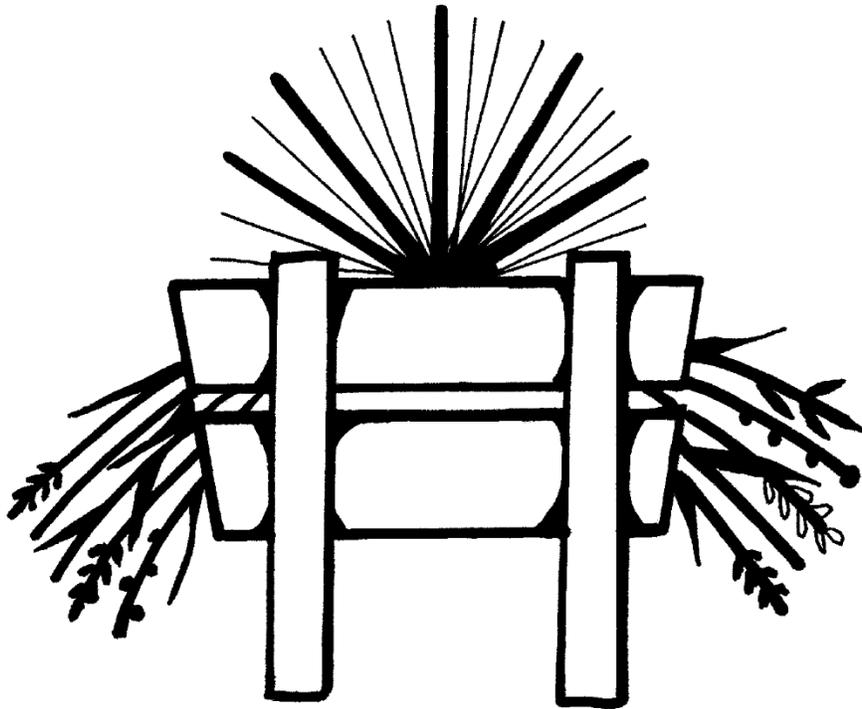


*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*December 26, 2021
First Sunday after Christmas
Service of Lessons and Carols*

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

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

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.*

GATHERING SONG: *Joy to the World* (ELW 267) vv. 1, 3-4

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

DIALOGUE

L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: *By day and night he shines for all to see.*

L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty.

C: *that the world may see the justice and richness of God.*

L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

L: Jesus is the light of the world.
C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

L: Sing to God a new song!
C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

OPENING PRAYER

L: The Lord be with you
C: And also with you

L: Let us pray: Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

C: Amen

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

FIRST CAROL: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282) vv. 1-2

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they
come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats
o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

SECOND READING: Micah 5:2–5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279) vv. 1-2

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!

THIRD READING: Luke 1:26–35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

THIRD CAROL: *The First Noel* (ELW 300) vv. 1-2

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their
sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so
deep.

Refrain
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and
night. Refrain

BLESSING OF TEDDY BEARS AND TOYS

Children will remain in their seats or stand up in their spots.

FOURTH READING: Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

FOURTH CAROL: *Away in a Manger* (ELW 277) vv. 1 & 3

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his
bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to
stay
close by me forever and love me, I
pray.
Bless all the dear children in your
tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you
there.

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:8–20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to

them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

FIFTH CAROL: Angels, from the Realms of Glory (ELW 275) vv. 1-2

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and
worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

SIXTH READING: Matthew 2:1–11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering

the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

SIXTH CAROL: *What Child Is This* (ELW 296) vv. 1-2

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems
sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels
sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

SEVENTH READING: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SEVENTH CAROL: *Love Has Come* (ELW 292) vv. 1 & 3

1 Love has come--a light in the
darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem
skies.
See, all heaven has come to
proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

3 Love has come and never will
leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are
seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of
Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on
high!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

L: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C: *Your Word, Jesus, is truth.*

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: *to gather in wonder with the shepherds.*

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: *to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.*

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: *to sing for joy with the angels.*

L: In the brightness of his life

C: *cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.*

L: We lift before you your children that we now name as well as those we now name in our hearts: *(Insert prayer list here)*

L: In his light

C: *Draw all to the manger*

L: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way

C: *In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life Amen.*

PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

THE GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

C: *Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

LORD'S PRAYER

L: 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,

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, December 26, 2021

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Sally Bennett
Lectors: Susie Weaver
Acolyte: Max Williams
Greeters: Lois Schroeder
Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Daren Williams
Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
Counters: Marilyn & Gordon Gunn

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN OUT OF THE OFFICE

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,019.97 (slightly up from \$3,012.90 through December 19, 2021).

We are \$49,522.76 behind the year-to-date budget needs (increasing from \$48,904.76 last time reported).

Weekly budget need is \$3,991.00.

PRAYER LIST TO BE RESET

The current prayer list will be reset on January 1 to begin the first quarter. 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.

SUMMARY OF THE GIFTS FOR THE FOSTER CHILDREN THROUGH EN CIRCLE AND WORTHDAY.

Worthday is a Richmond organization focusing on foster children that are aging out of foster care system. Our three children, from Worthday, are girls younger than 18 years old. The girls are under protective services and are working to be stabilized to avoid entering the foster care system. The social worker believed that they would benefit from assistance for the holiday season. \$100 was spent on each child. We purchased clothes, books, and toys. Our three children from EnCircle (formally Lutheran Family Services) are three siblings, in the same foster family. The two boys are in the process of being adopted by their foster family. The baby girl, we supported this past spring, was placed with her brothers in the same family. The family requested tickets to activities. We settled on purchasing a membership to the science museum for the next year, \$170. \$250 gift card was gotten to purchase a crib, mattress, and linens for the baby. On

December 9th, I was contacted by En Circle that three boys were entering their foster system and asked for help with their Christmas gifts. We sent them \$75 each to help. Thank you to our generous Congregation and Thrivent for making our Foster Children Christmas Ministry a success once again this year! God Bless You, Your Social Ministry Team.

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for 2022 are ready. Envelopes are available in the narthex. Please note numbers have changed so in order to get proper credit for the correct year, use the new envelopes only for Sundays in 2022. Let Bill Weaver know if you do not receive your envelopes.

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION RESUMES ON JANUARY 2ND

Thanks for the many wonderful conversations throughout our Holy Darkness Advent series. You can find the videos of our conversations on the church website, messiahmech.com.

WILD WOMEN RETREAT JAN. 14-16, 2022 AT CAROLINE FURNACE

We are hopeful that you will join us for a weekend of fellowship and renewal at Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp and Retreat Center. The weekend includes a trip off-property to a local winery, craft and outdoor activities, prayer conversations, and more. *Rates: Weekend \$115 | Day \$30. Retreat cost includes modern-rustic lodging, scratch-made meals, and Saturday transportation.* Link to register: <https://www.carolinefurnace.org/wild-women-series>. Register by December 31st.

DISASTER RESPONSE – TORNADOES

On the night of Dec. 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete. Please consider visiting the ELCA Disaster Response website to see how you can help.

MESSIAH RECEIVES .5% DONATION WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON!

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!