

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*April 27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter*

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. 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

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 27, 2025

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available upon request.

** Please stand as you are able **

Welcome visitors! May the Spirit of Christ fill your heart as we worship today. You are invited to make Messiah your church home.

EASTER GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG – All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!**

ELW 634



1 All hail the pow’r of Je - sus’ name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 O seed of Is - rael’s cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid’s line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne’er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe 6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 on this terrestrial ball we at his feet may fall!
 to him all majesty ascribe We’ll join the everlasting song
 and crown him Lord of all. and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5–6
 Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

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***THE GREETING**

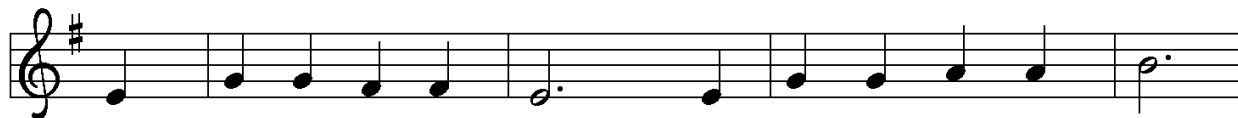
(ELW p. 203)

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.**

KYRIE

(ELW p. 203)



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

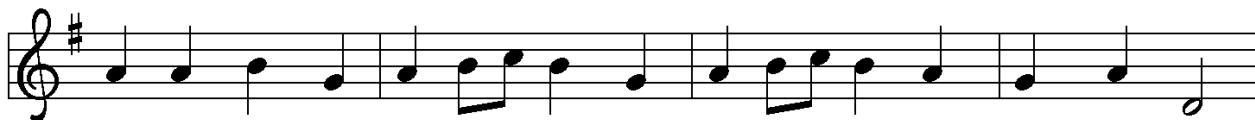
(ELW p.204)



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

C: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32

Lector

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

A reading from Acts.

²⁷ When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8

Lector

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

A reading from Revelation.

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

L: The word of the Lord.


C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 205)



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

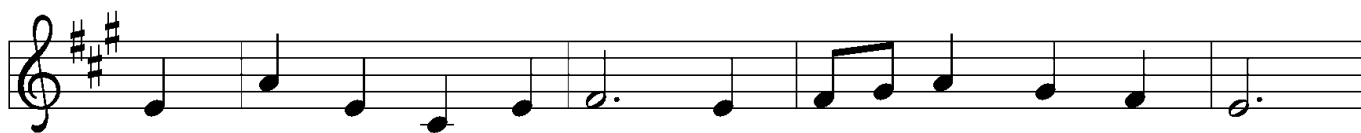
CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Jim Berg

*HYMN OF THE DAY – Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW 669



1	Rise up, O saints of God!	From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2	Speak out, O saints of God!	De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3	Rise up, O saints of God!	The king - dom's task em - brace;
4	Give heed, O saints of God!	Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5	Com - mit your hearts to seek	the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant	that your hearts with	no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal	grace, the word of hope pro - claim.	
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence;	give jus - tice larg - er place.	
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing	now, with love the weak sus - tain.	
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r,	rise up, O saints of God!	

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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 OF INTERCESSION

A: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A: Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, you created us to live in community. Bless our families, in all their shapes and sizes. Sustain and strengthen all our communal connections. We especially pray this week for the Absher, Addair, and Albertson families, as well as our Messiah family. Grant all help where needed, and foster love and appreciation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***OFFERING SONG – Create in Me a Clean Heart**

ELW 186

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

(ELW p. 206)

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 our 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

(ELW p. 207)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

(ELW p. 208)

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.**

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – Lamb of God

(ELW p. 208)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

***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**

***SONG AFTER COMMUNION – Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise**

ELW 206



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has



done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen

***BLESSING**

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen

***SENDING SONG – Crown Him with Many Crowns**

ELW 855



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – April 27, 2025

Pianist: Debbie Walker
 Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Glady Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Diana Sondor
 Lector: Susie Weaver
 Acolyte: Dean Anderson
 Greeter: Dianne Absher
 Ushers: James Anderson & Bill Weaver
 Altar Guild: Donna Combs & Marilyn Gunn
 Counters: Becky Collie
 Live Streamer: Heather Williams

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

April 27	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 PM
April 29	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
April 30	PAL Quilt Group	11:30 AM
May 1	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
May 4	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 PM
	Quilt Blessing	
	First Sunday Fellowship	
May 6	Banner Team	1:00 PM
May 7	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
May 8	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
May 11	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 PM
	Mother's Day	
May 14	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
May 15	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
May 18	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 PM
	Manna Sunday	
May 20	Banner Team	1:00 PM
May 21	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
May 22	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Choir Practice	7:00 PM

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Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week, but especially aims to be in on Tuesday and Thursday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

THANKS, PASTOR JIM BERG!

Many thanks to Pastor Jim Berg for leading us in worship today.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers For the 16th Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$4456.06
- Contributions for current April 20th were \$3552.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$71,296.88
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$63,673.85
- Designated giving for the 16th Sunday was \$441

Y.O.U.T.H. IN ACTION (YOUTHFUL OUTREACH TO UPLIFT AND THRIVE IN HOLINESS)

The youth group will make their big ESCAPE today at Hidden Gems Escape Rooms. All participants will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a pizza lunch after worship, then depart Messiah at 1:10pm. If you have not signed the online waiver, please have a paper copy with you. If you are carpooling, we expect to arrive back at Messiah by 3:15. Questions??? See Tracey Anderson.

The May 17 River Clean-up Day sign-up sheet is now posted for any SR Youth (6-12th) who wish to participate in making the James River a little cleaner. See the bulletin board for details.

SHOUTOUT to Josie for being selected for her league's basketball tournament today!

YOUTH CHOIR

Thank you to the Youth Choir for singing on Easter. Your music was truly appreciated!!! We will start working on a new song to sing on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. Join us after worship on Sundays May 18th and 25th, and June 1. All youth are welcome to join us!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SYNOD SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

The 2025 Youth Assembly will be June 13-15 at Roanoke College, held alongside the Synod Assembly. Each congregation is invited to send up to four delegates from grades 7-12. The Youth Assembly works on planning events and setting priorities for the coming year of Synod youth ministry, and interacts with the Synod Assembly as well. If you are interested in representing Messiah, or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ryan.

Kairos, the Synod's fantastic week-long high school faith-sharing event will also be at Roanoke College, June 22-27. For more information, please visit vasynod.org/event/kairos/ or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study Groups will meet on Wednesday May 14 and Wednesday May 28. They are currently reading Rob Bell's book LOVE WINS. The morning group meets at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. They will be reading chapters 7 & 8. The evening group meets at 6:30 p.m. also in the fellowship hall. They will be reading chapters 6 & 7. Please feel free to join us at either time.

BANNER TEAM

Messiah's Banner Team will meet on Tuesday, May 20th at 1:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We will be starting a new project with some interesting new techniques. Come join us – and please bring your own scissors.

SAVE THE DATE FOR POWER IN THE SPIRIT

Power in the Spirit will be July 17-19 at Roanoke College, with the theme "Wings of Hope," based on Isaiah 40:31 and the director of Lutheran Disaster Response as the keynote speaker. Please visit vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit for more information.

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION RESPONDS TO SE ASIA EARTHQUAKE

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is urgently calling for donations to support churches and communities in Myanmar and Thailand following the devastating earthquake that struck Southeast Asia on 28 March 2025. LWF is assessing the situation and responding through its local partners and member churches. The powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit central Myanmar on Friday 28 March 2025, and there have been more than 3,000 reported deaths. The earthquake has struck a population already burdened by political turmoil, economic hardship, and a fragile infrastructure. Amid these challenges, LWF is also concerned about the situation of the country's four Lutheran churches, which have congregations in some of the hardest-hit areas. For more information and a link to donate, please visit <https://lutheranworld.org/news/lwf-calls-donations-after-myanmar-and-thailand-earthquake>

UPDATE 2025: JAMES GOFUNDME

Dear Messiah Family,

Here is the most recent information about our grandson, James, who has been home for the most part. He had a wonderful Christmas with his family. He truly enjoys watching his big sister and twin play, dance and laugh. His smile lights up the room. His bravery and courage continue to amaze us.

Late January, an MRI was done. The cancer has spread. He continues to fight and he truly is our hero.

We would like to thank you for all the love and support you have given our family since James's diagnosis.

Here is the GoFundMe link:

(<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-james-and-his-family-battle-pediatric-cancer>)

Peace of the Lord be with you.

Lee and Cheryl Griffis

Matthew, Amy, Hensley, James and Nolan

