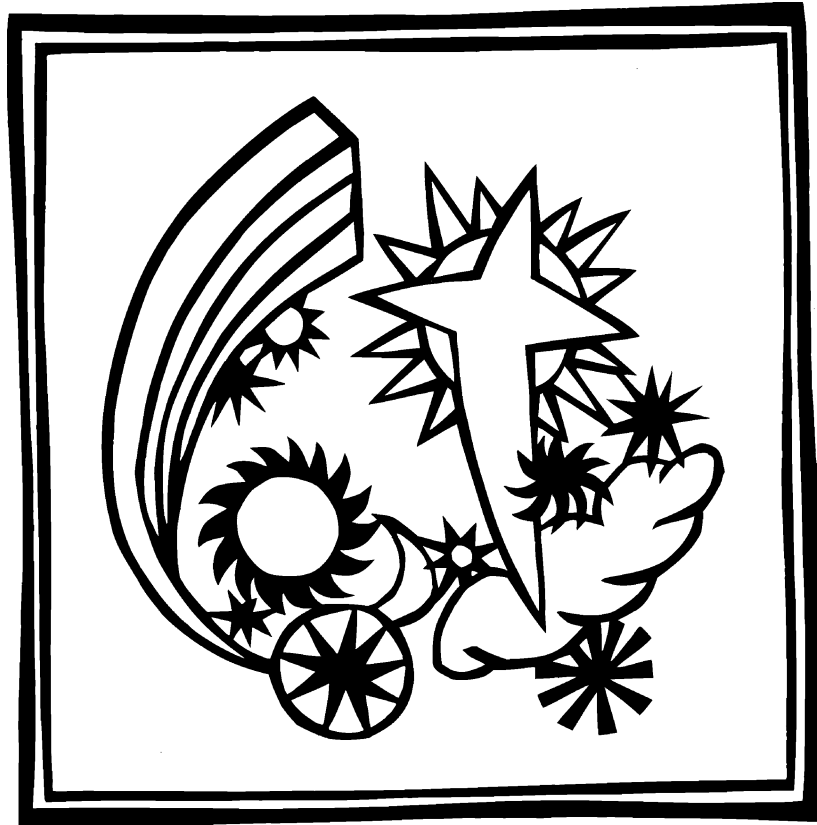


*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*November 16, 2025  
Twenty-third 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)

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 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: In times of peace and times of war:

**C: you are our constant.**

P: In the noise and in the silence:

**C: you are our comfort.**

P: When all is change and we fear to lose our way:

**C: you are our compass.**

P: Ever-faithful God,

**C: we worship you.**

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God of truth, God of justice, God of joy, God of love,

**C: We come before you this day in wonder, in community, and in remembrance.**

P: Into a world torn apart by violence, by greed, by despair,

**C: you breathe peace, plenty and hope.**

P: We join together today, seeking your grace, your presence, and your guidance,

**C: as we try to navigate our world and our lives, which seem to be full of challenges and problems that we do not have easy answers to.**

P: Give us the boldness to persevere, give us the strength to continue,

**C: give us the resolve to work within the world we have, to make it better for all.**

P: As Jesus taught his disciples to see the world as it is, and to accept that pain will come, but that God remains steadfast,

**C: be our constant support and strength, be our guiding light in every darkness, be our hope in every despair, and the one who will welcome us home when the day is done.**

P: We join together today, conscious of our faults, our failures, as well as our regrets,

C: **we come to you, loving God, in this moment of silence, to ask for your support, your care, for forgiveness, and your compassion.**

*A brief time of silence*

P: We give thanks, gracious God for your mercy and love, given now and always, which gives us the confidence and resolve to pray and to serve in Jesus' name. In his ✠ holy name, your sins are forgiven.

C: **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG – How Firm a Foundation**

**ELW 796**



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

**\*THE GREETING**

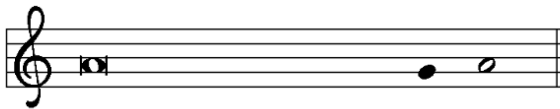
**(ELW p. 147)**

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.



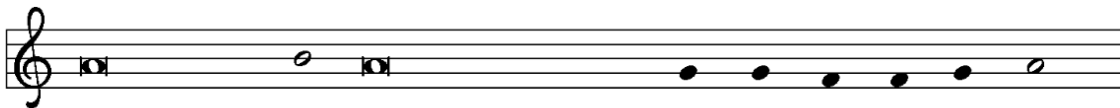
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a**

**Lector**

*Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.*

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup> See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2a</sup> But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

**Lector**

*Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.*

A reading from 2 Thessalonians.

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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 21:5-19**

*As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.*

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>5</sup> When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>7</sup> They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup> "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup> there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup> This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup> So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your souls."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Ryan Radtke**



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 -  
ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



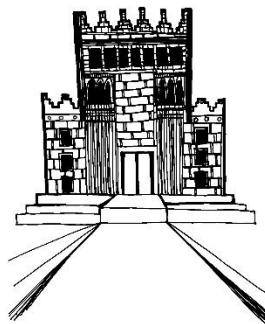
side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



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:** Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

**A:** God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

**A:** God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

**A:** God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

**A:** God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C: *Your mercy is great.***

A: God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all relationships, bless this branch of the body of Christ that is Messiah Lutheran Church. Strengthen all its relationships and weave your love and grace into each family and household. We especially pray this week for the Blosser, Bradley-Combs, and Buckholtz families. Make us your people. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*OFFERING**

***Thanking Hymn, Sung by Susie Weaver & Cheryl Griffis  
Written by Steve Varney, former MLC member***

**\*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

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

A: 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.

**C: 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**

(ELW p. 153)

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:** 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:** Let us stand firm in faith in the face of all the world throws at us, as we witness this week to the grace of God, the love of † Jesus, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, blessed in the name of The Three.

**C:** **And may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. Amen.**



**\*SENDING SONG – God Alone Be Praised**

**ACS 1023 (Words)**

**ELW 486 (Tune)**

**Verse 1**

Oceans rise, the coastland trembles;  
mountains melt and dry earth  
    crumbles.  
All the world with longing groans.  
Love abides, this gracious promise  
is our help, our hope and solace.  
God's strong word is solid ground.

**Verse 3**

Come and see; God's mercy gathers  
all that sin and grief have shattered.  
Life from fields of death is raised.  
Peace, be still; let prideful thunder  
yield to songs of joy and wonder.  
God and God alone be praised.

*Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 46  
Text © 2016 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress*

**Verse 2**

Nations rage, the empire falters;  
seeking refuge, exiles wander.  
Walls and weapons rise from fear.  
Through this wilderness a river  
flows to heal and bless us ever.  
God the crucified dwells here.

**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – November 16, 2025**

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Teresa Gigante (2nd Lay Asst.) Donna Combs
- Lector: Diana Sondor
- Acolyte: Dean Anderson
- Greeter: Marilyn Gunn
- Ushers: James Anderson & Chris Sondor
- Altar Guild: Lois Schroeder & Lorrie Albertson
- Counters: Johnnie & Becky Collie
- Live Streamer: Donna Shaw

\*\*\*\*\*



Altar Flowers given by Donna Combs



\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH**

November 16	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
	Thanksgiving Dinner	
November 18	Old Ivy Garden Club	9:15 AM
	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	AA	5:30 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
November 19	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
November 20	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
November 21	Church Office Closed	
November 21-23	Lost and Found	
November 23	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
November 25	AA	5:30 PM
November 26	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
November 27	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving	
November 28	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving	
November 30	Christian Formation	9:15 AM
	Worship Service	10:45 AM
December 2	Banner Team	1:00 PM
	AA	5:30 PM
December 3	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
December 4	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 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.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Numbers For the 45th Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3,406.05
- Contributions for current Nov 9th were \$7796.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$153,272.27
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$159,448.41
- Designated Giving for the 45th Sunday was \$1,690.00

## **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.

## **POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

Advent and Christmas will be here before we know it! In order to enhance our worship space we will be using live poinsettias around the altar area as before, and we would like to give you the opportunity to donate one or more. The cost is a donation of \$17.50. You may place payment in the weekly offering (please mark the envelope/check "poinsettia." Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by Sunday, November 30, as the florist has an early deadline.

## **SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS AND TALENTS**

Are you a singer? Maybe you play an instrument? We'd love to hear you! Messiah's Worship Team would like to invite folks with musical gifts to share them in worship. You could sing a solo or duet...you could play during the prelude or postlude...you could join in on a hymn...or whatever else might work! Don't have time in your schedule to be a regular choir member? Consider joining choir for a special festival anthem for Christmas or Easter or another special occasion. Music is a truly a gift! If you have questions or curiosities or ideas about what might work for you, please talk to Debbie!

## **MCEF NEWS**

October was the busiest month of 2025 with 201 visits to the pantry which assisted 574 clients. They received 280 well-filled bags of groceries and 131 clients received clothing. Senior rides provided 161 rides to seniors for doctor visits and other essential services. Financial assistance was received by 22 households.

Donations for Thanksgiving bags have been generous, thanks to all donors. The day to day needs continue for things such as canned beets, ketchup, pancake mix and syrup, anything that you use in your kitchen.

There is a critical shortage of drivers for the Senior Rides ministry. Several drivers are currently unable to drive for health reasons. This is very rewarding for the rider as well as the driver. You choose the rides that you can take, they are never assigned. Please see Gladys Hubert for more information or check out information on the website [4mcef.com](http://4mcef.com). THANK YOU for all your contributions.

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

This month is a fundraising month for our group. The youth Christmas Shop will have its GRAND OPENING on November 23rd. Stop by and check out this year's offerings!

## **MORE THAN DECOR: NEW TESTAMENT**

We're continuing our look into the deeper contexts and backgrounds of popular Bible-verse wall art, but now moving from the Prophets of the Old Testament to some of the more quotable and frameable verses from The Gospels, Paul, and more. We'd love to hear what you have to say!

## **BANNER TEAM**

The Banner Team will meet on the first and second Tuesday of each month. This month we will meet on November 18 in the church fellowship hall. We are making good progress on our current banner project and plan on keeping up the work! We meet at 1:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall and anyone who is interested in joining us is welcome! (P.S. please bring your own scissors.)

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Because of the holidays in December our meeting schedule will be changed to take that into consideration. We will meet on December 10th at the usual times of 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Check with your group leader to see which chapters will be read and what plans have been made. Questions? Talk to Nancy Berg, Marilyn Gunn or Donna Combs.

## **DAY OF CELEBRATIONS!**

Sunday, December 7th will be a day of celebrations! We celebrate our congregational family with First Sunday Fellowship! We celebrate the coming of our Lord as we decorate our sanctuary! And we celebrate the conclusion of the *Piece by Piece* drive for foster children through enCircle! Please stick around after worship and join the celebrations!

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

All Messiah Members are encouraged to attend our Annual Congregational Business Meeting on Sunday, December 14, following the worship service. We will discuss and vote on the proposed 2026 budget, we will ask for nominations and vote to fill open positions on our church council, and we'll discuss any other business of the congregation.

## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful Clergy Appreciation Month gifts. The cards, gifts, goodies, and well-wishes were, as always, generous and heartfelt. I appreciate all of you right back, and your support and prayers for me and my family are humbling. I give thanks that I am able to work alongside all of you in service to God and neighbor for our community and beyond.

--Pastor Ryan





## **BLESSING FOSTER FAMILIES “PIECE BY PIECE”**

### **Hope And Generosity**

The puzzle is starting to take shape! We've collected \$80 so far—which means 8 pieces of our puzzle are now complete! Thank you to everyone who has given so generously to bless our foster families. Each piece we add represents hope, kindness, and the promise of a brighter holiday for these children.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to fill out one or more cards for the foster families we're sponsoring this Christmas. Your words of encouragement will remind them that they are loved, supported, and not alone this holiday season.

Some foster children face overwhelming hardship, yet their hearts remain full of compassion and strength. This week, we share the stories of two remarkable young women whose resilience and generosity shine brightly even through adversity.

### **A Young Lady with a Giving Heart**

A teenage girl, bright and compassionate, found herself in care because her family could not meet her basic needs. Despite the challenges of poverty, she continues to think first of others—especially her homeless uncle, whom she dreams of helping one day. Rather than being adopted, she plans to remain in foster care until she can live independently, determined to use every opportunity to build a better future for herself and for those she loves. Her heart, even in hardship, is full of generosity and hope.

### **A Youth Searching for Stability**

A young lady has faced many disruptions since being separated from her biological family. Her mother has refused contact, and a brief attempt at reconnecting with her father ended when he was incarcerated. These repeated losses have left her feeling uncertain and hurt, yet she continues to show remarkable perseverance. With time and patient care, she is beginning to believe that stability, love, and belonging are still possible for her.