

*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*July 4, 2021*

*Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**\*\*\*\*Please tune your radios to 103.1 FM\*\*\*\***

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

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

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 4, 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.*

**RE-DEDICATION OF A CHURCH BUILDING**

P: Sisters and brothers: With gratitude for the building and grounds of Messiah Lutheran Church, we take this time during our worship together to re-dedicate it for the worship of almighty God and for the building up of the body of Christ. From this day forward let it continue to be a place for the gathering of the people of God; a place for proclaiming the gospel through word and sacrament; and a place for bringing life and hope to us and to our communities. Peace be to this house, and to all who enter here.

**C: Amen.**

**DEDICATION OF THE PLACE OF BAPTISM**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word, you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that new life may be given to all those who are baptized in this font, which today we set apart.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **DEDICATION OF THE PLACE OF THE WORD**

P: Let us give thanks for the gift of God's word.

We give you thanks, O God, for you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. You called your people Israel to proclaim freedom from captivity, a pathway home from exile, and wisdom for life with you. Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to proclaim forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, and the way of your self-giving love.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; from this pulpit and this lectern that we set apart today, rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **DEDICATION OF THE PLACE OF THE MEAL**

P: Let us give thanks for the gift of the Lord's supper.

We give you thanks, O God, that in holy communion you refresh us through the bread of life in Jesus Christ, strengthen us in faith toward you, and nourish us in fervent love for one another. Bless all who come to this table of the Lord, and sanctify all who receive the body and blood of Christ at this altar, which today we set apart. Give all who taste this holy feast grace to live in faith and love throughout our lives, until at last we all behold you face to face at the heavenly banquet where your saints and angels praise you forever. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

P: Let us give thanks for the body of Christ, for God's house of living stones.

We give you thanks, O God, for you transcend the boundaries of space and time, yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts. We are the temple of your presence, and this building is the house of your church. Gather us in this place to share with others the promise of baptism, to hear your word, to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son, and to praise your name with all the company of heaven. Send us from this place to be the body of Christ in the world, to proclaim your love in word and deed, to invite others into the promise of baptism, and to glorify your name in our daily living. Pour out the abundance of your blessing on us and on this place, which we dedicate to your glory and honor and to the service of all people in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## BLESSING

P: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

Most High God, whom the heavens cannot contain, we give you thanks for the gifts of those who have built this house of prayer to your glory; we praise you for the fellowship of those who by their use will make it holy; and we pray that all who seek you here may find you and be filled with joy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## \*GATHERING SONG      Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



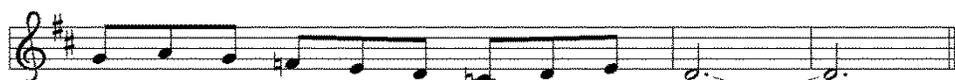
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

## **\*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: *God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

## **FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 2:1-5**

**Lector**

A reading from Ezekiel.

*In 597 BCE, the priest Ezekiel was removed into exile in Babylon. While there, he received a vision of God appearing majestically on a chariot throne. Today's reading recounts God's commissioning of Ezekiel during this vision. The prophet is to speak God's word to a people unwilling to hear.*

<sup>1</sup>[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.<sup>2</sup>And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. <sup>4</sup>The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." <sup>5</sup>Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

L: The word of the Lord.

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

## **SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

**Lector**

A reading from 2 Corinthians

*Christians do not boast of their own accomplishments. Rather, Christian boasting focuses attention on how the power of Christ is present in our lives, especially in times of weakness and vulnerability. No matter what our circumstances in life, Christ's grace is sufficient for us.*

<sup>2</sup>I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows.

<sup>3</sup>And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—<sup>4</sup>was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are

not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. <sup>5</sup>On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup>But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, <sup>7</sup>even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. <sup>8</sup>Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At home and abroad, Jesus and his disciples encounter resistance as they seek to proclaim God's word and relieve affliction.*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.<sup>2</sup>On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup>Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." <sup>5</sup>And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup>And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup>He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup>but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup>If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup>So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. <sup>13</sup>They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

I asked Davina to do a little research for me, and this is what I learned. On March 8, 2020, Messiah Lutheran Church held its last service in the sanctuary before the lockdown, the quarantine, the shelter-in-place, the restrictions – whatever you want to call it – began. At first, as I heard many say around the country, it was hoped and assumed that the lockdowns would last for a few weeks, or a month or two tops. Then it was, “Things will be under control by the summer.” Then it was, “Well, for sure by this fall.” We even had three whole services in the Fellowship Hall before case counts got bad again.

We all adapted. We had recorded mini-services put out online and mailed directly to folks who don't do the whole internet thing. Eventually we added some music. Then the pre-recordings turned into livestreams. We started meeting in the parking lot with the ever-handy FM transmitter, through all kinds of weather (except the ice storms). After a while we even got to sit outside our cars! We've taken any number of safety measures and made adjustments and adapted some more. All of this to love and protect our neighbors and ourselves in the midst of something our country hasn't lived through in over a hundred years.

It's been 483 days since the congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church gathered together in this space. And it's still not completely the way it was. There are still valid worries about variants and vaccination rates. There are still precautions in place. There are still people who aren't quite ready to be here. There is still a livestream. All of this might not feel completely “normal,” whatever that means; but we're here. We're here to worship our God, together.

When I first got here, in person, last August, I stepped into this sanctuary for the first time since December of 2019 when I visited to interview and check this place out and get checked out in return. And, last August, when I walked in here for the first time as your called pastor, it was like something out of an apocalypse movie. It was like time had stopped, or like I'd walked into a sanctuary-shaped time capsule. The bulletins from March 8th were still sitting on the pews, drooping out from the hymnal racks. There was still a box of 2019 annual reports sitting in the back, just in case anyone hadn't had a chance to review them yet. There were webs of both the spider- and cob- types. It was

like time had stood still. There was every appearance and indication, in this room, that for Messiah Lutheran Church, things had just stopped.

Humans are vulnerable to being stopped. Humans stop each other sometimes. Humans stop themselves sometimes. The biggest “stop” we know is death; but we find and invent and implement countless other ways to stop one another and ourselves. This year and a half of pandemic has made out stops more palpable, more prolonged, more universal, more obvious. More than six hundred thousand have died from just one virus, in just our country. Death is a stop all the time, but even more so during all of this. Economic hardships from the lockdown have been intense and have stopped businesses, but financial stops happen all the time. People have been frustrated; impatient; anxious. People have undergone grief, and loss, and hardships. Any and all of these emotions, all of these circumstances, can bring anyone to a full stop; they can bring anyone to their knees; and the last year and a half have amplified and multiplied our stops.

Our lessons today highlight some of the things that can stop us in life. Some of the things that take the wind out of our sails and the joy from our beings. Paul talks about how he was given a thorn in his flesh, “a messenger of Satan,” that tormented him and kept him from becoming too elated. And despite his prayers to God to remove it, it stayed. God said, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I’ll talk about that more in a minute. But in the meantime, how many people do you know whose lives have been brought to a screeching halt by disease? By thorns in the flesh called cancer, or stroke, or broken bone, or heart disease? Or by prayers that seem unanswered? By grief when a loved one’s life stops from thorns too great to overcome?

Ezekiel is sent as a prophet to God’s people, but he’s sent with a warning: God’s people are a nation of rebels and transgressors. They are impudent and stubborn. There is a very good chance they won’t even listen to you. How many people do you know whose lives have been brought to a screeching halt by the sins and hurts inflicted by others? When others’ hearts are turned to stone against you; when it feels like no one cares or no one is listening; when you face bullying or persecution, or indifference and apathy. Or when others don’t even see you as a human being. It can make it feel too difficult, or too pointless, to keep pushing, to carry on.

And it’s worse when it comes from those who are supposed to know and love you the most. Jesus goes back to his hometown, the community in which he was raised, and is met with scorn and incredulity. “Who does this guy think he is? We know him, we know his family. He thinks he can rise above his station? Shut him down.” Jesus can barely do any deeds of power, any

healings, among them. He's amazed at their unbelief. He leaves home and brings the gospel and the healing to other villages. How many people do you know whose lives have been brought to a screeching halt because their own families couldn't accept them, couldn't love them, couldn't support them? Or because they can't accept, or love, or support themselves, when the words and actions of their families, and others, echo in their hearts and heads?

Humans are vulnerable to being stopped. Humans stop each other sometimes. Humans stop themselves sometimes. Humans even put limits on the gospel, laying out stumbling blocks for others' joy and faith and love; in other words, humans even try to stop God sometimes.

God doesn't stop. God. Doesn't. Stop. God continues. God abides. God persists. God abounds. God creates. God redeems. God begins anew. God enables and equips. God overcomes.

Despite Paul's thorn, God continued to work through Paul to share God's love and preach the good news and write letters and help start churches. Despite the stubborn people Ezekiel was sent to, God still spoke through the prophet; God's word was still out there, regardless of whether they listened. When Jesus' hometown rejected him, God's gospel didn't stop; it multiplied by six when Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs and gave them authority to preach and heal and cast out demons, too. When the disciples encountered folks who didn't want to listen either, they shook the dust off their sandals and kept going; God worked through them to witness to the good news in Jesus Christ.

When we encounter the stopping power of sin in life; God gives forgiveness. When we encounter the stopping power of estrangement in this life; God gives and teaches reconciliation. When we encounter the stopping power of despair in this life; God gives us hope incarnate. When we encounter the stopping power of apathy in this life, whether our own or others', God gives us purpose and a message to share in words and deeds, loving others whether they are listening or not. When we encounter the stopping power of frustration or exhaustion in this life, God gives solace and comfort, sometimes in the form of us, right here, who are sent out to preach good news and heal; who needs you today, right now? When we encounter the stopping power of mortality and disease and death, God gives us resurrection and new life, and not just in heaven, but in the kingdom come to earth right now, sure and certain promises of what is to come that give us the ability, the power, the hope, to overcome the stops in life through God that we could never overcome on our own.

Humans are vulnerable to being stopped. Humans stop each other sometimes. Humans stop themselves sometimes. Humans even try to stop God sometimes.

God doesn't stop. God continues. God abides. God persists. God abounds. God creates. God redeems. God begins anew. God enables and equips. God overcomes.

We are limited. We get frustrated and overwhelmed. We call out others' weaknesses and sometimes dwell on our own. But Paul says he boasts in his weakness, because it reminds him that, on his own, he stops; but God dwelling in us and working through us continues. Abides. Persists. Overcomes. And not by our standards, or the world's standards; but love made perfect in weakness, nail-marks in the hands of our savior.

It might have felt like the church just stopped on March 8th, 2020. And in some ways we did; the stops of this world were amplified and multiplied. But God's blessings were multiplied even more, and by more than just a factor of six. Even during the pandemic, ministry continued, and new ministries were embarked upon, new media used to share the good news. What's that? Your new pastor is still in California? Phones and the internet for the win! The MCEF cart kept getting filled, even as new ways to help people flooded the area and beyond. Offerings continued to come in. The sanctuary and the building were not a time capsule after all; they've been renewed and rededicated. Prayers continued and grew. Calls to each other increased. And this isn't from us; it's from God.

Have we still put up stops? Have we still struggled to adapt? Have we still felt overwhelmed? Yes to all of these. Did a pandemic put a mirror up to us as human beings and put our stops and weakness and sins on full display? Yes to that, too. But God overcomes our stops. God is working through us to make us little Christs to each other and the world. God is working through us to overcome our sin and our stops. God is working through us to heal the stops we've ensconced against one another. God is giving us chances, non-stop, to name our weaknesses, to be honest about our stops, to repent from our sins, and to boast about how Christ works in and through even us, even now.

We have a chance, as we gather in this room for the first time in 483 days, not just to go back to the way it was, to be a living time capsule; but to boast in our weakness and let Christ rouse us, innovate through us, and multiply the gospel through us, for every single person who feels stopped in this life. Who has been stopped in this life. With God the possibilities are unlimited. God pulls out all the stops. God continues. God abides. God persists. God overcomes.

People of God, welcome back to the sanctuary; and know that, building or no building, God never stopped. Amen.

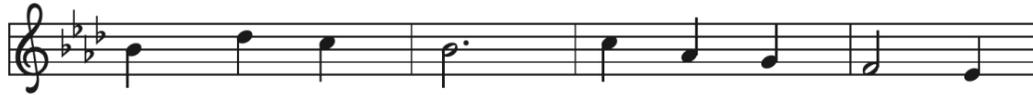
**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**      **God's Work, Our Hands**



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

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 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987  
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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: Let us come before the triune God in prayer. *[Brief silence]*

A: God of all, through the waters of baptism you claim people of all races, ethnicities, and languages as your beloved children. Sustain the baptized and increase their faith, that your gospel may be proclaimed throughout the earth. Lord, in your mercy,

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

A: God of the heavens, your creating Spirit animates the universe. We give you thanks for the moon and stars, for the planets and the Milky Way Galaxy, and for all of the mysteries of the cosmos that remain unknown to us. Lord, in your mercy,

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

A: God of freedom, you have liberated us from sin and death and rescue us from all forms of spiritual, social, and political oppression. Defend us from tyrants in our midst and deliver us from all forms of slavery or corruption. Direct our freedom for works of liberation and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy,

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

A: God of compassion, you became vulnerable in the person of Jesus Christ in solidarity with the disempowered. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

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

A: God of holiness, you send us out into the world to proclaim your love. We pray for our outreach ministries. Equip us as we leave this place to witness and serve our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We give you thanks that in every time and place you call forth prophets who move us towards freedom. Thank you for those who work for human rights, community organizers, and all who strive for liberty for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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 the shape such a future will take – 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**C: Amen.**

### **PEACE-IN-PLACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*\*\*Please share signs of peace with those in your immediate vicinity only. If any are not comfortable making physical contact during the peace, please share peace in other ways.*

## THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*\*\*Offering baskets are located near the doors to the sanctuary. Please place your offerings in the baskets at the end of the service as you depart.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

**C: *Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, 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: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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**

*\*\*Please process up the center aisle as directed by the ushers. Please maintain social distancing between family groups while processing. Bread and wine will be available from the pastor and the first lay assistant, with empty cups available on your way to the front. Prepackaged grape juice and wafer servings will be available from the second lay assistant. Baskets for empty cups will be set out. Please return to your seats down the side aisles.*

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: 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.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: 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  $\text{†}$  give you peace.

C: **Amen**

## \*SENDING SONG

### On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*  
On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*\*\*Please exit through either set of doors, maintaining distance between family groups. You are welcome to enjoy fellowship time outside in the parking lot.*

**POSTLUDE**

(Text used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #11886-S)

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**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, July 4, 2021**

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Teresa Gigante
- Lectors: Teresa Gigante
- Acolyte: TBD
- Greeters: Dianne Absher
- Ushers (Inside) Roger Schroeder & Bill Weaver
- Ushers (Outside) Jake Addair
- Altar Guild: Dianne Absher & Anita Philp
- Counters: Jake & Sharon Addair

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*Announcements*

**PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Ryan is back from his travels and will be in and out of the office this week. Please call or email him to set up an appointment, at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,042.13 (slightly up from \$3,030.94 through June 27, 2021).
- We are \$24,670.50 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$22,410.50 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!**

A sincere thank you to all of the volunteers that came during several days over several weeks as well as on an outside cleanup day to get Messiah ready for our eventual return inside. Special thanks go to volunteers from All Souls who helped with the sanctuary lighting and the anonymous donor who paid to get the pews and carpets cleaned. Many hours were spent by groups of people to declutter, rearrange, paint, fix lighting, and clean throughout the church. The time is arriving that we're able to come together in a space we've missed so long. Praise the Lord! God is Good!

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, please follow the procedures below. Pick an empty date on the chart and write your name.

- Pick an empty date on the chart and write your name. Make your check for \$46 payable to "Messiah Lutheran Church" with the word "Flowers" on the outside of the Envelope, and place it in the offering plate. Please pay for your flowers at least 2 weeks in advance, or they cannot be ordered. If you would rather make a general donation for altar flowers to help ensure that we have fresh flowers on the altar weekly (except for Lent), as needed for vacant Sundays, follow the directions above, but instead write "line-item altar flowers" on the Memo line on your check and on the outside of the Envelope or pay online as above.

### **'DOPESICK' THANKS MESSIAH**

"On behalf of the Cast and Crew we would like to **thank you** for your participation in the filming of 'Dopesick'. We have enjoyed working in Virginia and truly appreciate your support. ~Location Department~" (Pacific 2.1 Entertainment Group, Inc. used our parking lot on different occasions while filming the Hulu series in and around Mechanicsville. The series focuses on the opioid epidemic and will air sometime in the near future).

### **PRAYER LIST TO BE RESET**

The current prayer list will be reset on July 4 to begin the third quarter. Please contact Davina with names that need to remain on the list. Email her at [MessiahMech@gmail.com](mailto:MessiahMech@gmail.com) or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY MISSION PARTNER DISPLAYS**

One of the best parts of any Synod Assembly is the collection of displays presented by all the Synod's mission partners. You get to see where your mission support is going and talk to the individuals who are guiding those ministries. Since our Synod Assembly was virtual this year, so were the displays. In a way, it provides an opportunity for everyone to learn more about our mission partners. Check out this website for videos and links to all our partners in ministry: <https://www.vasynod.org/2021-assembly-mission-partner-displays/>

### **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, filling, pulling weeds, washing and weighing produce, and delivery to food banks. To schedule a time to volunteer, contact Lee Hanchey at [lghanchey@gmail.com](mailto:lghanchey@gmail.com) or by phone 804- 514-3020.

### **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/>

### **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](http://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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com) for easy access every time you shop. You must add the "smile" for this program. Thank you all and happy shopping!