

Messiah Lutheran Church Mechanicsville, Virginia



May 23, 2021

The Day of Pentecost

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

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Day of Pentecost

May 23, 2021

**Congregation standing*

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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

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

P: Gracious God,

C: *have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

*GATHERING SONG

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling



1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;
quick-'ning, strength-'ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;



Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;
Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul



liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.
in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.

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

*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: ***Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

FIRST LESSON Acts 2:1-21

Lector

A reading from Acts.

Originally Pentecost was a Jewish thanksgiving-type festival celebrated seven weeks after Passover. On this particular Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the entire community of believers just as Jesus had promised

and the scriptures had prophesied. Empowered by the Spirit, the entire community bears witness to God's activity in multiple languages.

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:22-27

Lector

A reading from Romans.

By pouring the Holy Spirit into our hearts, God gives us the promised first fruit of eternal life so that we await God's future in hope. In the meantime, the Spirit also intercedes for us by carrying the prayers of our weak human hearts to God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

While speaking to his disciples before his death, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Helper" and describes the difference the Spirit will make in their lives and in the world.

[Jesus said,] ²⁶"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

^{16:4b} "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare

to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

Back in middle school and high school, every once in a while, we would have these school assemblies. Usually there was a guest speaker, and usually it was on some fairly serious topic like drugs or alcohol, or appropriate behaviors, or some other social issue. But, seeing as how I was a teenager, I didn't always give them my fullest attention. One of two things would happen. One: they would be reeeaaaalllly boring, doing a monotone presentation off of a projector, and I would get distracted, and stop paying attention. Two: they would do this thing where they told some jokes or funny stories to draw you in, and you'd be smiling and following along, and then – BAM! – they'd get really serious, and lay some truth on you. Since this became predictable, and I didn't like being at a live version of an afterschool special, I would get distracted...and I'd stop paying attention.

What can I say? I was a teenager who got bored and distracted easily. I would tune out. They were trying to teach me important things. They were trying to share what they had learned, share their experiences, so that I could benefit from them. But I wasn't ready to receive it. Not completely. And I'm sure I missed a lot of what they had to say.

By contrast, the story of Pentecost is anything but boring. Inside the room, you have the Holy Spirit blowing in with a sound like the rush of a violent wind. Divided tongues of fire rest on each of the disciples' heads, and they are compelled, impelled, propelled, out of the safety of their room and into the city. Outside the room, there is a festival going on in Jerusalem. There are Jews from all parts of the known world who lived in that great city, who were out and about in the streets. They all probably could speak some Greek, but they each had their own native language that they grew up with, spoke to their families with. And all of a sudden, these crowds hear this crazy noise – a bunch of people talking all at once, in a bunch of different languages at the same time. And the crowds are amazed and astonished and perplexed, all because each of them hears the disciples speaking in the native language of each.

A few of them sneer and say the disciples must be drunk; but Peter stands up and raises his voice and says – they're not drunk, it's only nine o'clock. And he quotes the prophet Joel, about signs and portents and darkened suns and blood-red moons and dreams and visions.

This is not like one of the school assemblies I would tune out. It's got everything! Action and movement and conflict and mystery! Those crowds were amazed! This is the birthday of the church! The Holy Spirit, wind and flame, is stirring things up!

But what about us? We get all caught up in the wind and flame, the languages and astonishment, the prophecies and sneers, the crowds and the commotion. Every year, we get this story from the book of Acts about Pentecost, and we hear once more how the Holy Spirit moves the disciples, equips the disciples, ignites the disciples, and speaks through the disciples. Each year we get the incredible list of countries and regions to drive home just how incredible it was that everyone in that diverse crowd could understand what they were saying, and how instead of them having to adapt and learn the language of the empire, the words of the good news were coming directly to them in their native tongues.

So, I wonder: even though this is exciting, do we still end up with the same result that I got from those school assemblies? With those talks, I would get bored and distracted and miss what the speakers were saying. With us, far removed from the original Pentecost crowds, hearing this story in a language we do understand, and hearing it year after year, do we still end up distracted by all the excitement and still miss what the disciples were actually saying? Did you catch what they said in that plethora of languages?

“In our own native languages, we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” God’s deeds of power. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak in all these languages, and the words they ended up speaking were about God’s deeds of power. Words that told things like the Messiah coming down, as promised. Like that Messiah feeding the hungry and calming storms. Like that Messiah teaching with authority and healing the sick and casting out demons. Like that Messiah dying on a cross, to save us – to save the world – from sin. God’s deeds of power: forgiveness, and grace, and cruciform love. Paul said in Romans: “For in hope we were saved.” The Holy Spirit gave the disciples the languages, but the words they actually spoke, in ways the people could actually hear, were about God’s deeds of power: salvation and hope. Salvation and hope.

Maybe church feels like a school assembly sometimes. I’ve got a quiet voice. It doesn’t hurt my feelings when people drift off. (: Or, maybe, you have just heard all of this so many times that it’s predictable. Salvation, hope. Grace, forgiveness. Love and crosses. Either way, you get bored. Or distracted. You tune out. You miss what’s being said. Not just by me. But by the hymnwriters, the ancient-but-updated liturgy. The prayers. Been there, done that.

But it’s God who’s trying to speak to you, to me, each time we gather. It’s the Holy Spirit speaking through the language of sermons and prayers and music and liturgy in the hopes that you will hear the good news anew. That you might be even a little bit amazed that Jesus came down, and that God makes every effort to come to you, in your native tongues and in your current states, and love you and save you and rouse you up. Each time we gather it’s with the expectation and the hope that we will not only hear but experience God’s deeds of power: when forgiveness is spoken and when peace is freely shared. When Communion feeds us and when we give generously in our offerings. When the stories of God’s deeds of power are retold, and when we go out from here in response.

Because that's what happens next, after worship, every week. Being a Christian isn't just about spending a nice hour each week with your friends at church. The Holy Spirit is trying to get you back out into the world with a message to share and the ability to translate the good news into words and deeds that will reach people, no matter who they are or where they come from.

What I'm telling you is what we have tried to teach Karoline and Will over the years in Sunday School, and in VBS, and in church, and in Confirmation classes. Jesus pours himself out for us on the cross to love us and save us; Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to us to help us do the same for our neighbors and the world. The Holy Spirit is poured out into us until we are overflowing with God's love and with a message to share. Like Peter we are called to stand up and raise our voice and speak. To talk about God's surprising deeds of unlikely power. We come here each week to have the Spirit speak to us, ignite us, and send us out. We come here each week so that we can go back out.

When we stand up and raise our voices and speak about God's deeds of power, we risk sneers. We risk comments. We risk amazement and disbelief and perplexitude. But the Holy Spirit doesn't just light the flame and leave; we are promised by Jesus that when the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, comes, she stays with us. The Spirit searches our hearts and passes along our prayers to God when we don't have the words to say. And the Spirit fills us up and sends us out to stand up and raise our voices and speak about God's deeds of power even when we don't know what words to say then, either.

The Spirit gives us a volume dial when it comes to standing up and raising our voices: sometimes it's the quiet sighs too deep for words, the comforting comments to a hurting human: "You're not alone." "I'll be with you through this." "God hears your prayers." "You are loved." And sometimes it's the rush of a violent wind: "We demand justice in the name of Christ!" "No one is outside of God's love!" "We shall overcome!"

The Holy Spirit is poured out for you. The Holy Spirit will speak through you.

Karoline and Will: you have been raised in the faith in this congregation. They love you so much, and they will keep loving you and supporting you and praying for you no matter what. Today is not an ending. You are not graduating from church. This is a new beginning. This is when you take responsibility for the promises your parents made at your baptism. Today you make those promises for yourselves. And what they boil down to is this: keep coming to the Bible, to the Communion meal, to church, so that you always have a chance to experience God's deeds of power. And then let the Holy Spirit compel, impel, and propel you out into the world, outside of the comfort of church, so that you can stand up, raise your voice, and speak about God's deeds of power to the world, at whatever volume people need to hear it.

Sometimes you'll get bored. Distracted. Sometimes you won't always pay attention. Sometimes faith might seem like a long school assembly, and you'll miss what God is trying to teach you. But the Holy Spirit will never stop working on you and working with you and working in you and working through you. The Holy Spirit will bring you here to teach you what God's love looks like, sounds like, tastes like, feels like. And then, just like on that first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit will empower

you and ignite you to go be the speakers and the doers in the world, and to make God's love and hope real and incarnate for everyone.

And that's pretty amazing. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading



Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.



Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
 It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
 Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.



Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
 nor rootless liberty;
 turn disquiet to contentment,
 doubt into certainty. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
 unswayed by earth's allure.
 Ever grant us zealous fitness,
 which you alone assure. <i>Refrain</i></p> |
|---|---|

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922
 Music: NJOOKWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila
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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this brother and this sister, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

A: I present Karoline Patricia Combs and William Nathan Schroeder, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these brothers and sisters in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

C: Amen

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

READING OF FAITH STATEMENTS

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to

proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

R: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: People of God, do you promise to support all our brothers and sisters in the church and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

P: (To each confirmand) Stir up in *name* the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

A: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world. 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: Gracious God, you give the Holy Spirit to your church, filling it with many and varied gifts. In the church throughout the world, strengthen us in our visioning and dreaming, that it may discover anew the Spirit's creative work. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of life, your mighty works are too numerous to count. The earth is full of your creatures, living things both great and small. Open your hand and give them the necessities of this life. Send your fresh Spirit over the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of the nations, at the sound of the rushing wind, people speaking different languages proclaimed and heard together your deeds of power. Fill the leaders of nations with your Holy Spirit, so that they exercise your gracious will in the lives of people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of faithfulness, you tend to the needs of your people, even the sighs of our hearts. Hear those who cry out to you in distress. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day (especially). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of love, fill this congregation (*name*) with gratitude for the gifts we have received from you. Renew our ministries, heal our divisions, and open us to the

needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of hope, those who have died in you raise their eternal song of praise. We give you thanks for the many gifts of your people and rejoice in the witness of your saints. 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; for the sick and their families; for the anxious – comfort them. We pray for those who have lost businesses and jobs – restore them. We pray for those working and schooling at home, and for those who remain isolated – sustain them and protect them. We pray for all hospital and health care workers, and all first responders – provide for them and protect them. We pray for those who are making decisions about how to live into the future and when that will happen – guide them. We pray with thanksgiving for vaccines and treatments; for those who develop them, test them, and administer them – encourage them. Keep us all in your care as we continue to love our neighbors near and far. 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 Combs, Deagle and Deere 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

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: *Amen*

***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.

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

*BLESSING

P: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*SENDING SONG

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932
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*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers: Given in honor of the confirmation of Karoline Combs and William Schroeder.



*****g*****

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, May 23, 2021

Pianist: Debbie Walker
 Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Karen Morris (2nd Lay Asst.) Becky Collie
 Lectors: Becky Collie
 Acolyte: Grace Anderson
 Ushers: LeRoy Albertson; Pat Hubert
 Altar Guild: Marilyn Gunn & Donna Combs
 Counters: Marilyn & Gordon Gunn

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan's office hours for this week are listed 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.

Wednesday-Friday 11:00 am-4:00 pm

CONGRATULATIONS

We celebrate today with Karoline Patricia Combs and William Nathan Schroeder as they affirm their baptisms and start a new chapter in their lives of faith. This isn't the end; it's a new beginning! Please show them your love and support, and shower them with prayers for this important milestone.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,076.93 (slightly up from \$3,013.87 through May 16, 2021).
- We are \$17,033.50 behind the year-to-date budget needs (decreasing slightly from \$17,367.50 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

THANK YOU!

enCircle, (Lutheran Family Services), and Social Ministry would like to thank our kind and generous congregation for the response of helping a Foster Family. The Foster Family accepted a drug exposed baby into their care and they are also caring for the baby's siblings. This was a huge accomplishment because they didn't expect nor were prepared for a baby. I am so proud of our quick response and helping as much as we could. Thank you again for all you do for those in need! ~Social Ministry Team

WORSHIP OUTSIDE YOUR CAR

Our new step forward in this long journey is that you are all invited to worship outside your car! Please bring your own chair(s), and stick to the following guidelines:

- Bring your chairs to the grassy area or sit in front of your cars.
- Maintain social distancing between your car's occupants and other cars' occupants (don't mix households).
- If you visit before or after the service, wear a mask or face-covering.
- You should be able to hear everything from the amp that's set up for the livestream.
- Check the weather ahead of time and dress/do sun-prep accordingly.
- Keep in mind that this is also a gauge: if you can handle this, it shows you can handle coming back in the building when the time comes. (:

We're excited to try this out before the weather really turns hot and humid. And maybe we can hear each other singing! If you have any questions, please check in with your Church Council members or Pastor Ryan.

ONE CHAPTER WONDERS

Tune in this week for our Midweek Message from "One Chapter Wonders." This week: Haggai. Maybe you've heard of a "one-hit wonder"? You know, a band that only ever had just one big hit? Well, there are five books of the Bible that are only one chapter long (and Haggai that's only two). Each week you'll get a bite-sized Bible study on one of these books, that will hopefully still fill you up. 😊

COMMUNITY- ALL SOULS COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

Help put the "Community" in the Garden! The All-Souls Community Garden depends on the good hearts of volunteers to plant and harvest the vegetables. The Garden is located on Atlee Rd. in Mechanicsville. Items are shared with MCEF and other Mechanicsville food banks. Church and community groups as well as individuals are needed. Students in middle and high school, and even college ages are especially welcomed. Garden lessons are available for younger children. Jobs include planting and picking produce, tilling, pulling weeds, washing and weighing produce, and delivery to food banks. To schedule a time to volunteer, contact Lee Hanchey at lghanchey@gmail.com or by phone 804- 514-3020.

2021 JOAN BARNES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

We are pleased to announce that the applications for the Joan Barnes Memorial Scholarship will be available beginning May 3, 2021. Please go to the church website, <https://messiahmech.com/> and click on the "About" tab. The Application(s) and Application Information for the scholarships will be found on the drop-down menu. Applications should be received or postmarked on or before the absolute deadline of June 21, 2021 with no exceptions. There are applications for first time applicants and a different application if you have received a previous scholarship. You can contact Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com if you have any questions.

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/>

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!

REBUILD! VA – SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

All available funds for the Rebuild VA Grant Program have been exhausted at this time. They are hopeful that Congress will soon pass a stimulus package that provides additional relief to small businesses. To be notified of any additional developments, please sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7TRWMD6>.

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 payments for eligible households. This includes financial assistance for rent payments past due beginning April 1, 2020 and onward. 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!