

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



October 17, 2021

Twenty-First 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

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 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.

***GATHERING SONG WE ARE AN OFFERING (Sing Twice)**

ELW 692

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be
We give to You
We give to You

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering

Songwriters: Dwight Liles; We Are An Offering lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc

***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: *Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 53:4-12

Lector

A reading from Isaiah.

This reading is from the last of four passages in Isaiah that are often called "servant songs." Christians are probably most familiar with this servant song. In light of Christian faith, the servant's healing ministry and redemptive suffering are understood to be fulfilled in the life and death of Christ.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 5:1-10

Lector

A reading from Hebrews.

Using imagery from scripture and from Jewish worship practices, Jesus is presented as the great high priest who was obedient to God's saving plan. Through his suffering and death he has become the source of eternal salvation.

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Mark 10:35-45**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

On the way to Jerusalem the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor. Jesus responds by announcing that he and his followers will “rule” through self-giving service.

³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;

⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.

⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

Imagine that it's a Tuesday morning, and it's time to get the kids ready for school. If those kids were anything like I was, an alarm clock by itself might not have been enough to get them out of bed. So, you holler up the steps or go walk into their room to rouse them up or maybe just start cooking bacon and let the aroma do the work for you. Once they're up you make sure they are presentable: cleaned up and dressed, socks matching. You make sure they are fed. You make sure they have their backpacks and homework. Maybe you already helped out with some of that homework last night. You check the weather and make sure they have the right shoes and coats and clothes. You get them on the bus or drop them off at the curb, and as you wish them well and say your “I love you's” and good-byes, you leave them with one last bit of encouragement: “Bye honey! I hope you try your best to be last today!”

Let me get some instant feedback on this scenario: at which point did it cease being realistic for you? It was the bacon, right? I know – I was lucky if I got Lucky Charms on a weekday, let alone bacon. Bacon? In my dreams! No? That wasn't the unrealistic part? It was the “try your best to be last” thing? You mean your parents didn't actively encourage you to be a loser? To be last? Least? Lowly? Hmm. Go figure.

I'd say we live in a competitive culture. Even if your parents, or your peers, or your bosses or coaches aren't constantly telling you to win, win, win, I'm guessing that they might still settle for, “Don't lose.” They're probably *not* saying, “Be last!” We're always conscious of who's doing better than us, and who we're doing better than. Sometimes, folks say to try your best and then you'll really be a winner; but they'd still be fine, on some level, if you try your best *and* still win.

If you ever watch the Olympics, like the ones that were just on a few months ago, maybe you've seen what I mean: the Olympics feature the best athletes the nations have to offer, and to just *make it* to the Olympics is a big deal and a big honor. And yet, when some athletes finish fourth, or fifth, they are devastated. I get it, I suppose: you work and train for months and years, only to fall just short of the medals podium. But if your margin for error falls between winning – gold medal – and not losing – silver or bronze – then you're probably in line for a bit of disappointment in life. I don't want that for anyone. Despite what the commercials and motivational posters say, winning is neither everything nor the only thing.

All three of our Scripture readings today have a lit-up-and-flashing-neon-sign theme tying them together: servanthood and sacrifice. Not winning. They are all about how God's chosen ones give away of themselves for the sake of others. They bear others' sins and iniquities; they do not glorify themselves; they do not come to *be served*, but *to serve*. This is a pretty prominent theme throughout Scripture: put God's desires and others' needs ahead of your own.

This kind of thinking, at least in our competitive culture, is counterintuitive frequently, and at times absurd. And yet servanthood and sacrifice is the very nature of our God: in the Trinity God shares relationship within God's self. When Israel demands a king they in effect reject God's sovereignty, but God anoints a ruler anyway. God becomes incarnate in Jesus, the Son, who teaches and lives the contradiction of servant-Lord, who empties himself and becomes obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Paul advises the believers to outdo one another in showing honor. We hear it over and over again: the Christian life is not about being first, or close to first, or winning; it's about being last, and losing your life for the sake of others.

We are created in the image of *this* God; but it really seems like that particular part of our God-stamp is smudged sometimes. It might be because we are also inheritors of some spiritual DNA in the spiraling form of sin, and so we share some of that same insecurity that James and John demonstrated today. They go up to Jesus, wanting to know their place in the hierarchy, and ask to sit one at his right and one at his left, the places of honor and glory. No matter how much we talk about grace, on some level we too still want to sit in the honor seat, for Jesus to turn directly to us and no one else and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." And for the folks in the pew next to us to overhear him. In our competitive culture we get used to recognition or acclaim when we do well; that's part of what we crave, and so we expect that from God as well, even though hierarchy isn't in the vocabulary of the Kingdom of God.

I had a really close friend in elementary school who stopped being my really close friend somewhere around fifth grade. I didn't see it coming, and I

still wonder, sometimes, about what happened. He and I both did pretty well in school, but it wasn't really a competition; or so I thought. I remember one time being at his house and his mom coming out of his room holding his backpack in one hand and a test or something in the other. It had a C on it. She said she was just cleaning and happened to find it. She was more than a little upset; I realized later in life that she probably wasn't cleaning, and that, to my friend's parents, winning was everything; a "C" equaled losing; and you for sure shouldn't be hanging around anyone who might get a better grade than you sometimes.

These same parents would also scream at him during basketball games, and not with words like, "We're proud of you, son!" They needed him to be first – and definitely not last, or anywhere close to it – when it came to grades, and sports, and popularity. By the time he got to high school, he did hang out with the popular kids; but he was that one guy in the group that they *let* hang out with them: at the price of cruel nicknames and other high-school-style social abuse.

To this day I still wonder about my friend, even though we haven't really been friends in around thirty years.

People do all kinds of things to make sure that they – or someone they love, like a son in my story or a brother in the Gospel story – are in the seats of honor and glory. Some of these things people do are noble and wise, gaining respect and trust. Some of them are silly and laughable, and people find them endearing. Some of them amazing and laudable, and people look on these with wonder and awe. Some people do things that are shameful and scandalous, and their seats of honor are stained with resentment and mistrust. But they're always hustling for those seats.

Maybe in your day-to-day life you're not looking for an honor seat as obvious as a promotion or an elected office or an award or a seat at Jesus' right hand. Of course, maybe some of you are. Mostly what we humans do is spend lots of time and energy on social honor seats, worried about our image, whether through our wardrobe or our lawncare skills or our Instagram followers. (I kid you not, there are actually companies whose whole purpose is to increase your followers on Instagram, either for yourself or your business.) Why do all of this? You might be trying to impress a friend or a spouse. You might have a serious crush on someone. You might have family members putting a lot of pressure on you. Or you might just want someone, anyone, to notice you. We expend lots of energy on trying to be in honor seats, without looking like we're trying, of course – we ask others to seat us in their places of honor, and we want others to ask the same of us.

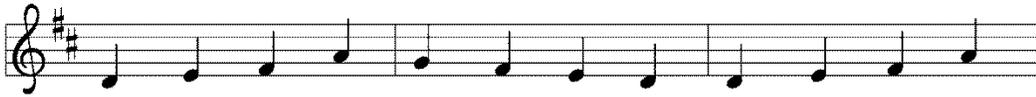
After James and John ask Jesus for this bump in status, the other ten disciples are a bit miffed. Maybe it's because they wish they'd have thought of asking first...maybe it's because they knew Jesus was all for turning things upside down and that James and John were being silly. I'm guessing it's more because of the first reason, and that the ten were jealous and hurt. This is the other insidious part of this competitive culture: not only are we upset when we don't win; we resent the ones who do. By the way, do you know whom God *did* grant the honor to of occupying the places on Jesus' right and left? Bandits. Thieves. Criminals. Nailed to the crosses on either side of the crucified Christ. That's what God thinks of honor seats.

Jesus' refrain throughout his teaching is that the first will be last and the last will be first. That those who want to save their lives will lose them, but that those who lose their lives for his sake and for the sake of the gospel will gain eternal life. That those who want to be the greatest, or the first, need to be servants and slaves. And so Jesus also *lives* his refrain, since it's hard to believe the words by themselves: Jesus touches lepers and eats with tax collectors and prostitutes and sinners, and he travels miles, willingly, to Jerusalem and a waiting cross, to be like the suffering servant we heard about in Isaiah, who is silent like a lamb before its slaughter, bearing all of our iniquities. As Jesus says, he gives his life as a ransom. He doesn't glorify himself; he sacrifices.

I suppose you could say that this is a stewardship sermon. But I'm not talking about things like time or money today. Stewardship is a way of life, on all levels, and today I'm talking about being stewards of our ambition and our desire for honor and status and image. Jesus says, "Give it away. Let it go. Be a servant. Be last and least and lowly. Put the genuine needs of others, of the world, ahead of your own. And in the kingdom of God, others will do the same for you, and all your needs will be met." Jesus told James and John: "You *will* drink the cup that I will drink, and you *will* receive and experience the same kind of baptism that I received." They just had no idea at the time the cup of sacrifice Jesus would drink; the baptism into death and new life that he would inaugurate for all who believe.

We too drink from a cup; we, too, remember our baptisms. We come here to worship, and to get ready: not to head off to school, but to head off to life. God provides for us and cares for us, nourishes us and prepares us. God does this for us not so that we might be stronger competitors, but so that we might be stronger servants, freely sharing the love that we have been freely given, so that others may know the freedom and grace and love of this other kind of living. "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all." As you walk out the door today, I really hope you try your best to be last. Amen.

*HYMN OF THE DAY Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard
Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP,
c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

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: Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation. *[Brief silence]*

A: Holy One, for the gift of the church handed down through the ages and for all who carry on the servant ministry of Jesus, we praise you. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who are discerning calls to ministry in its many forms and equip them with your gifts. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Creating One, for the lush and abundant habitat you provide for all your creatures, we praise you. Provide healing for the earth so that all living things may flourish as you intend. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Suffering One, for all who work toward peace and who lead nations with a servant's heart, we praise you. Bring justice for all who suffer violence, persecution, discrimination, hunger, poverty, and homelessness, and create places of refuge for all people. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Merciful One, for all who do the work of healing in mind, body, and spirit, we praise you. Surround and comfort all who struggle with depression, anxiety, cancer, diabetes, dementia, or any illness, that all may be healed. We especially pray today for... Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Sustaining One, for all who volunteer for the vitality of this congregation, we praise you. Strengthen and encourage greeters, ushers, office volunteers, bakers, counters, committee and group leaders, teachers, students, evangelists, singers, builders, nurturers, and all who serve with generous hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Risen One, we thank you for those who have shaped your church and shared your gospel. Through the witness of your saints, continue to inspire us with hope until we all are gathered at your eternal feast. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Heavenly Father, You have generously blessed us with families. Thank you for your guidance and protection. As you love and care for us, may we also always love and care for our families and keep them in our prayers. We pray this week for the Ash, Bennett and Berg families as well as our Messiah family. May You keep us all from danger and sickness and guard our hearts so that we are reminded of Your Grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

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**

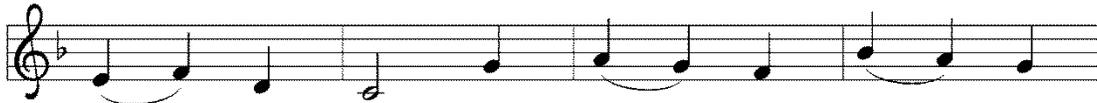
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen

***SENDING SONG** The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
Music: CHESTERFIELD, attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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

***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, October 17, 2021

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Becky Collie
Lectors: Becky Collie
Acolyte: Michael Sondor
Greeters: Dianne Absher
Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Chris Sondor
Altar Guild: Becky Collie
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.

OUR NEIGHBOR'S FAITH

We're continuing our discussions of various faith traditions and denominations this week by talking about our neighbors the Methodists!

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$2,901.40 (slightly down from \$2,927.25 through October 10, 2021).
- We are \$44,673.76 behind the year-to-date budget needs (\$42,549.88 the last time reported).
- Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

MCEF

MCEF Fun-Raiser at Chicken Salad Chick, Monday, October 18, 2021, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Say you support MCEF and part of the sale will be donated to MCEF!

Donations are being accepted for client's Thanksgiving dinner. They will choose items from our "holiday area" for their Thanksgiving meal. Watch for information for the fund raiser " No Room at the Inn" sponsored by our neighbors, Church of the Redeemer. One third of donations are ear-marked for MCEF. For current needs, please see 4mcef.com. Thank you for your support of MCEF.

PET BLESSING

Stay tuned for information on a Pet Blessing! We're not back to a full Creation Fest yet, but we can still bless our pets! Date, time, and accompanying activities will be shared via email as soon as Pastor Ryan gets a couple of more ducks in a row. And yes - we can also bless your ducks.

PRAYER LIST RESET

The current prayer list has been reset. Please contact Davina with names that need to remain on the list. Email her at MessiahMech@gmail.com or phone 746-7134 with your requests.

COME ONE COME ALL: MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN!

Would you like to learn to quilt? Are you wondering what you can do to make a difference? Even non-sewers can help make a quilt! Here are the 5 Ws and 1 P.

Who: *anyone interested*

What: *quilting*

When: *November 10, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.*

Where: *Messiah Lutheran Church - narthex*

Why: *With a November start, a Thanksgiving theme of gratitude and thankfulness, can illustrate our thankfulness for all the blessings God has given us by quilting for others.*

Purpose: *This fellowship activity sponsored by the evangelism team with the hope of assisting others beyond our walls.*

If you are interested but cannot attend, please contact: Gladys Hubert - gladyh43@gmail.com or Cheryl Griffis - candlgriffis@gmail.com

HELP NEEDED!

We now have SIX greeters! And that means that each one will serve only once in six Sundays! I want to thank Sue Gilnett and Jean Martin, former Greeters, who have volunteered to serve again. In addition, Donna Combs will serve for ten months on the rotation, and I will serve in the months that Donna has Altar Guild Duty. We will join in that rotation with our current Greeters, Gladys Hubert, Dianne Absher, and Marilyn Gunn, all dedicated "servants" in multiple slots at Messiah for many years.

On the Usher and Acolyte rotations, however, we still need help. Roger Schroeder is serving inside for all Sundays in the rotation, and Gordon Gunn, Jake Addair, LeRoy Albertson, Chris Sondor, and Daren Williams will be serving in rotation with Roger. We do have six ushers, but often at least one, and sometimes two write back to me that they are "unavailable" for certain Sundays. We have one member who is considering becoming an Usher, but we do need at least two more volunteers to have a complete six person rotation for

our Sunday services. Please email Sally Bennett at sallybennett3317@gmail.com with any questions you might have; or if, after prayerfully considering, you will volunteer to help out, and many thanks in advance.

We also have only FOUR Acolytes, one of whom is very involved in sports, and one who now has a job and doesn't know very far ahead of time what Sundays are available for serving. Our other two Acolytes are siblings, so when the family is away, we often have no one left to serve on a particular Sunday.

Pastor Ryan is planning to have one or perhaps two training sessions for Acolytes this fall, so if you are in 4th grade or older, have received your First Communion, and are interested, please have one of your parents write to me at the email address above as soon as possible, and I will give your name(s) to Pastor Ryan. Blessings to you and yours, and I look forward to hearing from you, Sally Bennett, Worship Team Chair

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 for information on how to help those affected by these natural disasters and the long period of recovery ahead.