

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*January 9, 2022
The Baptism of Our Lord*

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

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 9, 2022

**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.

*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen

***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 together:

C: *Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND LESSON: Acts 8:14-17

A reading from Acts.

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

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: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made. *[Brief silence]*

A: By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people know they are precious in God's sight. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need (especially). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You created each of your saints for your glory. We give thanks for those you have called by name into your eternal embrace. Comfort us in grief and release us from fear. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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 Jung, Kiser and Laveck 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. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.**

***BLESSING**

P: God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, ☩ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

C: **Amen**

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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



*Altar Flowers: Given by Messiah Lutheran Church
in memory of Dennis "Mac" McAlister*



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.

ONLINE SERVICES ONLY FOR THE NEXT THREE SUNDAYS

Brothers and Sisters of Messiah, As COVID numbers are once again on the rise, with Virginia experiencing its all-time high positivity rate at 32%, and with stories coming in of various Messiah members, as well as friends, neighbors, and co-workers, testing positive for the virus, the Church Council discussed the matter and passed a resolution to cancel in-person worship for the following three Sundays (1/9, 1/16, and 1/23). Pastor Ryan will provide an online message via Facebook Live, with the recording available on the church YouTube page later on. Council also passed a resolution that asks all church groups and teams to meet remotely or virtually until we are worshiping in the sanctuary again. This includes the church council's own meeting, women's Bible study, Confirmation youth group, quilters, and our annual

reporting meeting. This may feel like a setback; but, as has been the case for all our protocols these last two years, it is genuinely an expression of love in Jesus Christ: to one another, our neighbors, and our wider community. Please reach out to one another during these coming weeks, and pray for this current wave to pass. Stay safe, be healthy, and love one another. In Christ, Pastor Ryan & the Church Council.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like a poinsettia to take home, please come by the church during regular office hours to pick one up.

Office Hours:

Mon/Wed: 8 am – 3 pm

Tue/Thr/Fri: 8 am – 12 pm

SUMMARY OF THE GIFTS FOR THE FOSTER CHILDREN

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. \$100 was spent on each child. We purchased clothes, books, and toys. Our three children from EnCircle are three siblings, in the same foster 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.

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

Please visit the Lutheran Disaster Response website to see how you can contribute to the aid and recovery efforts for the recent Colorado wildfires, the tornadoes in Kentucky and beyond, and for other situations in the U.S. and around the globe.