

*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*September 14, 2025  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**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](mailto:MessiahMech@gmail.com); Website: [MessiahMech.com](http://MessiahMech.com)

14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 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.*

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

P: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;

**C: God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us and waste the gifts we have been given.**

P: God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day;

**C: Let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever; let us worship God together.**

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of wisdom, we confess the foolishness of our ways, and our failure to follow you in your paths of right relationships – with you and with others.

**C: We have gone astray; we feel lost.**

*A brief silence for reflection.*

P: We have upheld our own interests first, to the detriment of others.

**C: We have failed to be generous with the poor, and abandoned our efforts to bring about justice.**

P: We feel the stains of our sins, O God;

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: Wash the sinfulness out of us,

**C: and help us to live more faithfully as your servants.**

P: We seek your unfailing Lordship and ask for your guiding hand on our lives.

**C: Shower your mercy upon us. Find us, and lead us safely home to faithfulness.**

P: My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around, gathering us in to the people of God. In the name of Jesus Christ +, your sins are forgiven. Let us rejoice in God's mercy!

C: **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG – Words: *Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table*  
Tune: *God Is Here!***

**ACS 977  
ELW 526**

1 Look who gathers at Christ's table!  
Hear the stories that they bring.  
Some are weeping; some are  
laughing;  
some have songs they want to sing.  
Others ask why they're invited,  
burdened by the wrong they've  
done.  
Christ insists they all are welcome.  
There is room for ev'ryone.

2 Clouds of light surround the table;  
ancient followers appear,  
saints confessing how they wrestled  
with their guilt, their doubt and fear.  
Peter tells of his denying  
Christ was ever in his sight;  
Paul relates his fruitless efforts  
to obliterate the light.

3 Their sad stories are repeated  
in a thousand diff'rent ways,  
but they share one thing in common:  
they all end in thanks and praise  
for the host who has invited  
north and south and east and west  
to converge around this table,  
where all life is fed and blest.

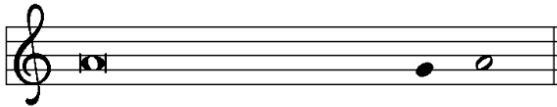
4 Bring your joy and bring your  
sadness,  
and prepare to be surprised  
by the host whose hands are  
wounded,  
who will open wide your eyes  
when he blesses bread and breaks  
it—  
truth and manna from above!—  
and then passes wine that wakens  
in your heart the taste of love.

**\*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.***





In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



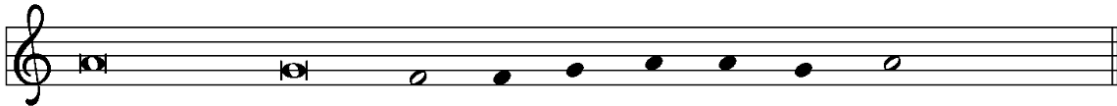
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



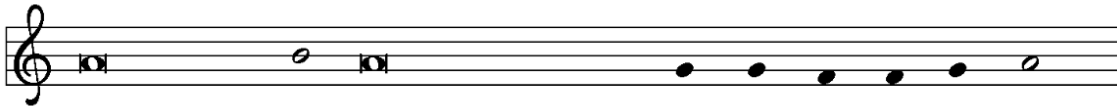
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW p.148)

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray:

**C: O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14**

**Lector**

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

**Lector**

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

A reading from 1 Timothy.

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was

formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup> But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 151)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10**

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]

<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup> “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice

with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'<sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY – *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

ELW 538



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá  
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain  
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;  
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923  
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America  
English text © 1998 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: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A: Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain (*especially*). Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Merciful 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 Radtke, Reagan, and Rightnour families, as well as our Messiah family. Grant all help where needed, and foster love and appreciation. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*OFFERING SONG – We Are an Offering**

**ELW 692**

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
Lord use our voices  
Lord use our hands  
Lord use our lives they are Yours  
We are an offering

We lift our voices  
We lift our hands  
We lift our lives up to You  
We are an offering  
We are an offering

All that we have  
All that we are  
All that we hope to be  
We give to You  
We give to You

*Dwight Liles  
CCLI Song #16220*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

**C: *Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(ELW p. 152)

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.

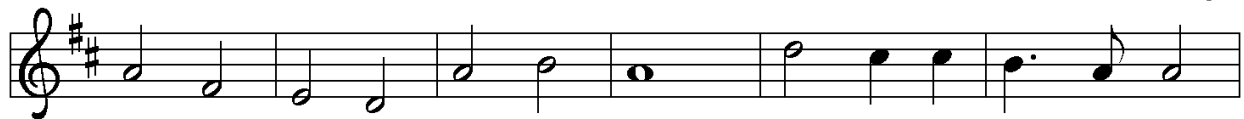
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*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, 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:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

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 is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. 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: 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.***

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG – Lamb of God**

**(ELW p. 154)**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**\*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**



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 and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



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

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

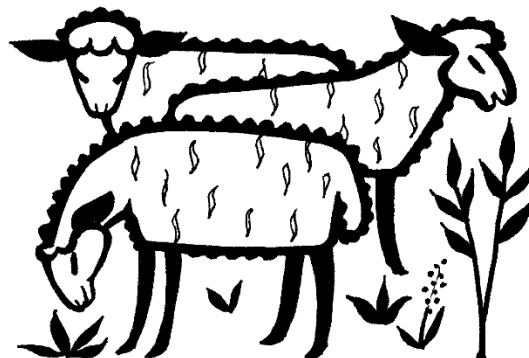
A: Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen**

**\*BLESSING**

P: May God our Maker bless us with wonder. May Jesus the Parable-teller bless us with courage. May the Searching Holy Spirit bless us with joy. Holy God, Maker, Parable-teller, and Searcher of Hearts, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**



*Refrain/Estribillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
 1 Take my hands and let them move  
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing  
 4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
 at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 not a mite would I with - hold;  
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
 take my feet and let them be swift and  
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
 take my lips and let them be filled with  
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



pul - so de tu a - mor.  
 beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
 mes - sag - es from thee.  
 be thy roy - al throne.

*Refrain/Estribillo*

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos  
de lo santo puedan ir,  
y que a ti, Señor, mi voz,  
se complazca en bendecir.* Estribillo

3 *Que mis labios al hablar  
hablen sólo de tu amor;  
que mis bienes dedicar  
yo los quiera a ti, Señor.* Estribillo

4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté  
consagrado a tu loor;  
que mi mente y su poder  
sean usados en tu honor.* Estribillo

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955  
Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
Music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

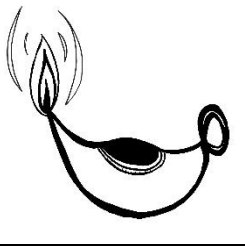
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posted on the Presbyterian Church in Canada website. <http://presbyterian.ca/worship/>  
Portions of Confession and Forgiveness: written by Henrietta Stith Andrews, in  
*From Despair to Rejoicing: Service Prayers for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost.*  
Posted on the Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>  
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**SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – September 14, 2025**

Pianist: Debbie Walker  
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Lois Schroeder (2nd Lay Asst.) Glady Hubert  
Lector: Nancy Berg  
Acolyte: Abby Schroeder  
Greeter: Nancy Berg  
Ushers: Bill Weaver & Daren Williams  
Altar Guild: Glady Hubert & Andrea Alness  
Counters: Gordon & Marilyn Gunn  
Live Streamer: Heather Williams

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH**

September 14	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
September 16	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
September 17	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
	Mutual Ministry Team	3:30 PM
September 18	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 14	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
September 21	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
September 24	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
September 25	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 28	Christian Formation (w/ Confirmation class)	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
October 1	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
October 2	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM

***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 Wednesday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Numbers For the 35th Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3,626.86
- Contributions for current Sept 7th were \$5,225.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$126,940.03
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$135,962.87
- Designated Giving for the 35th Sunday was \$0

### **MORE THAN DECOR: FAMOUS PROPHETIC VERSES IN CONTEXT**

Maybe you've seen - or maybe you even have - some beautiful wall art with a Bible verse in a nice font, maybe with a nature scene or something like that in the background. What a nice way to display important Scripture! But sometimes we see some verses so much in neat and tidy frames that we can forget the messy contexts into which they were originally spoke, and the power they can, and should, have on our lives.

This fall we'll look at some well-known and often art-ified verses from Micah, Amos, Jeremiah, and more. We'll dig into their original contexts and prayerfully discuss what claims these verses make on our lives today.

### **FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION: CARE OF CREATION TAPESTRY THREAD EVENT**

Join with the Virginia Synod Tapestry Team as we celebrate the Season of Creation with via Zoom meetings on Tuesdays October 7 and 14. Co-Thread Leaders Dr. Bill Franz and Sister Phyllis Cox will lead the two discussions. The first is on how self-care is creation care. The second is on creation, climate, and us. Visit <https://vasynod.org/event/for-the-love-of-creation/> for more information and to register.

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

The sign up sheet is posted for those interested in going bowling on September 28th. We'll eat lunch at Messiah after service then head over to Bowlero for two hours of bowling and catching up. Hope to see you there!!!!

### **LOST & FOUND REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

Lost and Found, the annual faith-sharing retreat for 7th and 8th graders and their adult advisors, will take place Friday, November 21st through Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. Visit <https://vasynod.org/event/lost-and-found/> for more information, and talk to Pastor Ryan if you have any questions.

### **EPIC IS BACK!**

If you weren't able to attend EPIC - Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations - this past spring, you have another chance on November 8th at Mulhenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg. EPIC is a one-day leadership development conference that is designed to strengthen congregational members and rostered leaders for their ministries in the congregation and in the world. Visit <https://vasynod.org/event/epic-in-harrisonburg/> for more information or talk to Pastor Ryan.

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Our Women's Bible Study groups will be getting back together starting this month!

The new book we will be looking at is *A Lineage of Grace* by Francine Rivers. It is the story of 5 women in the Bible in the lineage of Jesus who changed eternity. The book is available on Amazon for \$10.99. The groups meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. This month's meetings will be on September 10 and 24. Please join us for what should be a very interesting study.

### **BANNER TEAM**

Banner Team will resume work on Tuesday, September 16th on our latest banner project. We got a good start on our new project in May so we will pick up where we left off. Anyone who is interested may join in. Please bring your own scissors.

### **BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!**

The Church Council has recently received and approved requests from two different community groups in need of meeting space, since the two separate churches they've been using are both closing their doors. One is a garden club with some members from All Souls who will meet in the building once a month on Tuesday mornings. The other is an AA group that will be meeting weekly on Tuesday nights. Both groups will begin meeting at Messiah in August. We give thanks to God that our building can serve our community!

### **SUMMER MIDWEEK MESSAGES**

This year marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Please check out Pastor Ryan's videos that will delve into the history and significance of the Nicene Creed, and why the word "filioque" matters. By the end of the summer, we hope that you'll be able to better profess your own beliefs in your own words, and come away with a deeper understanding about our Trinitarian God who is both bigger than we can ever imagine and closer than we'll ever know.

