

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



September 26, 2021

Eighteenth 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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 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, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

P: God, our comforter,

C: *like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.*

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

“Oh, Sing to the Lord”

In 1982, Gerhard Cartford and his wife attended a meeting of Brazilian Lutheran pastors in southern Brazil. He heard the hymn that would become “Oh, Sing to the Lord” there, and translated it from Portuguese to Spanish after the conference, and later into English. Cartford himself was born in Madagascar, the son of missionary parents, grew up to achieve a doctorate in church music, and served as a missionary himself in Central and South America. The tune is a Brazilian folk song, has the feel of a Spanish fiesta, but at a slower pace, being sung among the poor. “Praise here is slower than we tend to think, rich with meaning, and not superficial or slick.”

***GATHERING SONG** Oh, Sing to the Lord
Cantad al Señor



1 *Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.*
 1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 2 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 3 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo.
 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
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 For God is the Lord, and God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spir - it.
 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia!



¡Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.
 Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

2 *Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 Pues nuestro Señor ha hecho prodigios.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

4 *Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

3 *Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 Cantad al Señor, alabadle con arpa.
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

5 *¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!
 ¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!*

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English
 Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR, Brazilian folk tune
 Spanish and English text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

Lector

A reading from Numbers

What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?

⁴The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

¹⁶So the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent.

²⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for

my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!"

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: James 5:13-20

Lector

A reading from James.

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around

your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹“For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

“Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”

This hymn by Tokuo Yamaguchi, a Methodist minister, was written for the Fourteenth World Council of Christian Education Convention that met in Tokyo in 1958. (It was later translated by Everett M. Stowe, also a Methodist minister.) The Convention's theme was “Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,” from John 14:6. The hymn was written as a prayer in a time when the world was still reeling from the end of WWII, with the deployment of two atomic weapons in Japan, as well as the early stages of the space race. There were feelings of both fear and suspicion, as well as hope for new possibilities, so the hymn prays for peace in the midst of distress and help to work in an age of renewal. The tune, written by church musician and economics professor Isao Koizumi, wrote in the style of Japanese court music, called “gagaku,” which derives from China.

***HYMN OF THE DAY “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather”**

Hymn 530

Verse 1

Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
Looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the way.

Verse 2

Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,
Yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
E'en in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.

Verse 3

Nature's secrets open wide, changes never cease.
Where, o where, can weary souls find the source of peace?
Unto all those sore distressed, torn by endless strife:
Jesus, healer, bring your balm, for you are the Life.

Verse 4

Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
Help us as we work and pray, send us from above
Truth and courage, faith and power, needed in our strife:
Jesus, Master, be our Way, be our Truth, our Life.

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: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *[Brief silence]*

A: We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. We pray for all who are in need, especially... Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, acolytes, greeters, lay assistants, altar guild members, and ushers. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. 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 Wightman and Williams families as well as our Messiah family. Guard all of our hearts that we may display love instead of hate, anger, or bitterness. Lead us all to be grateful for your abiding love and enable us to glorify you by sharing that love with others. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; 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: *God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

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

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

*PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, 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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C: *Our Father, who art in heaven,*

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

COMMUNION

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”

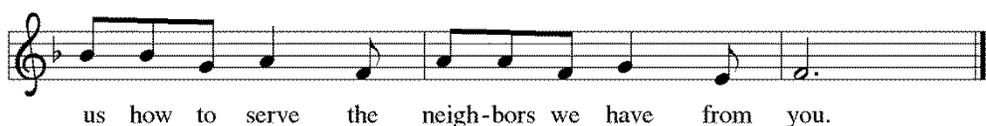
Tom Colvin, a Scottish engineer-turned-missionary, wrote this hymn in 1963, based on John 13:2-17, where Jesus washes the disciples' feet. It was written in Chereponi in Northern Ghana, and the tune is named after that place. Colvin was witnessing three-month-old Christians training to be local volunteer church leaders, sharing skills in agriculture and community development as a complement to the Gospel they shared. Colvin says, “Theirs was the real Christian service which inspired the words.”

***SENDING SONG Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

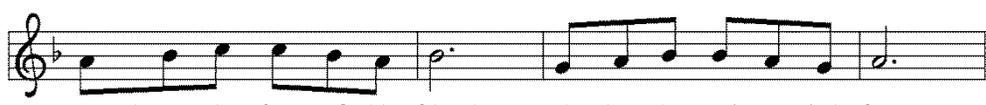
Refrain



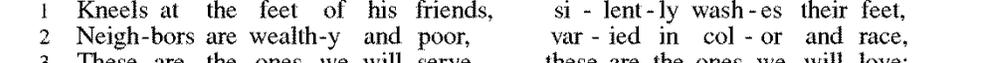
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



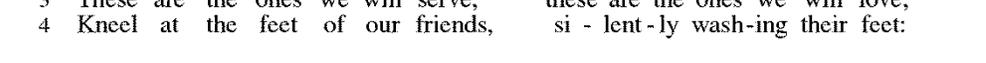
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



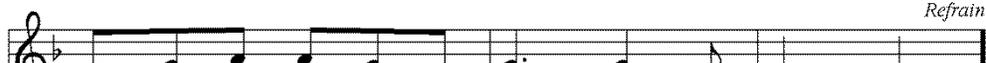
1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,



2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,

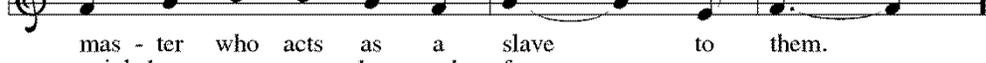


3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;

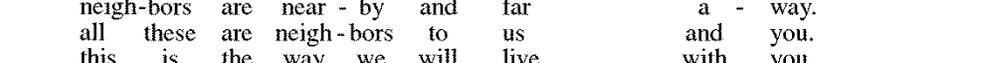


4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



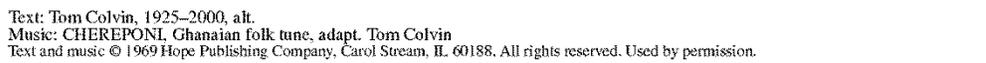
mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.



neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.



all these are neigh - bors to us and you.



this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
 Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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

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

Hymn backgrounds summarized from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal Companion by Paul Westermeyer, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 2010.



Altar Flowers: given by Sharon & Jake Addair.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, September 26, 2021

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Teresa Gigante
- Lectors: Karen Morris
- Acolyte: Grace Anderson
- Greeters: Becky Collie
- Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Gordon Gunn
- Altar Guild: Marilyn Gunn & Donna Combs
- Counters: Jake & Sharon Addair

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.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$2,949.00 (slightly down from \$2,974.57 through September 19, 2021).
- We are \$39,595.88 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$37,607.92 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

"SECOND FIRST COMMUNION"

Back on December 6, 2020, we celebrated the First Communion for Max Williams, Dean Anderson, and Allen Anderson. We celebrated this milestone in the parking lot. Now that we're back in the building, we wanted to give these families a chance to formally celebrate this milestone again and invite others to attend. We'll invite each family forward to receive Communion at the start of the distribution time. Thanks for celebrating – again – with these wonderful brothers in Christ and their families!

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

After looking over our survey results, the leading vote-getter by far was for us to learn about our neighbors from other Christian denominations and other religions. We'll use the book, *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*. The topic for the 26th will start close to home, by looking at the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Each Sunday's class will be live on Zoom and recorded for the following Midweek Message.

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED!

We now have 3 full time greeters as well as 1 who can serve only 10 months a year. Two of our summer greeters have gone back to their Sunday-School classes, so in order to have a "reasonable rotation" rather than once every 3 Sundays for 2021, except for October & December, we'll have greeters serving once every 4 Sundays. If you could help us out, we would be very grateful; even if you'd just like to serve in the rotation (1 in 4 Sundays for October and/or December) that would be a great help. Please send your reply to sallybennett3317@gmail.com, and I'll write back to you to let you know what you will need to do when you are a MLC greeter.

Blessings to you and yours,
Sally Bennett, Worship Team Chair

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Updated church directories are available for pick up in the narthex.

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/>

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!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE: HURRICANES AND WILDFIRES

Please visit [ELCA.org/disaster](https://www.elca.org/disaster) for information on how to help those affected by these natural disasters and the long period of recovery ahead.