Christian movement that the Resurrection had an impact. The news spread like wildfire, faster and more powerful than any of my favorite rollercoasters. It was a ride of new life, new promise, new salvation, that you never had to get off of or even get in line for – it came to you. Paul tells the church in Corinth that this is good news in which they stand, through which they are being saved, present tense, ongoing. Maybe the women at the tomb were alarmed, and afraid, and even terrified at first; but in the end it was all amazing; amazing grace.

Jesus' death and resurrection bring us God's grace and forgiveness. Peace and power. The Holy Spirit's rushing wind stirring in our lives. Jesus spent his ministry doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, and God was with him; and through our baptisms we have all of that, too, no matter the twists and turns and drop-offs of our lives.

Jesus went on ahead, as promised, to meet the disciples in Galilee. The Word went on ahead, raised from the dead, and it always pulls us forward with

it, so that we too can do good and heal those oppressed by the devil or anything else. God is with us. We too are carrying crosses and attending at tombs and laying down our lives for the sake of others, because Jesus went on ahead of us and makes it possible. Jesus breaks the trail for us, to and through death and into new life, and we are both pulled and propelled to follow in his tracks.

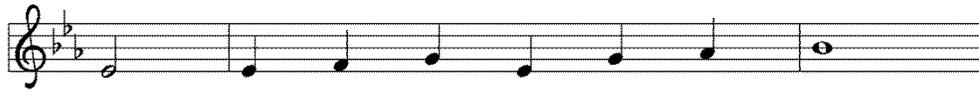
But here is where I'm worried: it's been a while since this all happened, a couple of thousand years, in fact. Yes, we're still talking about it all, but I am afraid that when we tell others about this good news, about this resurrection, about this Lord of ours that propels us and pulls us forward to follow him to and through the cross and beyond, that we are the video version of a rollercoaster. Like the women at the tomb, and Peter and the disciples, and Paul and the apostles, we must hand on what we have received. We must be witnesses to the impact of the resurrection, we must testify to the g-forces of the turnaround God's grace and good news brings to our lives. But it can't just be words. It can't be only a story. We are called to share the entire experience.

Your amazement has to be contagious. And maybe there's some terror, some thrill to your testimony, your witness: the tomb was empty – for me! Jesus was crucified – for me! It turns out Jesus has been with me through every twist and turn and drop-off, and that I'm standing in his grace even when it feels like my world has turned upside down. My life has changed. I am forgiven. I am loved. I am freed to love. I was scared at first, but now it's all amazing, and I'm not afraid to see where this ride takes me next.

If we're just showing people a video of something exciting, it won't really be so exciting for them. But if we share the experience of God's love and resurrection and new life, then they'll know that they're right on the ride with you and you with them. Make it so that the "g" in g-force stands for grace, and show them the pull God has on you, and on them, too. Don't just tell them about God's grace; tap into your own excitement and help them feel it, too.

Do not be afraid; Jesus has been raised, and he's gone on ahead. Go and tell everybody what you've experienced, and invite them to feel it too. "You've got to go on this ride with me! It's amazing!" Alleluia and amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



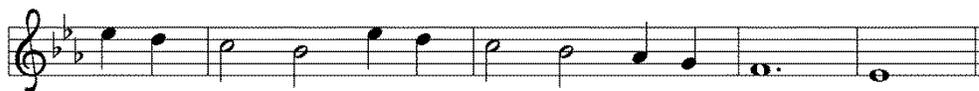
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. [*Brief silence*]

A: Praise to you for your power revealed in the resurrection! Fill your church with the power of your love that is stronger than death. Send us to tell the good news wherever death holds sway. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Praise to you for your life at work in the resurrection! Fill all of creation with your life. Bring it to blossom and flourish; use it to remind us of your persistent grace. Cultivate our care for what you have made. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Praise to you for the peace made possible in the resurrection! Fill the nations with your peace. Draw together people of all nations and languages; reveal new possibilities and inspire new beginnings. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Praise to you for the hope of the resurrection! Fill all in need with hope: those who are afraid or confused, those who are sick or suffering, those who are dying, and those who grieve (especially). Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Praise to you for the joy of your resurrection! Fill this assembly with joy as we are called your beloved in baptism. Multiply that joy so that we share it at home, at work, and in our community. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Praise to you for your faithfulness revealed in the resurrection! Fill us with trust, that we join with all who have gone before us in proclaiming: "your mercy endures forever!" Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

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. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

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 Wightman and Williams 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. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: *Amen.*

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: *Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: *Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.***

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: *Come, Holy Spirit.*

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

A: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have received strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, April 4, 2021

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn
Lectors: Marilyn Gunn
Acolyte: Karoline Combs
Ushers: LeRoy Albertson & Gordon Gunn
Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Rosalee Cline
Counters: Becky & Johnnie Collie



Altar Flowers for Easter Sunday were given by a Messiah member in loving memory of Messiah Family Members who have gone before us.



Announcements

PASTOR RYAN TIME OFF

Pastor Ryan is taking the week after Easter off for some rest and renewal. You can leave a message for 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. Please extend a warm welcome to Pastor Liz Yates who will be leading us in worship on April 11th.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,343.53 (down from \$3,481.74 through March 28, 2021).
- We are \$8,417.12 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$6,111.12 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

MCEF DONATION INFORMATION (CURRENT NEEDS)

Today it feels like summer is here and the clothing closets are doing the same. Please, only spring and summer clothing that is clean and usable, there is no space for winter clothing. Other needs include boys new underwear (sizes S, M, M and L), small to medium sized men's jeans, men's short sleeved colored T-shirts, all sizes and tops for women in small and medium sizes. The linen closet is low on Double and King sheets (no stains or rips please). Food pantry needs include spinach, instant oatmeal and grits packages, pancake mix and syrup, toothbrushes (new) and jellies of any kind. Thank you for your continued support of your neighbors in need.

Check out 4mcef.com for more information. The “Fun Raiser” at Chicken Salad Chick continues on the 3rd Monday of each month, mention that you support MCEF and 10% of the sale is donated to MCEF. Thank you for your support of your of your neighbors in need through MCEF.

PRAYER LIST RESET

The current prayer list has been reset as we begin the second quarter. Please contact Davina with names that need to remain on the list. Email her at MessiahMech@gmail.com or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

INFORMATION ON VACCINATIONS

The Virginia Department of Health recently released a downloadable Virginia COVID Info Toolkit with information on vaccines and the vaccine registration system. You can access the information at: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/covid-19-vaccine/patient-education/>. If you need to register for the vaccine, confirm your registration, or update your record, go to: <https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>

NOW ACCEPTING REPAIR PROGRAM APPLICATIONS!

Thanks to a grant, Hanover Habitat for Humanity is able to serve low income senior citizens in the 23111 or 23116 Zip Code in the Hanover suburban service area, or ‘Old Mechanicsville.’ Repair work will be for health and safety issues or code violations. However due to COVID, we will only be able to do exterior repairs at this time. If you or a loved one is in need of a repair in this area, please visit their website at <https://www.hanoverhfh.org/programs/critical-repair-program/> for more information and an application. Repairs will be based on a first come, first serve basis while funding is available.

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

8154 Atlee Road
Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111
(804)746-7134

**web page: www.MessiahMech.com
e-mail: MessiahMech@gmail.com**

The Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

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| Vice President | Donna Shaw |
| Secretary | Karen Morris |
| Treasurer | Shawn Warmbrod |
| Financial Secretary | Bill Weaver |
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2021 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES/LIAISONS

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| 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."