

Messiah Lutheran Church *Mechanicsville, Virginia*



September 6, 2026
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To share the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to invite all to join us in faith, worship, and service.*

The service will be livestreamed at 10:45 am on Messiah's FB page, and that video will be available later on the church website and YouTube. Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/MessiahMech/>

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

8154 Atlee Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Pastor: The Rev. Ryan Radtke

Church: (804) 746-7134; Email: MessiahMech@gmail.com; Website: MessiahMech.com

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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.



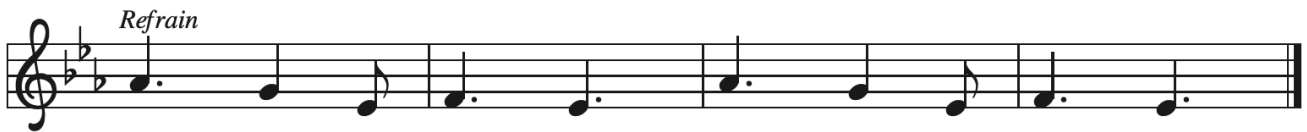
***GATHERING SONG –God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me ACS 1084
O Christ, Surround Me**



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
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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____

to REFRAIN

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

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

to REFRAIN

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

to CHORUS

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

to AMEN

L: Oh Lord help us, save us, Oh Lord com-fort and de-fend us.

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: *O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11**Lector**

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14**Lector**

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

A reading from Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: *Glory to you, O Lord.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Kate Hoffstaetter





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



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



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



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

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

***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: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers,
confident that God hears us.

A: Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce
the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways.
Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of
all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal
communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away
from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good
of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore
broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry
with us. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness
and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even
through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

A: Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the
nearness of your salvation for (*name/s, and*) all who have gone before us.
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
Porter, Radtke, and Reagan families. Make us your people. Hear us, O God.

C: *Your mercy is great.*

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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

First system of musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The top staff has a treble clef and the bottom staff has a bass clef. The lyrics are: [L:] The Lord be with you Lift up your hearts. Below the staves, the lyrics continue: [C:] And al - so with_ you. We lift them to the Lord.

Second system of musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The top staff has a treble clef and the bottom staff has a bass clef. The lyrics are: 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

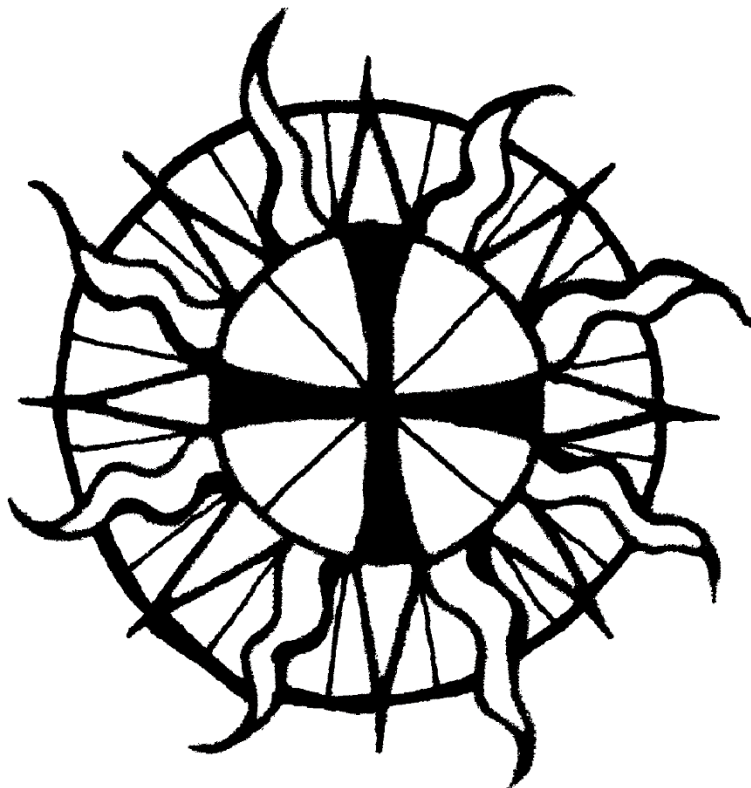
COMMUNION SONG – *Lamb of God*



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**

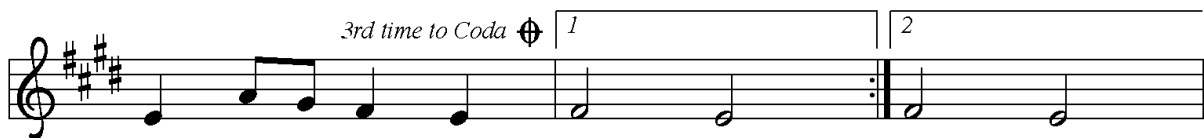
ELW 208



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 – The Lord Now Sends Us Forth** **Enviado soy de Dios**

ELW 538



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.
Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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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 – September 6, 2026

Pianist: Debbie Walker
Lay Assistants: (1st Lay Asst.) Gladys Hubert (2nd Lay Asst.) Lorrie Albertson
Lector: Leroy Albertson
Acolyte: Kate Radtke
Greeter: Rosalee Duke
Ushers: Roger Schroeder & Gordon Gunn
Altar Guild: Gladys Hubert & Andrea Alness
Counters: Marilyn & Gordon Gunn
Live Streamer: Heather Williams

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MESSIAH

September 6	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	First Sunday Fellowship	
September 8	AA	5:30 PM
	Messiah Church Council Meeting	6:15 PM
September 9	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 10	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 11	MCEF Patriotic Concert at Walnut Grove Baptist	7:00 PM
September 13	Rally Day All-Ages Kickoff Event	9:30 AM
	Worship Service with:	10:45 AM
	First Communion	
	Affirmation of Baptism	
	Quilt Blessing	
	First Sunday Potluck , Sunday School, Youth Group	12:30 PM
September 15	AA	5:30 PM
	AA Business Meeting	7:00 PM
September 16	PAL Quilt Group	9:00 AM
September 17	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 20	Worship Service	10:45 AM
	Manna Sunday	
September 22	Old Ivy Garden Club	9:15 AM
	AA	5:30 PM
September 23	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 24	Hanover Adult Center	12:00 PM
September 26	Hanover Safe Place Rooted in Safety	11:00 AM
September 27	Worship Team Meeting	12:30 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 Thursday. As always, to set up an appointment with Pastor Ryan, please call or email at 507-360-7276 and/or messiahmechpr@gmail.com.

GUEST PREACHER TODAY

Please welcome Kate Hoffstaetter to Messiah Lutheran today! Kate is an elementary school teacher from the Suffolk area, a veteran small group leader for Synod youth events, and a current seminarian at United Lutheran Seminary. We're excited to have her here! Thanks, Kate!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will change to Fall time on Tuesday, September 8. Office hours will be Tuesday/Thursday, noon-5:00 PM and Wednesday/Friday, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Total giving received last week was \$1,875.00. 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.

RALLY DAY KICKOFF!

September 13th is Rally Day! Our program year will be up and running once more. Everyone is invited to the Sunday school hour for a kickoff event. You are invited to an interactive experience before worship to see who you relate to in the Bible. Come and immerse!

During worship we will celebrate an Affirmation of Baptism...a First Communion...and a quilt blessing!

Then, after worship, you are invited to bring a dish to pass for a First Sunday *Potluck*. And we will be debuting our new Sunday school approach: we'll have an elementary class, a youth class/youth group, and a parenting-in-faith get-together for any parents or other guardians who are raising kids or teens. We'll use this after-worship schedule every first Sunday for the rest of the school year.

We're so excited to celebrate all these different aspects of our life together as Messiah Lutheran Church!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is providing relief following earthquakes and flooding in a multitude of places around the country and world, as well as the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. 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, support, and participate, or talk to Pastor Ryan with any questions.

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 Reformation Day or Thanksgiving or another special occasion. Music is truly a gift! If you have questions or curiosities or ideas about what might work for you, please talk to Debbie!

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMING UP...

Starting Sunday, September 20th, our adult Sunday school class will go back to basics using the book *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*. Each week we'll explore some very good questions about our Holy Scriptures. We love questions! And then, stay tuned for more information about a new Zoom-based book study starting a little later this fall.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH HIGH SCHOOL QUILT PROJECT

Hello, Messiah seniors! It's that time of year. Are you a high school senior? We need your email address. Do you know a Messiah senior? We need their email address.

For the last two years, a group of quilters made - you guessed it! - quilts for Messiah's high school graduates. We'd like to do that again to celebrate your achievements. We will email you a short questionnaire...please fill it out and submit by December 1, 2026.

Have a Blessed Senior Year!

QUILTERS NEEDED

Do you like to quilt? Would you like to learn to quilt?

Would you like to join the quilters of the Messiah Lutheran Church High School Quilt Project? We would love to have you join us to make quilts for our Messiah high school graduates. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Cheryl Griffis at candlgriffis@gmail.com or call at 804-366-0074.



Messiah Lutheran Church

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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
Youth	Cory Gooch	