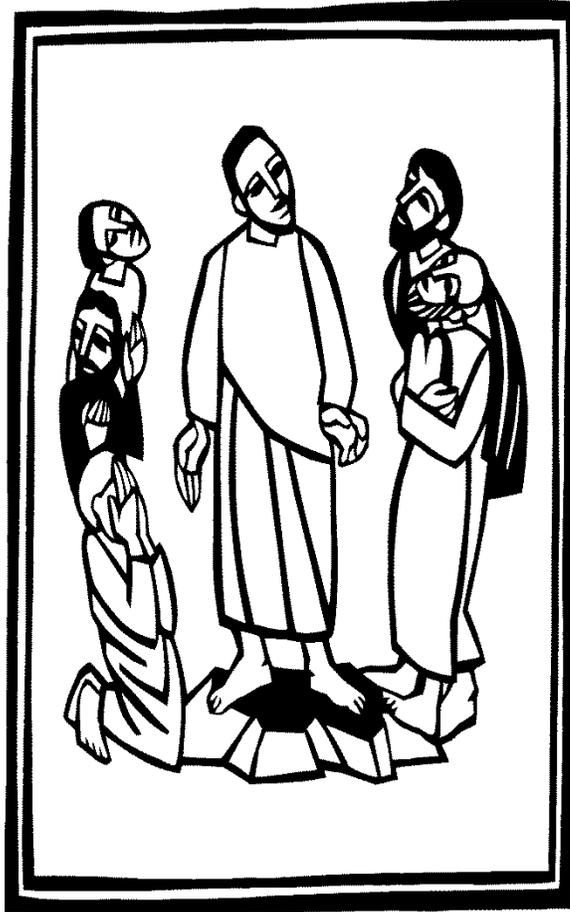


*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*February 27, 2022
The Last Sunday after Epiphany*

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 LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 27, 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.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

C: *we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.*

P: Rejoice in this good news: In ☩ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C: Amen.

*** GATHERING SONG *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)***

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

***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: *Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

Lector

A reading from Exodus.

Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.

²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2

Lector

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.

¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1}Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep;

but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

* HYMN OF THE DAY *How Good, Lord, to Be Here!* (ELW 315)

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.
 Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

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: Transform us by your greatness, O God. Send us down the mountain to share joy with all people. Make us agents of change, confident that your hope will vanquish despair and your goodness will conquer evil. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: The mountains and valleys sing your praise. Dazzle us with your presence in every landscape: bluffs built by ancient glaciers, canyons carved by flowing rivers, flat horizons with uninterrupted views, and sands shaped by ocean tides. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: You love justice and establish equity. Strengthen leaders of local governments, community nonprofits, and grassroots campaigns. Bless them with gifts of integrity, creativity, and sound conscience. Build up safe and joyful communities where all people may thrive. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: Heal those who are in distress or in need of any kind, especially... Give patience to those waiting for answers. Grant hope to those who have

reached the limits of treatment. Give compassionate hearts to those who accompany loved ones through illness and uncertainty. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Today we shout alleluia from the mountaintop; this week we enter the wilderness of Lent. Bless all who prepare and lead us in worship during this change of season: pastors, deacons, musicians, and all who contribute to our worship life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Blessed are they who listened to Christ's voice in this life and now rest with him. Transform us from glory into glory, and give us your peace, that we do not lose heart. 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 Schroeder and Shaw 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.

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: *Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. Amen*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

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

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

*PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who
share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to
whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God.

***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.

We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance
of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: 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**

SENDING SONG We Are Marching in the Light: Siyahamba (ELW 866)

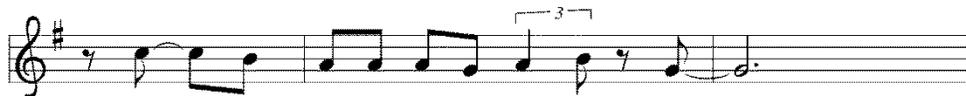
We Are Marching in the Light of God



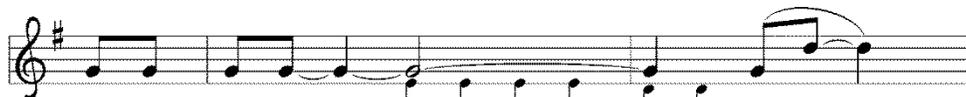
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. *Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



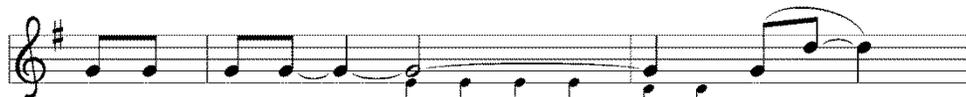
si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



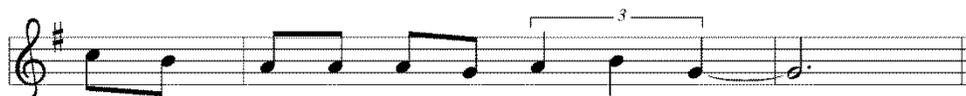
Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional
Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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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)

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, February 27, 2022

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Becky Collie (2nd Lay Asst.) Teresa Gigante
- Lectors: Teresa Gigante
- Acolyte: Kate Radtke
- Greeters: Marilyn Gunn
- Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Gordon Gunn
- Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Rosalee Cline
- Counters: Becky Collie & Leroy Deere

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 2022 budget.

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$2,746.83 (down from \$2,802.80 through February 20, 2022).
- We are \$10,601.37 behind the year-to-date budget needs. (increasing from \$8,884.37)
- Weekly budget need is \$4,072.

COVID PROTOCOLS UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

The Church Council met this the second week of February and discussed our current COVID response plan. We had initially set the goal to return to the sanctuary when the Hanover positivity rates reached the 10-15% range, based on guidance from the VDH, CDC, Virginia Synod, and resources shared by other local ELCA pastors. We are thankful that worship and other groups are back in the building once more! For now we ask everyone to continue to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing in the building while the omicron wave continues to diminish. Once positivity rates get below 10% for Hanover, council will reconvene

to discuss easing protocols from requiring face coverings to encouraging them, and moving back towards incorporating more aspects of our congregational life together, like the choir, more fellowship, Communion at the rail, fuller liturgy, more outreach activities, and more. Rates are heading in the right direction, and we are hopeful that it won't be much longer. Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and patience.

QUILTERS GATHER TOGETHER

Save the date: Wednesday, March 16, 9:00 to 12:00 noon. Quilters (and non-quilters) who are interested in learning about quilting and using their hands and hearts to make a Mission Quilt for Lutheran World Relief will gather in the narthex. Bring any of your favorite sewing supplies, extra cotton fabric that you may have (clean and pressed) and your enthusiasm. No special skills needed, we will gather to learn. Call Glady Hubert with any questions, 814-449-1392.

MCEF UPDATE:

During the month of January, 97 households were provided with 146 bags of food and 37 bags of clothing and linens. 94 rides were provided for seniors to doctor appointments and essential services (grocery shopping, banking, etc.) Financial assistance was provided to 16 households in the amount of \$5,380. The clothing closets are now in transition to spring and summer clothing, clean and in good repair. Any winter clothing you would like to donate, please hold until fall, there is no storage for these items. Current needs for food include condiments (catsup, mustard, mayonnaise), baked beans and pasta sauce. Many thanks to all for sharing with Mechanicsville neighbors in need.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

Ash Wednesday Service

We will begin the season of Lent with a service on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd at 7:00 pm. During the service you will be invited to partake in Lenten disciplines, and an imposition of ashes will be offered.

Lenten Devotions

A new Lenten Devotion called *Grace Unbounded* will be available to take home for a daily reading from the Gospel of Luke, as well as evocative images and brief reflections.

No Wednesday Suppers Or Services

Although we are moving back in the direction of full congregational activities again, we aren't quite back to indoor meals. Therefore we won't be having our Wednesday night soup suppers and services again this year. Stay tuned, though – we are hopeful for something on Easter. And, in the meantime...

Ecumenical Lenten Videos

Once again our group of local pastors from congregations (mostly) on Atlee Road will produce weekly Lenten videos. The theme this year will center on joy and abundance in the season of Lent, where we usually talk about giving things up. Stay tuned for more information and weekly links to the videos.

God's Global Barnyard Drive

We will once again be collecting your coins and more to purchase animals and other items from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. Look for the piggy bank to come during Lent. The funds we raise will go towards a shopping spree for our Sunday school students to select small gifts with big impacts for people in many corners of our world. Thanks in advance for your support and generosity!

Lenten Study

Please join us during Sunday adult Christian Formation time in the Fellowship Hall for a new series: "Wrestle with the Bible: Meeting God in difficult stories from Genesis." We'll cover a number of stories that are tough to talk about, and use our scriptural stretching as a practice for deeper Lenten devotion. Each conversation will be recorded and shared for those who would like to follow along from home.

ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL – SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday, The Funnel Cake Food Truck arrives at All Souls Episcopal Church, Atlee House, 9077 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, March 1, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. ALL are welcome!

ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL – ASH WEDNESDAY – 12:30 PM SERVICE

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, March 2nd at 12:30pm Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes in the Messiah Lutheran Sanctuary. ALL are welcome. Please wear a mask.

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!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Please visit the Lutheran Disaster Response website to see how you can contribute to the ongoing aid and recovery efforts for the wildfires, tornadoes, and more, both in the U.S. and around the globe.