

*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*August 8, 2021*

*Eleventh 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

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

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

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 8, 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, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C: Amen**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

P: God, our provider,

**C: *help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.***

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C: Amen.**

## \*GATHERING SONG Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, leave the gloom - y  
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and  
3 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der o - ver this sur -  
4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and



haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's splen - dor,  
glad - ly greet him. There he stands al - read - y knock - ing;  
pass - ing won - der that the bread of life is bound - less  
dear - est trea - sure, peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing,



there with joy your prais - es ren - der. Bless the one whose grace un -  
quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing, o - pen wide the fast - closed  
though the souls it feeds are count - less; with the choic - est wine of  
joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing: hum - bly now, I bow be -



bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed; Christ, though heav'n - ly,  
por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal: "Come, and leave your  
heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious  
fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you; wor - thi - ly let



high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."  
con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.  
me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
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## \*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: *Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

## **FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 19:4-8**

**Lector**

A reading from 1 Kings.

*First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the LORD is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.*

<sup>4</sup>[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."<sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup>He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." <sup>8</sup>He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God

L: The word of the Lord.

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

## **SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 4:25--5:2**

**Lector**

A reading from Ephesians.

*Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.*

<sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own

hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. <sup>5:1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL: John 6:35, 41-51**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

*After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to [the crowd,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

When there is a food drive, like when the boy scouts or the Post Office would hang a plastic bag on your front door and say they'd come back in a week, what kinds of food are they looking for? When you bring items in for MCEF, what do you bring? They want *non-perishable* food items. In other words, things in cans and boxes, things that don't spoil very quickly, that you can store and ship and not have to worry about expiring too soon. They aren't usually trying to collect fresh fruits and vegetables, or meat, or dairy, or bread. These are things that spoil. These are things that can get rotten. These are things with rapid expiration dates.

Let's get gross for a minute: what happens to those food that perish so easily? Milk gets sour, and smelly, and chunky. Vegetables and fruits get bruises and fuzzes and spots, and they start to shrink and wrinkle and ferment. Have you ever reached for that last peach and felt that revolting surprise: instead of a juicy bite of deliciousness heading your way, you have a squishy softball in your hand, and you are looking for the nearest garbage can or compost pile? Meat gets...well, meat gets nasty. Eggs get rotten – and aromatic! Cheeses and breads get green and blue spots. Sure, these moldy transformations gave us the gift of penicillin...but that doesn't make them any more healthy to eat, or more appetizing, or more edible. That expiration is pretty final.

Do you know what would happen to God's first gift of bread – manna – when the Israelites took more than their allotted share? It spoiled. It got rancid and gross. According to Exodus, it “bred worms and became foul.” You got enough for one day at a time, or two days for the Sabbath, and that was it. Any more than that, and your expiration date hit come morning light. And then you have worm-bred foulness. Blech!

Today we hear Jesus take this whole “Bread of Life” thing that we heard about last week one step further: not only is Jesus the bread of life, but this bread of life is his flesh. This bread of life is eternal, and those who eat of it will never be hungry again, and they will never die. Jesus is even better than the manna with its definite shelf life and ration restrictions. Jesus is the living bread of heaven, and he has no expiration date. And those who are in communion with Jesus, and through him in communion with the Father, will likewise live an expiration-free life.

Jesus' listeners lived long before the time of refrigerators and freezers and even iceboxes. They didn't have special-lined coolers and ice chests that they took with them on fishing trips. Unless you preserved it with salt, like ancient biblical jerky, food perished. Period. Needless to say, they were skeptical. But, surprisingly, the thing they expressed their skepticism about wasn't the living bread part, or the eternal life part. It was that Jesus – this guy they knew, whose father was Joseph the carpenter and whose mother was Mary – *this* guy would be making any such claims. Who does he think he is? We know this guy. He's no different than any one of us. Where does he get off saying that God sent

him, that he came down from heaven? He didn't come down from heaven...he came from down the street.

And so Jesus teaches them: it's not so much about him; it's about his Father who sent him. It's the Father who draws people to Jesus; the Father who teaches through Jesus; the Father who reveals these things and makes them possible. It is only because of the Father that Jesus – this bread, this flesh – can give life.

How easy is it for us to believe in Jesus? To believe that he is sent from the Father, and that through him, through his bread-flesh, we are given life? Eternal life that never expires? And if we do believe, how deep is our belief? If our belief in Jesus is at all shaky, or doubtful, or skeptical, or shallow, it probably isn't because we knew Jesus' parents and can't believe it's *this* guy who is saying these things. We have a different problem. If we have trouble believing in all of this, it might be that we don't worry too much about expiration dates anymore. What use do we have for living bread – or daily manna rations – when we have pasteurization and preservatives, refrigeration, twenty-four-hour supermarkets full of stuff to replace our food if it spoils? What use do we have for living bread when we have medicines and treatments and age-defying face cream and so many medical marvels within reach? For us the message isn't that far-fetched. We don't object to Jesus delivering the message. It just feels like, maybe, the message doesn't apply to us.

It seems like, for many, the pandemic may have increased our sense of vulnerability and mortality; for many others, though, it seems like it really hasn't. I guess it depends on who you ask. Either way, though: do you ever feel or act like you might not ever spoil, or expire? Do you ever feel like you are invulnerable? Like you have no need of help, or like any problem can be fixed, like any spoilage can be reversed, like expiration dates don't really apply to you?

It depends a lot on your circumstances, but in our culture it's easy to think this way, especially when every advertiser is trying to convince you that their products will make you happier, look younger, feel stronger. Like every pill or medical procedure will make an easy solution to almost anything that might ail you. When there's always a new pill, a new treatment, just around the corner. We are constantly trying to feel self-sufficient and near-invincible, protected from all sides and secure at all times. Either the vaccines will protect us or the vaccines are a bunch of baloney; either way, the takeaway is the same – we'll be safe, we'll be fine! What impact does living bread from heaven have on such a people as us?

The point is, we are mortal. Temporal. Finite. No matter what Madison Avenue or our own egos might convince us of otherwise. Expiration dates are real. Perishability is real. And not just for our physical selves, but also for our resolutions, our good intentions, our best efforts: every part of us is prone to falling short, or relapsing, or collapsing: every part of us is prone to expiration. And when we ignore this basic fact of our lives, Jesus is saying to us: "You can

expire. You need me. You need my Father. You need the eternal come down to earth, emptied out on the cross in order to fill you up with divine goodness. Let me prove it to you: let me die for you, and be raised for you, and offer myself up for you, as bread, as basic sustenance, for every aspect of your life."

Or, maybe you don't feel invincible at all. Maybe you feel plenty battered and bruised by life. Maybe you feel tired. Used up. Maybe you just feel rotten. Or maybe you feel past your prime, close or beyond your expiration date, past usefulness to anyone, least of all to yourself or to God. Perhaps you feel like Elijah did in our first reading today, afraid for his life and fleeing into the wilderness, ready to just lay down and die.

And God speaks to us in these phases of our lives too, when we feel beyond help or hope expired or without value, worthy only for the garbage can or the compost pile. God sent an angel to Elijah, to feed him, to encourage him, to rouse him back to his feet and send him back through the wilderness of wandering, back to the mount of Horeb, to Mount Sinai, the place of the covenant, the place of God's promise to God's people: in order to remember that God goes to great lengths indeed to renew and protect and preserve the people against the expirations of life. When we feel at our lowest, God reminds us of that same love and care. God sends angels and messengers to us to feed and encourage us and rouse us back to our feet, to send us back through our wandering, back to the table of the covenant, to the promise of eternal life that changes and saves us and preserves us.

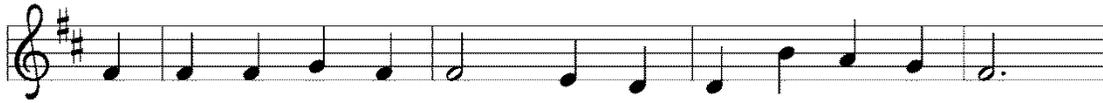
Christ speaks to us when we do, indeed, feel perishable. Jesus says, "You are worth preserving. You need me. You need my Father. You need the eternal come down to earth, emptied out on the cross in order to fill you up with divine goodness. Let me prove it to you: let me die for you, and be raised for you, and offer myself up for you, as bread, as basic sustenance, for every aspect of your life."

If we were to speak of ourselves as food – if we're honest, we'd have to say that we are perishable goods, prone to decay, decomposition, and deterioration. We *can* expire. On our own, we wouldn't be good candidates for the food drive. We are not, despite our best efforts, imperishable. We are not salted meat. We are not twinkies, artificially preserved. We are perishable, subject to the rot and break-down of sin and selfishness.

God, through Jesus, *infuses* us with imperishability. When God looks at us, God loves us, and says, "You are worth preserving." This is grace! God, through Jesus, infuses us with imperishability, so that we indeed can be given away for the life of the world like so many cans and boxes collected and distributed for those who hunger. God gives us as grace to those who need it, imitators of God, living in love. God knows that we are repeatedly, continuously, in need of refreshment and refurbishment and renewal by God. So God repeatedly, continuously, infuses us with imperishability so that we can be more than spoiled, sour, moldy mortals. We are made to be given away for a hungry world.

Jesus is the living bread of life, come down from heaven, freely given to us so that we may have true life, and so that God may feed the world through us. Jesus reminds us that we are not invulnerable. And Jesus also assures us that we are meant for more than mere expiration, and that we are not rotten in God's eyes. May God preserve us in this life and keep us imperishable into the next. Amen.

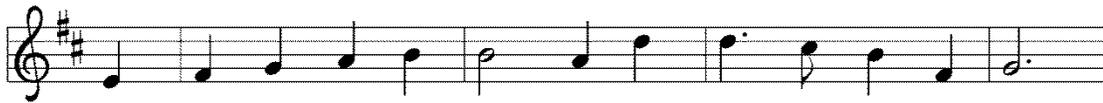
**\*HYMN OF THE DAY O Living Bread from Heaven**



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!  
 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.  
 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
 and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!  
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!  
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

**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: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *[Brief silence]*

A: For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy,

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

A: For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy,

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

A: For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy,

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

A: For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick (especially). God, in your mercy,

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

A: For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy,

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

A: For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With (Dominic, name/s, and) all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, 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. 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 McMillen and Morris 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: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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**

## \*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.***

## \*BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: *Amen***

## \*SENDING SONG      By Your Hand You Feed Your People



1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.  
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.  
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briel, b. 1952

Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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**\*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**

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**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, August 8, 2021**

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Dianne Absher (2nd Lay Asst.) Roberta McMillen
- Lectors: Roberta McMillen
- Acolyte: Grace Anderson
- Greeters: Lois Schroeder
- Ushers (Inside) Roger Schroeder
- Ushers (Outside) Gordon Gunn
- Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Rosalee Cline
- Counters: Donna Combs & Erna Jung

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*Announcements*

**PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Ryan 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](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com).

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,040.84 (slightly up from \$3,021.13 through August 1, 2021).
- We are \$29,454.97 behind the year-to-date budget needs (slightly increasing from \$29,095.97 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY IS BEING UPDATED**

Davina will be updating the church directory in the near future. Please let her know if you've had changes to your address, phone number, or email address. There is a printed church directory in the narthex if you wish to update there or you can email her with your updates or changes at [messiahmech@gmail.com](mailto:messiahmech@gmail.com)

## **NEW NORMALS ARE MESSY: CONVERSATIONS IN EZRA AND NEHEMIAH**

"It's so good to be back in the sanctuary after so long apart and away!" That's not something that you'll hear only from churches getting back together as the pandemic wanes. It's also something said by the people of Israel after 70 long years of exile. But there were some bumps on reentry. Our midweek messages for the next few weeks will explore the post-exile books of Ezra and Nehemiah and see what they have to teach us today.

## **HELPING MCEF FAMILIES**

Schools will be reopening sooner than we can imagine! Students will be needing essential supplies and these supplies can be costly! In mid-August MCEF will have "Back to School" hours for clients to help with clothing needs and school supplies. (Hanover Co. does not provide supplies for students) Items needed include:

- Basic school supplies such as pencils, pens, notebook paper, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, spiral notebooks, hi-lighters, binders, glue sticks, markers, pencil pouches, and composition books (blk/white).
- Current clothing needs include: girls sizes 4 & 5 summer or early fall, boys jeans size 6 & 7, boys clothing size 10, clothing styles/sizes for teen girls, underwear (girls size 14-16) (boys size small & med.) (men's and women's for older teens) reminder for men and boys—boxer brief styles, hooded sweatshirts and light weight jackets.

I know you will soon be asked to help with school items for enCircle (Luth. Family Services) . My hope is you can help both organizations. Having school supplies on the first day is a BIG step toward a good school year!!! If possible, please be a part of this! You can leave MCEF supplies in the MCEF basket in the narthex or give to Gladys Hubert or Donna Combs. Thanks!!

## **HELP WANTED**

Now that we're back to worshipping in the sanctuary, being a greeter or an usher is much easier. Less walking. No standing in the hot sun, rain, or freezing air. How easy is that! The other thing is that almost anyone can do either of these ministries. And, yes, these are ministries of service. So what are you waiting for? All you have to do is contact Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com. She will make a place for you on her schedule. Sign up today!

## **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. Please 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. 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.

### **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/>

### **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](mailto:lghanchey@gmail.com) or by phone 804- 514-3020.

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

# Prayer List

## WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Debbie Anton  
Annette Buckholtz  
Bruce Carr  
Johnnie Collie  
Leroy Deere  
Adam Dworak, Sr.  
Bonnie Dworak  
Jackie Garbett

Ted Ford  
Steve & Sue Gilnett  
Karen Jones  
"Doc" Kondaki  
Mac McAllister  
Ruth Schroeder  
Family of Judy Schwerdfeger

## WE PRAY FOR OUR EXTENDED FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS

Family and Friends of **Mary Jo Blake**, friend of Sharon Addair  
**Dwayne Collie**, brother of Johnnie  
**Linda Honan**, sister-in-law of Geoffrey Honan  
**David Locke**, father of Davina Winn  
**Emily Mitchell**, fiancée of Geoffrey Hohnan  
**George Playfair**, relative of Karen & Michael Morris  
**Pat Ruffner**, friends of the Whirleys  
**Friend of Glenda Schroeder**  
**Ken & Dee Schroeder**, brother & sister-in-law of Roger Schroeder  
**Tim Schroeder**, nephew of Roger Schroeder  
**Roger Subit**, brother-in-law of Betty and Bill Fulop  
**Tyson**, grandson of Erna Jung

**Our veterans, their fellow soldiers & their waiting families**  
**All law enforcement, firefighters & first responders**  
**The people and pastor, Rev. Katherine, of All Souls Episcopal & our shared ministry**  
**Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities**  
**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**The World Health Organization Medical researchers and scientists**  
**Schools, workplaces, government institutions and municipal agencies**  
**Those affected by natural disasters**  
**All those impacted by acts of violence, at home and abroad**  
**For all who travel**