

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*September 21, 2025
Fifteenth 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; Website: MessiahMech.com

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 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: Let us praise the name of the Lord,

C: God is wonderful! Yesterday, today and forever!

P: The Lord our God has done marvelous things,

C: We are blessed more than we could ever imagine.

P: For all the amazing gifts we have been given,

C: We praise the name of the Lord! Amen!

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God looks for truth deep within us; let us not hide.

A brief silence for reflection.

P: God most high,

C: to gain the things of this world we spend intelligence and strength, and do not hold back shrewdness or deceit.

P: We do not use our ingenuity for your benefit and we cast away our integrity without regret.

C: We are prudent with material possessions but sloppy with the eternal.

P: We care too little for justice and use our wealth for just us.

C: Forgive us Lord for the sins we know in our heart. Save us Lord from the sins we hide.

P: God of Jacob,

C: hear our repentance, lift us out of weakness, show us truth. Amen.

P: Our God desires for all to be saved through faith and truth.

C: Jesus Christ has died and is raised and ransoms our lives.

P: For Christ's sake our sins are forgiven, and we are given new life. Through the Holy Spirit we are promised knowledge of this truth and our repentance may become real, and right, and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. In the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG – Open Your Ears, O Faithful People**

ELW 519



1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
 they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.

Refrain



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
 God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

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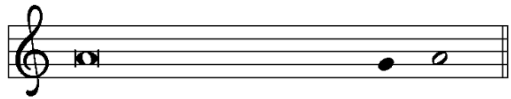
***THE GREETING**

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.*

KYRIE

(ELW p. 147)



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.



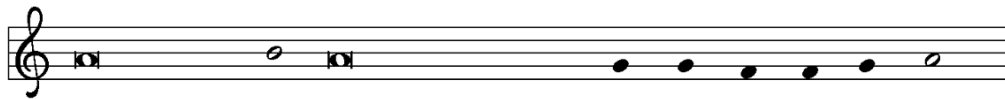
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Lector

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

A reading from Amos.

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Lector

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

A reading from 1 Timothy.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

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 16:1-13**

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been

faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

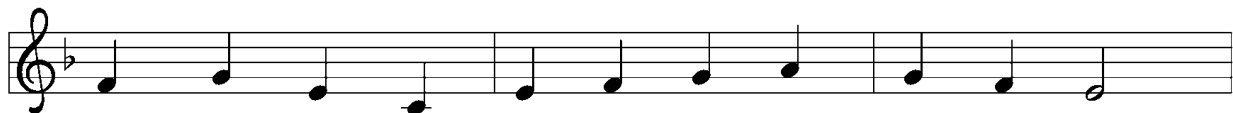
Pastor Ryan Radtke

*HYMN OF THE DAY – *All Depends on Our Possessing*

ELW 589



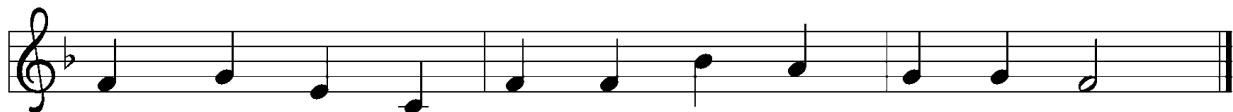
1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
 2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
 3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
 4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
 5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
 joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
 new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
 hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
 soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
 God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
 To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
 I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
 Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
 guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
 I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
 be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
 way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

Text: Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

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: O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones (*especially*). May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

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 Schroeder, Schroeder, and Shaw 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**

Sing a Song, Sung by Nancy & Jim Berg

***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.

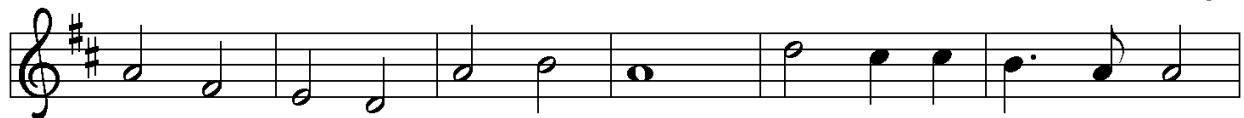
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***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



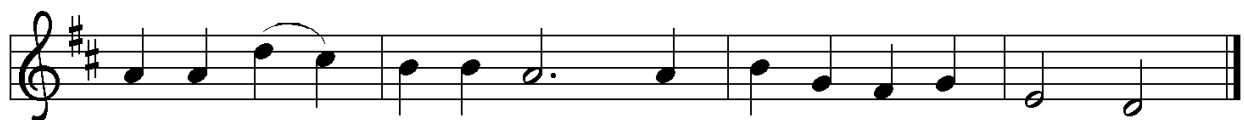
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



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.

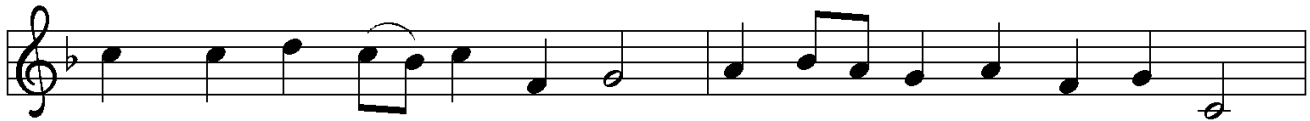
***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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**

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

ELW 204



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: 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: God our Maker,

C: bless us with wonder.

P: Jesus the story-teller,

C: bless us with courage.

P: Holy Spirit of wisdom

C: bless us with common sense.

P: God in community, Holy and One +, bless us and keep us on your way.

C: Amen.



***SENDING SONG – Be Thou My Vision**

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

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Confession & Forgiveness: [Confession RCL](#), Bill Wessner, 2013.
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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – September 21, 2025

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Anita Philp (2nd Lay Asst.) Diana Sondor
Lector: Marilyn Gunn
Acolyte: Anna Radtke
Greeter: Marilyn Gunn
Ushers: Chris Sondor & Gordon Gunn
Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Andrea Alness
Counters: Johnnie & Becky Collie
Live Streamer: Donna Shaw



*The flowers on the altar today are given
by Brittany Cramer*



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

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
	Youth Lunch & Bowling	12:30 PM
October 1	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
October 2	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
October 5	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	
	Congregational Meeting	12:15 PM
October 7	Banner Team	1:00 PM
October 8	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
October 9	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
October 12	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
October 15	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
October 16	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 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 Wednesday 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.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Numbers For the 36th Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3,587.79
- Contributions for current Sept 14th were \$2220.25
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$129,160.28
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$138,747.87
- Designated Giving for the 36th Sunday was \$40

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.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 5TH

There will be a Congregational Meeting following our worship service on Sunday, October 5th. At a recent Church Council meeting, a member asked if we could send a letter to our Representatives and Senators regarding federal programs that serve the poor, needy, and vulnerable. The Church Council discussed this proposal, including both the merits and potential challenges of sending such a letter. In the end, a draft letter has been created and reviewed by the Church Council, and we are now sharing the draft with the congregation and holding a Congregational Meeting to discuss whether and how to send it. We are hopeful that this is an opportunity to discuss together, in Christian love, how to love and serve our neighbors; a chance to find common ground in a divided society, centered on loving and serving our neighbors; and a time to learn together.

While we are already meeting, the Church Council would also like to have a prayerful time of brainstorming about outreach and ministry opportunities in our communities, and how the members of Messiah Lutheran can match our shared passions and values with the needs of our neighbors.

We look forward to considering these things together, and for First Sunday fellowship, too!

BUDGETS AND NOMINATIONS

It's that time of year again - it's time for all teams and ministries to consider what their budget requests will be for 2026. Church Council will be working on creating the new year's budget over the next month or two, and your input is essential! Also, we will have at least two positions coming open on Church Council as some members terms come to their limit. We give thanks for their dedication and service, and we ask for you all to prayerfully consider taking up their roles. Please send all nominations and budgets to the church office.

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 Messiah Youth Group is going BOWLING!!! On September 28th after worship service. Lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall before heading to Bowlero. We expect to return to Messiah before 4:00. Last day to sign up is TODAY!

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 23rd 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 Muhlenberg 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.

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 that we'll ever know.

