

*Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*October 5, 2025
Seventeenth 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

17th Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 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: We are here together in the name of Christ Jesus,

C: in the Presence of an awesome, Holy Love.

P: A person without God is like a feather in a perpetual wind, blown all over the place without any control or choice in where to rest.

C: O come, let us return to the living God. Let us bow before the One who is our Maker.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Lord, your majesty is observed throughout all of creation.

C: You are in everything, and everything that is of nature, and that is good, exists because of you.

P: From the smallest mustard seed to the largest tree, you make all things possible.

C: Oh, would we have faith so strong as to be able to trust you with everything.

P: Yet it is hard, Lord.

C: It is hard to have faith and to trust in the potential we have been given— to be your workers in the world— who can influence positively the creation we live in.

P: It is hard, Lord.

C: It is hard to keep believing that despite our floundering, failings, and lack of faith in ourselves, that you maintain faith in us.

P: It is hard, Lord.

C: Merciful God, no matter how hard it might be for us, today show us enough of your grace, that we might know ourselves forgiven for our doubts and our questioning.

P: Divine Gardener, You tend us in steadfast love, unending mercies, and eternal faithfulness; you forgive our sins, increase our faith, and cultivate faith when it all seems too hard. In the name of Christ +, your sins are forgiven.

C: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

***GATHERING SONG – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

ELW 597



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



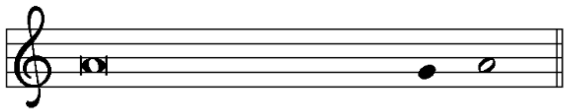
On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

***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.



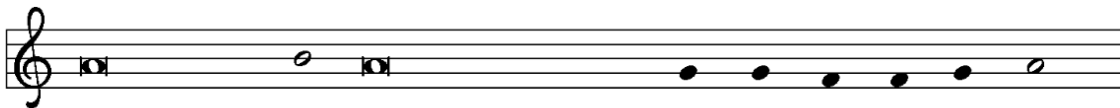
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Lector

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

A reading from Habakkuk.

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1} I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;

make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Lector

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

A reading from 2 Timothy.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.


⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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 17:5-10**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: *Praise to you, O Christ.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke



***HYMN OF THE DAY – If You But Trust in God to Guide You**

ELW 769



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
serv - ice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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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: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all creation.

A: O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us
into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind
your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring
favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along
with all who labor in the field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions
whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give
leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws.
Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed,
bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need (*especially*).
Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. 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 Theurer, Trimble, and Umberger 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 offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Lord of the harvest,

C: 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.

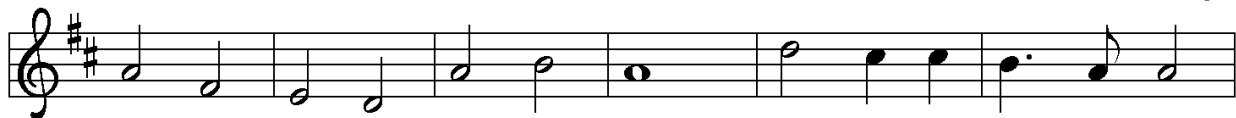
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***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**

Pulpit Side: As you go from here, may God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord give you grace, mercy, and peace.

Piano Side: *Do not let your faith or your witness grow cold. Remember: God's gift of faith is like a flame; when the embers of that flame have cooled, you must fan them again to keep them ablaze.*

Pulpit Side: So remember what you have been taught and what you have experienced.

Piano Side: *Live in such a way that all who know you may see the light of God reflected in you.*

All: **And may the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you and among you in the days ahead. Amen.**

***SENDING SONG – What Is the World Like**

ACS 1047



1 What is the world like when God's will is
2 What is the world like when God's will is
3 What is the world like when God's will is
4 What is the world like when God's will is
5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im -



done? Mus - tard seeds grow more than
done? Wit - ness the wan - der - ing
done? No more is neigh - bor just
done? Read - y for feast - ing, we
parts, filled with the Spir - it who



we can con - ceive: roots thread the
child com - ing home; watch as the
al - ly or friend; peace thrives in
watch through the night, tend - ing our
joins us as one. Born through our



soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
par - ent breaks in - to a run.
plac - es where once there was none.
lamps till the new day's be - gun.
voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
This is how God longs for us when we roam.
This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
This is how God read - ies us for the light.
this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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 Forgiveness: written by James E. Janecek, in Seeds of Faith: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost.
 Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways archive.
<http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-21.html>

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – October 5, 2025

Pianist: Debbie Walker
 Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Marilyn Gunn (2nd Lay Asst.) Donna Combs
 Lector: Teresa Gigante
 Acolyte: Will Radtke
 Greeter: Sue Gilnett
 Ushers: Bill Weaver & James Anderson
 Altar Guild: Becky Collie & Linda Mahovtas
 Counters: Gordon & Marilyn Gunn
 Live Streamer: Teresa Gigante



*The flowers on the altar today are given
 by Andrea Alness*



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

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 13	Church Office Closed for Holiday	All Day
October 15	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
October 16	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
October 19	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
October 21	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
October 22	Women's Bible Study	10:00 AM
	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
	Women's Bible Study	6:30 PM
October 23	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
October 26	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM

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Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week, but aims to be in on Wednesday and Friday. 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 38th Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3465.35
- Contributions for current Sept 21st were \$1,175.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$131,693.28
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$140,321.87
- Designated Giving for the 38th Sunday was \$200.00

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.

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)

MLC Youth Bowlers: We will be meeting at MOD Pizza for lunch before going to Bowlero! Plan to head over to 7001 Mechanicsville Tpke following church. See you there!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY

There will be a Congregational Meeting following our worship service today. 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!

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.

BANNER TEAM

The Banner Team will meet on the first and second Tuesday of each month. This month we will meet on October 7th and 21st in the church fellowship hall. We need to make some progress in order to get the banners we are working on finished to share with the congregation. Anyone who wants to help work on the banners is welcome to join us – just bring your own pair of scissors please.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study Group has started a new study book, *A Lineage of Grace - Five Stories of Unlikely Women Who Changed Eternity* by Francine Rivers. We are currently finding out about Tamar who was forced to marry Er, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob. We are learning about the way They lived at that time and what Tamar had to go through to survive long enough to bring forth the next child in the Family Tree of Jesus. Please feel free to join us to find out more. The groups meet at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. This month we will be meeting on Wednesday, October 8th and 22nd. If you have questions talk to Nancy Berg, Marilyn Gunn, or Donna Combs.