

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



August 15, 2021

Twelfth 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.*

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

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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

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

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 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.

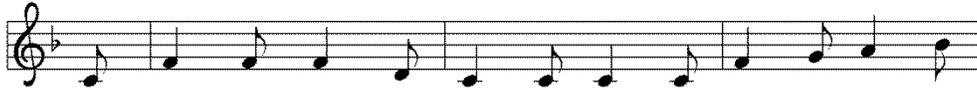
P: God, our provider,

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 I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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: ***Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

FIRST LESSON: Proverbs 9:1-6

Lector

A reading from Proverbs.

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,

she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,

⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,

⁵“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 5:15-20

Lector

A reading from Ephesians.

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: John 6:51-58**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true “bread of life.” Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹“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.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up

on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

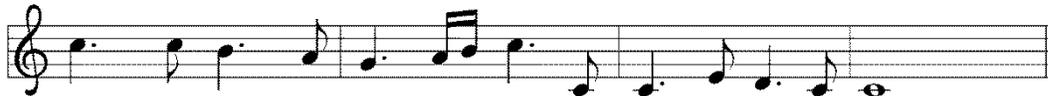
*HYMN OF THE DAY

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain



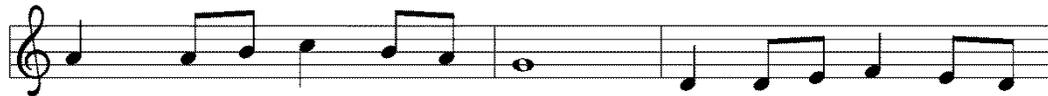
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac - ri - fice;	giv - ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass	a - way;
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love	for
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells	in
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de - clare	his	death;
								eat



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one
home	in	the	life - giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly		
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,	with	



sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres - ence	the	loaves	will	a - bound.
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full - ness	of	life	may
food	for	you,	that	your	hun - ger	and	thirst
One	of	God,	and	be - lieve	in	the	truth
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you
							are
							re - born.

Refrain

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas

Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com

800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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: God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer or are in need, especially. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of beauty, inspire artists. Bless those whose visual and musical gifts enliven this assembly (especially). Bless the creative work of poets, hymnwriters, composers, painters, sculptors, and others that enrich our worship and daily life. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last day raise us with all the saints to eternal life. 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 Norman, Pfohl and Philp 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*

*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.

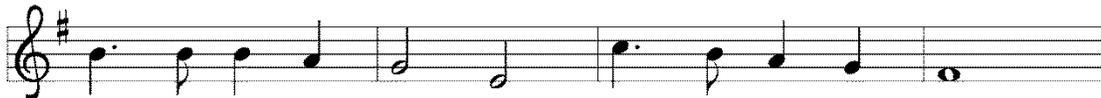
C: Amen

***BLESSING**

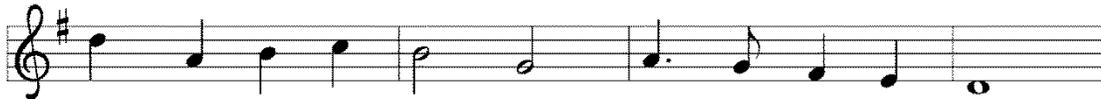
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

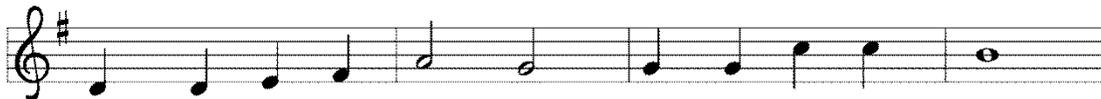
***SENDING SONG** On Our Way Rejoicing



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!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

***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)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, August 15, 2021

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Becky Collie
- Lectors: Becky Collie
- Acolyte: Michael Sondor
- Greeters: Gladys Hubert
- Ushers (Inside) Gordon Gunn
- Ushers (Outside) Chris Sondor
- Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Rosalee Cline
- Counters: Gordon & Marilyn Gunn

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.

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

NEED MASKS?

As kids are going back to school, some families might consider stocking up on masks so their kids aren't wearing the same mask day after muggy day. MCEF graciously shared some bounty of masks (and hand sanitizer) with the church. If you or someone you know could use these items, please contact Pastor Ryan or Davina.

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, August 29th, we are pleased to welcome (officially) some new members to Messiah during our regular worship time. You are invited to stay after the service for some light snacks and get to know them and show them some Messiah love!

SERVICE OF HEALING, CELEBRATION, AND REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday, August 29th, at 12:30pm (following the new member reception), you are invited to come back into the sanctuary for a service of healing, celebration and remembrance. There will be an opportunity for anyone who so desires to come forward and receive a prayer of healing, especially after this long pandemic trial we've undergone. We will also give thanks for the members of Messiah who have died during the pandemic. Not everyone was able to attend their services, and some have not been able to have a memorial service yet. We'll celebrate their lives and have a chance to share some stories and memories.

INSTALLATION SERVICE

On Sunday, September 12th, at 3:00 pm, you are invited to attend the Installation service for Pastor Ryan. Pastor Katie Pocalyko, our Richmond Conference Dean, will preside. There will be a reception with refreshments to follow.

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 remainder of the summer will explore the post-exile books of Ezra and Nehemiah and see what they have to teach us today.

MCEF NEWS

Summer is drawing to a close and by the time you read this, there will have been a Back-To-School shopping opportunity for children of current clients. Many Thanks to all who donated clothing, new underwear and school supplies for children in Mechanicsville.

Save the date: Saturday, September 11, 2021 for the annual concert by the John Marshall Alumni Band at 7:00 at Walnut Grove Baptist Church, 7046 Cold Harbor Road. This is a "Food and Fund Raiser" for the MCEF Pantry with admission being a donation of \$2 and a nonperishable food item (canned or boxed). Come and support MCEF's local missions.

Current food needs are pork and beans, applesauce, ketchup and large cans of soup (18.5 oz.) size.

Your support is always greatly appreciated.

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 Glady 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 lganchey@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; 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!