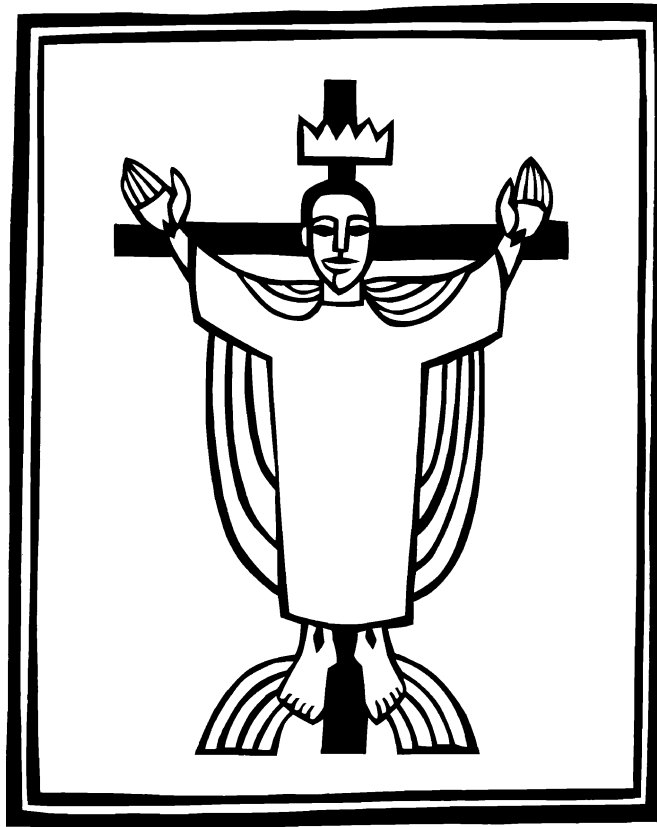


*Messiah Lutheran Church  
Mechanicsville, Virginia*



*November 23, 2025  
Christ the King Sunday*

**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)

Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 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: What kind of king would choose a donkey,

**C: and not a mighty stallion?**

P: What kind of king would choose the way of pain,

**C: and not the path of privilege and pleasure?**

P: What kind of king would choose a thorny crown,

**C: and wooden cross, a throne?**

P: What kind of king...?

**C: Love's champion, defender of the poor, the suffering;**

P: self-giving, not self-serving:

**C: who overturned death, and promised Paradise without prerequisite.**

P: Christ is our king—

**C: let us follow him.**

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: We have sinned against both Shepherd and flock, even at times not knowing that we were blocking the work of divine love.

**C: Forgive us for driving others away from the land of justice and safety.**

P: We have sinned against both Shepherd and flock, even at times not knowing that we were blocking the work of divine love.

**C: Forgive us for not attending to the needs of others.**

P: We have sinned against both Shepherd and flock, even at times not knowing that we were blocking the work of divine love.

**C: Forgive us for not bringing back to the fold those who are fearful, and have gone missing from community.**

P: Like the bandits who were crucified next to Jesus,

**C: we too are forgiven—**

P: no matter how much we may have scoffed at the Shepherd's love,

**C: no matter that sometimes we may not have known what we were doing.**

P: For in the Shepherd all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
**C: and through the Shepherd God was pleased to reconcile to God all things,**  
P: whether on earth or in the heaven,  
**C: by making peace through the blood of the cross.**  
P: The Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, has remembered us and forgiven us—the gates of Paradise have been unlocked; we are free to enter where the Shepherd reigns forever and ever!  
**C: Thanks be to God!**

**\*GATHERING SONG – Rejoice, for Christ Is King**

**ELW 430**

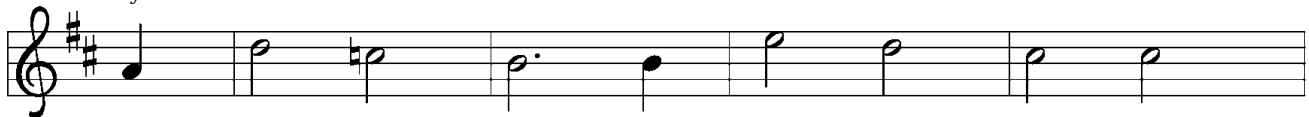


1 Re - joice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;  
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;  
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:  
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:  
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:  
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

*Refrain*



Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



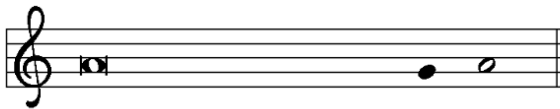
joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

**\*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.**



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.



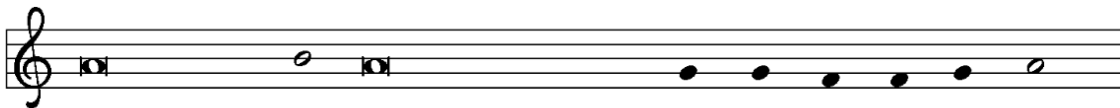
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6**

**Lector**

*Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>1</sup> Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20**

**Lector**

*An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.*

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(ELW p. 151)



**\*GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43**

*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.*

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Pastor Ryan Radtke

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY- You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd**

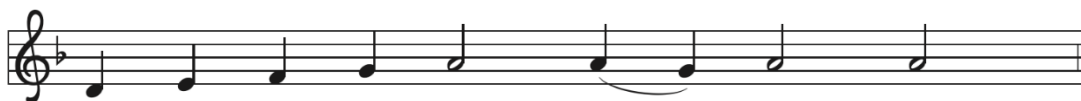
**ACS 954**



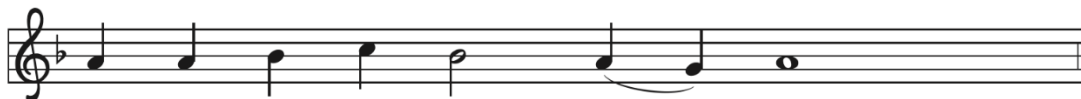
1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
 stripped of might up - on the cross,  
 sit in pow - er at God's side.  
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



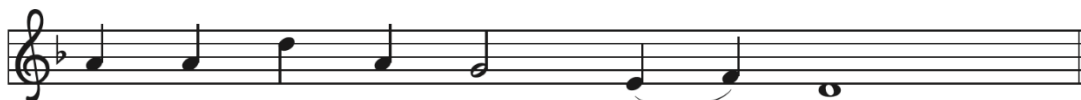
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - grim guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

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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: We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

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

A: We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

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

A: We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God. Hear us, O God.

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

A: We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick (*especially*). Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

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

A: We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

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

A: We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. 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 Buetow, Carr, and Collie 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**

***Praise and Thanksgiving, 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:

A: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

**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,



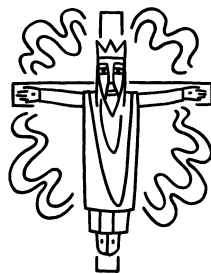
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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  
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: **Amen**

**\*BLESSING**

P: This week may we be reminded that we are Kingdom people. May the cross continue to remind us that we are beloved of God, treasured by Jesus and inspired by the Spirit. In the name of The Three.

C: **Amen.**



**\*SENDING SONG – In Christ There Is No East or West**

**ELW 650**



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;  
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.  
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.  
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man-kind.  
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.  
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.  
Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

**\*DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

**POSTLUDE**

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – November 23, 2025**

- Pianist: Debbie Walker
- Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Nancy Berg
- Lector: Becky Collie
- Acolyte: Abby Schroeder
- Greeter: Rosalee Duke
- Ushers: Daren Williams & Doug Duke
- Altar Guild: Lois Schroeder & Lorrie Albertson
- Counters: Gladys Hubert & Donna Combs
- Live Streamer: Valerie Williams

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH**

|                |   |          |
|----------------|---|----------|
| 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 |
| December 7     | Christian Formation                             | 9:15 AM  |
| December 6     | Congregational Work Day – Property Clean-up     | 9:00 AM  |
|                | Worship Service                                 | 10:45 AM |
|                | First Sunday Fellowship                         |          |
|                | Sanctuary Decoration                            |          |
|                | End of <i>Piece by Piece</i> Drive for EnCircle |          |
| December 9     | AA  | 5:30 PM  |
| December 10    | Women’s Bible Study                             | 10:00 AM |
|                | Hanover Adult Center                            | 12:00 PM |
|                | Women’s Bible Study                             | 6:30 PM  |
| December 11    | Hanover Adult Center                            | 12:00 PM |

***Announcements***

**PASTOR RYAN’S OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Ryan is at Lost and Found this weekend, and will be in and out of the office this week but 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](mailto:messiahmechpr@gmail.com).

**WELCOME TO PASTOR GINNY!**

Please give a warm welcome back to Pastor Ginny Banister today as she leads us in worship and shares the Word with us! We’re glad you’re here, Pastor Ginny!

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Church office hours for Thanksgiving week will be: Monday/Tuesday 10:00-3:00; Wednesday 9:00-2:00; Thursday/Friday Closed.

## **WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Numbers For the 46<sup>th</sup> Sunday of 2025:

- Average Contributions to current were \$3,393.55
- Contributions for current Nov 16<sup>th</sup> were \$2831.00
- The YTD total contribution to current is \$156,103.27
- For comparison, current YTD 2024 was \$171,391.41
- Designated Giving for the 46<sup>th</sup> Sunday was \$270.00

## **NOMINATIONS**

We will have four 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 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!

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup>. Stop by and check out this year's offerings!

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

We're wrapping up our look into the deeper contexts and backgrounds of popular Bible-verse wall art today. Stay tuned for an Advent-inspired study beginning 11/30.

### **BANNER TEAM**

The Banner Team will meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Next month we will meet on December 2 and 16 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.)

### **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.

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

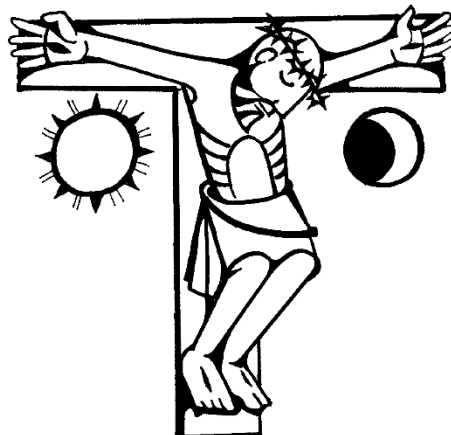
Because of the holidays in December our meeting schedule will be changed to take that into consideration. We will meet on December 10th at the usual times of 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Check with your group leader to see which chapters will be read and what plans have been made. Questions? Talk to Nancy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

### **DAY OF CELEBRATIONS!**

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

### **PROPERTY CLEAN-UP**

We will have a congregational work day on December 6 at 9:00 AM to get the property cleaned up and ready for Christmas. Stay tuned for more details, including sign-up sheets, a to-do list, and a chance to claim a task even if you can't be here on the 6<sup>th</sup>. As they say, many hands make light work. Thanks in advance!





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

### **Courage and Healing**

Our puzzle continues to grow! This week we added **\$110**, bringing our total to **\$190** — which means **19 pieces** of our puzzle are now complete. Thank you for your generosity and for the kindness that continues to flow from our congregation. Each new piece brings us closer to blessing our foster families with joy, connection, and hope this Christmas.

If you would like to contribute, donations may be given directly to **Stephanie or Marilyn**, or you may write a check to the church. If paying by check, **please note “Piece by Piece Foster Children Program”** on the memo line so your gift can be directed appropriately.

We are still very much **in need of cards** for the foster families we are supporting. If you have not yet written one—or if you feel moved to write an additional message—your words can make a profound difference. Even a few sentences of encouragement can remind a child or caregiver that they are valued, prayed for, and surrounded by a loving community.

Some children in foster care carry stories of unimaginable trauma, yet they meet each day with courage that humbles and inspires us. This week, we lift up the story of a young person whose resilience shines through the darkest of circumstances.

### **A Survivor of Unimaginable Trauma**

A young person entered foster care after surviving severe abuse and neglect. Though the physical wounds have healed, the emotional ones remain tender and deep. Yet through immense courage and the support of caring adults, this youth is slowly rebuilding a sense of safety, trust, and hope. Their story is one of unimaginable pain met with extraordinary strength.

As we continue building our puzzle piece by piece, may our hearts be moved with compassion, our hands open in generosity, and our voices lifted in support through the cards we share.