

***Messiah Lutheran Church
Mechanicsville, Virginia***



***July 19, 2026
Eighth 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

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.



***GATHERING SONG – As the Grains of Wheat**

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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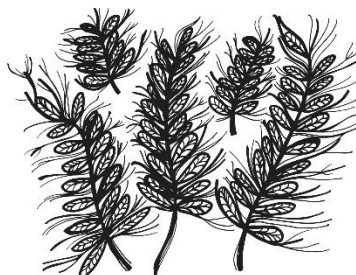
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***THE GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**



TEXAS KYRIE

REFRAIN

L: Lord have mer-cy____ Christ have mer-cy____
C: Lord have mer-cy____ Christ have mer-cy____

L: We pray for peace from a - bove We pray for our sal va - tion.

to REFRAIN

L: We pray for peace in the__ world, We pray for well-ness in your

church, We pray for the u - ni - ty____ of all.

to REFRAIN

L: We pray for this ho - ly____ place. We pray for all who ga-ther here.

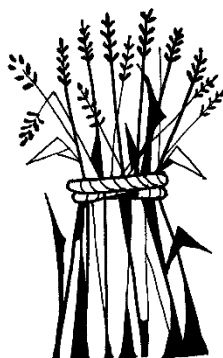
to CHORUS

L: Oh Lord__ help us, save us, Oh Lord__ com-fort and de-fend__ us.

to AMEN

AMEN

L: A - men____ A - men____
C: A - men____ A - men____



GLORY IN THE HIGHEST

[C:] Glo - ry in the high - est, Glo - ry be to God,
 Glo - ry in the high - est, And peace to all the earth.

[L:] Sha-per of the U - ni - verse thanks and praise we sing
 Je - sus Christ the Lamb of_ God you wash our sins a - way
 Ho - ly Spi-rit, source of_ life, bur-ning wild and free

[C:] Sha-per of the U - ni - verse thanks and praise we sing
 Je - sus Christ the Lamb of God you wash our sins a - way
 Ho - ly Spi rit, source of life, bur - ning wild and free

[L:] Lo - ving fa - ther, ca - ring mo - ther_
 At your ta - ble all are wel come_
 You are God the three - in - one_____

[C:] Lo - ving fa - ther, ca - ring mo - ther_
 At your ta - ble all are wel come_
 You are God the three - in - one_____

[L:] Hold us in your_ wings._____
 Hear us as we_ pray._____
 such a my - ste - ry._____

[C:] Hold us in your_ wings._____
 Hear us as we_ pray._____
 such a my - ste - ry._____

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray:

C: *Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8**Lector**

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

A reading from Isaiah.

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 6: 8:12-25**Lector**

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

A reading from Romans.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of

the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

³⁷He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes

of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

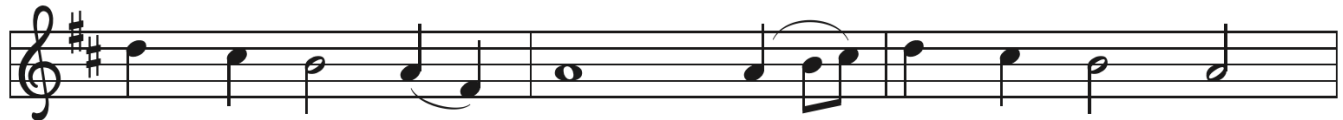
Pastor Ryan Radtke

HYMN OF THE DAY- *The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field

ACS 952



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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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: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A: God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace,

C: *hear our prayer.*

A: God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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 Gooch, Griffin, and Griffis families. Make us your people. God of Grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING – *You may place an “I give online” card in the plate as a physical offering*

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

ELW 692

Chorus 1

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

Bridge

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

Chorus 2

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

***OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray:

C: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

[L:] The Lord be with you Lift up your hearts
 [C:] And al - so with_ you. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give_ thanks to the Lord our_ God
 It is right to give God 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

[C:] Ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly Lord_____ Lord God of pow'r and might.

Hea-ven and_ earth are full_____ full of_ your glo - ry_____

Ho - sa - nah in the high_ est_ Ho - sa - nah in the high - est_

Bles-sed is_ he who comes_____ in the name_____ of the Lord_

Ho - sa - nah in the high_ est_ Ho - sa - nah 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: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG – Lamb of God

Lamb of God you take a - way_ the sin of the world,

Have mer - cy, mer - cy on_ us Lamb of

God you take a - way_ the sin of the world,

Oh grant us peace, Lamb of_ God

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 – Praise to You, O God of Mercy**

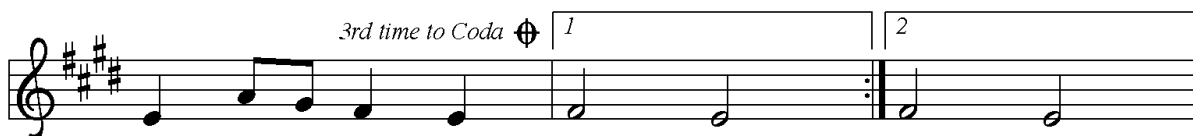
ELW 208



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray:

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*BLESSING

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: **Amen**

*SENDING SONG – *For the Fruit of All Creation*

ELW 679



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – July 19, 2026

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Teresa Gigante (2nd Lay Asst.) Heather Williams
Lector: Nancy Berg
Acolyte: Wesley Williams
Greeters: Marilyn Gunn
Usher: Daren Williams & Max Williams
Altar Guild: Lois Schroeder & Lorrie Albertson
Counters: Gordon & Marilyn Gunn
Live Streamer: Valerie Williams

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

July 17-27	Church Office Closed	
July 18	Hanover Safe Place Rooted in Safety	11:00 AM
July 19	Worship Service	10:30 AM
	Manna Sunday	
	Shepherd's Team Meeting	11:30 AM
July 21	AA	5:30 PM
	AA Business Meeting	7:00 PM
July 22	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
July 23	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
July 26	Worship Service (Joint with All Souls)	10:30 AM
	Fellowship with All Souls	
July 28	AA	5:30 PM
July 29	PAL Quilt Group Picnic	
July 30	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
August 2	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	
August 4	AA	5:30 PM
August 5	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
August 6	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
August 9	Worship Service	10:45 AM
August 11	AA	5:30 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
August 12	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
August 13	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
August 16	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
August 18	AA	5:30 PM
	AA Business Meeting	7:00 PM
August 19	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
August 20	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM

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Announcements

PASTOR RYAN'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Ryan will be in and out of the office this week, but especially aims to be in on Tuesday 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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed July 17-27.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total giving received last week was \$1,945.99. This number includes giving to current (budgeted items), designated giving, electronic giving, and other miscellaneous gifts and income. To see a more detailed accounting of our income and expenses, please refer to the monthly Financial Secretary and Treasurer reports that are sent out with the Church Council minutes.

JULY COMBINED WORSHIP WITH ALL SOULS

On July 5, 12, and 26, worship will begin at 10:30 AM. Pastor Ryan and Rev. Katherine designed a worship service that weaves together our Lutheran and Episcopal liturgies into one combined worship service. This is a lovely way to join with one another in celebrating God and God's love for all people. It will also give us the chance to notice how our liturgies are similar to one another.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

You've likely seen the news that two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela last week. Entire communities have been shaken to the ground. More than 1,700 lives have been confirmed lost so far, thousands more are injured, and countless families are now without shelter, safety or access to necessities. Lutheran Disaster Response is already responding, with the help of established partners, to give aid and assistance. Visit the LDR website for ways to give, or talk to Pastor Ryan.

MANNA SUNDAY

Manna Sunday is TODAY. The current MCEF pantry needs include pasta sauce, tuna fish and bar soap. Other needs include clean, gently used or new TOWELS and men's jeans with waist size 30 or 32, any length. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

LSM CONCERTS

The Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival is once again offering free recordings and livestreams of its recitals, concerts, and worship services throughout the month of July. Visit <https://www.lsmacademy.org/calendar> to check it out!

SCHOOL BUS TO SUCCESS

Our School Bus to Success has arrived in the narthex, and we invite you to help us prepare local foster children for a successful start to the new school year!

Beginning this Sunday, you can choose a School Bus Pass from the display next to the bus. Each pass represents a "route" to success and contains a list of school supplies needed for a foster child. Passes include supplies worth from \$5-\$30. Simply choose a pass that fits your budget, purchase the listed items, and return both the supplies and your Bus Pass to the collection area.

As donations are received, we'll ask our youth to add children to the windows of our bus after the children's sermon, watching it fill up throughout the drive. Together, we'll see the impact of our generosity as more and more children are "on board" and ready for the first day of school.

Our collection will continue through Sunday, August 9.

Thank you for helping ensure that children in foster care begin the school year with the tools they need—and the reminder that a caring community is cheering them on every step of the way.





Messiah Lutheran Church

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Mechanicsville, Virginia 23111
804-746-7134

web page: www.MessiahMech.com
e-mail: MessiahMech@gmail.com

The Rev. Ryan Radtke, Pastor

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Cheryl Griffis
Vice President	Cathryn O'Brien
Secretary	Cory Gooch
Treasurer	Emily Reagan
Financial Secretary	Dona Polesky
Parish Nurse	Sue Gilnett, RN

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES/TEAM LEADERS

MINISTRY	COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES	TEAM LEADER
Christian Formation	Anita Philp	Anita Philp
Evangelism	Cheryl Griffis	Cheryl Griffis
Fellowship	Cathryn O'Brien	Becky Collie
Property	Daren Williams	
Social Ministry	Rosalee Duke	Stephanie Shea
Stewardship	John Shea	
Worship	James Anderson	Debbie Walker