

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*March 6, 2022
First Sunday in Lent*

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 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 6, 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: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C: Amen

P: Holy One,

C: *we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.*

P: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

3 I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

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: *O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen*

FIRST LESSON Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Lector

A reading from Deuteronomy.

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and

wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:8b-13

Lector

A reading from Romans.

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}"The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

HYMN OF THE DAY

When We Are Tested

(ACS 922)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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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: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. [*Brief silence*]

A: We pray for the church. Sharpen its proclamation of the word so that your people learn to reject voices of deception and distraction. Strengthen all who are tempted to believe lies about themselves or others. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the earth and all its creatures. Protect wilderness places and all plant and animal species that call them home. Sustain farmers and all laborers who work the land and harvest the fruits of its abundance. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the nations of the world. Awaken elected leaders and government officials to the needs of those who are oppressed and grant them compassion to deal mercifully with immigrants and refugees who reside among us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those in need. Rescue those experiencing mental illness or contending with addiction. Ease the anxiety of those who live with dementia. Command your angels concerning all who are sick, especially...
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this assembly. Bless those who bake bread and prepare the table for our communion celebration. Accompany those who share the bounty of this meal with those who are homebound or hospitalized. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We give thanks for those who have died. Gather them with all the saints into your heavenly dwelling place. Encourage us with the promise that all who call upon your name are saved. Merciful God,

C: receive 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 Sondor, Starrett and Terry 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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

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: *Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: *Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.***

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: *Amen.*

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: *Amen.*

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

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.*

COMMUNION

***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.

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

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 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (ELW 326)

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - jour - ners and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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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

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – SUNDAY, March 6, 2022

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn
- Lectors: Marilyn Gunn
- Acolyte: Abby Schroeder
- Greeters: Sally Bennett
- Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Jake Addair
- Altar Guild: Dianne Absher & Anita Philp
- Counters: Sharon & Jake Addair

Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

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

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Here is this week's information based on our 2022 budget.

- Contributions to the general fund averaged \$3,021.18 (up from \$2,746.83 through February 27, 2022).
- We are \$9,457.37 behind the year-to-date budget needs. (decreasing from \$10,601.37)
- Weekly budget need is \$4,072.

COVID PROTOCOLS UPDATE FROM COUNCIL

Your Church Council continues to monitor case numbers and the latest updates from the CDC and elsewhere. The benchmark we set to relax masking and distancing rules was for when the Hanover County case counts dropped below 10% again. At this point, we haven't met that benchmark yet. The Executive

Committee met last week, and will continue to meet on a weekly basis, to monitor the numbers. You might be wondering – with all the other restrictions being lifted in the area, why haven't things lifted yet at Messiah? Well, for a few reasons – our congregational population includes more at-risk folks than the general population; we don't want to loosen rules only to have to tighten them again – the numbers have bounced around so much already; we want to stick with the metrics we've been using all along; and, because we want to show love and care for one another. However, since so much has changed recently, at our March 16th Council meeting we will review the metrics we've been relying on for decision-making to see if we need to make any adjustments. Thank you for your prayers, your patience, and your positive attitudes!

YOUTH GROUP TODAY!

Right after our worship service today we'll finally be having our first Confirmation Youth Group! Stick around for food, fun, and faithitude!

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.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES:

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.

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 – EASTERN EUROPE 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. There is a new need in Eastern Europe to help with the refugees fleeing Ukraine into neighboring countries such as Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. Just mark your donations "Eastern Europe Crisis Response."