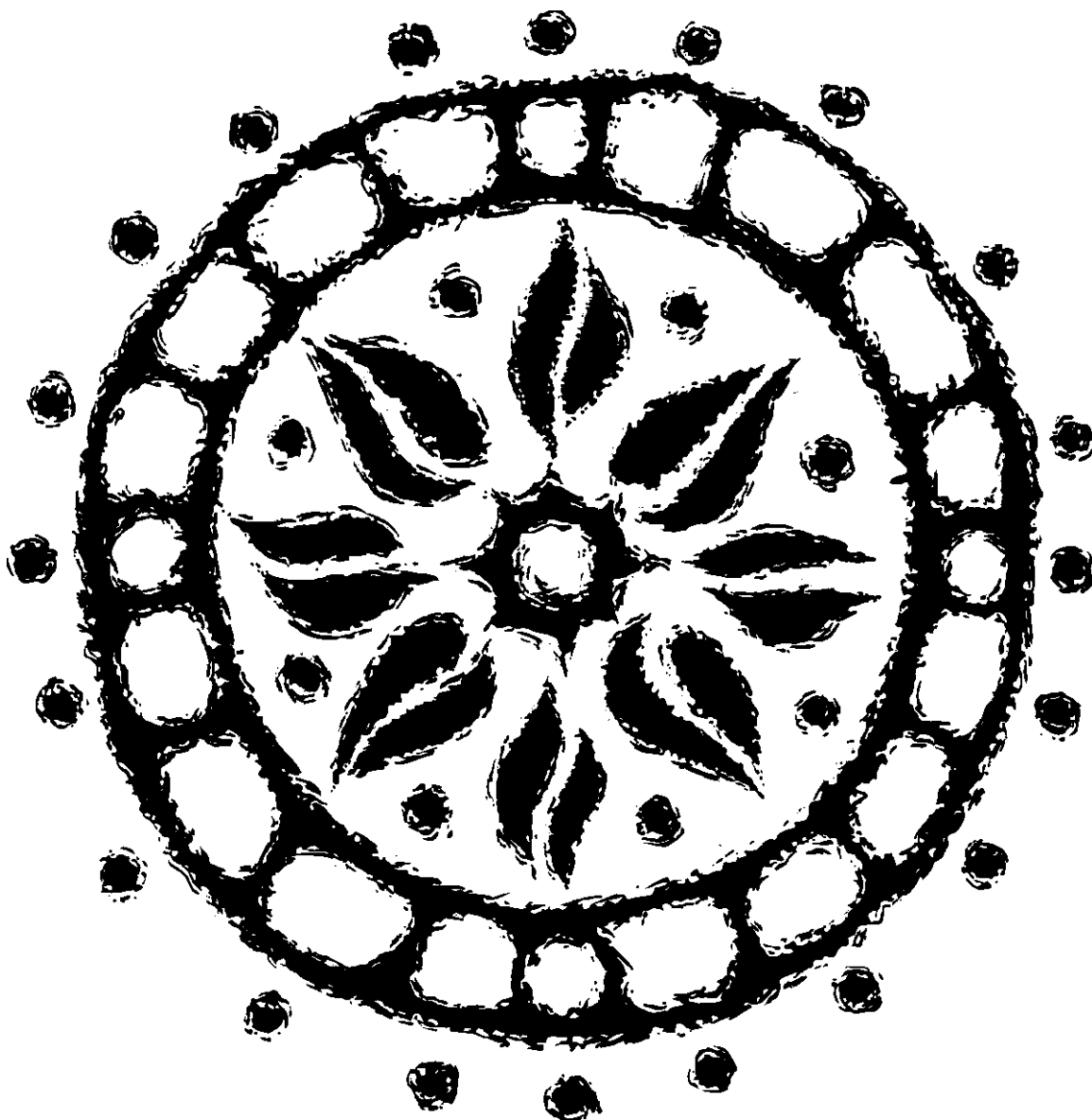


MESSIAH LUTHERAN  
*Skidaway Island*  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**Sunday, July 27, 2025**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411  
(912) 598-1188  
[www.messiahsi.org](http://www.messiahsi.org)

# GATHERING

*NOTE: Congregational Responses in Bold Type*

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community. ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US in the Fellowship Hall following the service for conversation, coffee, and snacks.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Voluntary in G*

Heron

*Please stand if you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,**  
**but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**  
**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,**  
**but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**  
**You surround us with patience, kindness,**  
**and generosity,**  
**but we grow weary in doing what is right.**  
**In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.**

**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG**

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

**Hymn 533**

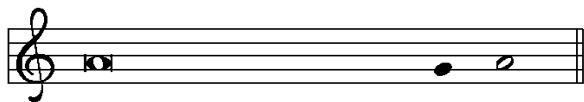
**v. 1-4**

## **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

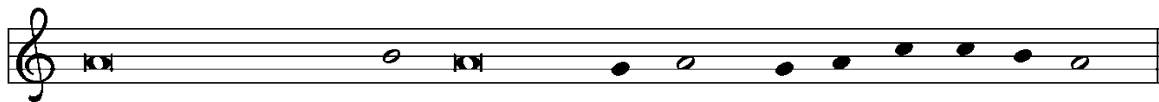
# KYRIE



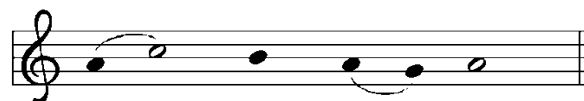
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



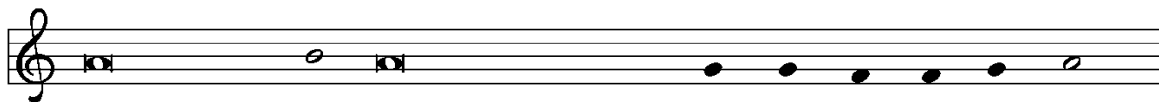
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-ty 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

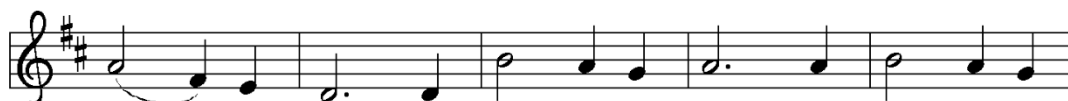


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*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

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## ANTHEM

*Suffer the Little Children*  
Summer Choir

Bonnemère

*The congregation is invited to join in for the refrain:*

*Suffer the little children to come unto me,*

*For such is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Suffer the little children to come unto me,*

*For such is the kingdom of heaven.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:11

Old Testament 577

<sup>12</sup> I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. <sup>14</sup> I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

<sup>15</sup> What is crooked cannot be made straight,  
and what is lacking cannot be counted.

<sup>16</sup> I said to myself, “I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my mind has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.” <sup>17</sup> And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a chasing after wind.

<sup>18</sup> For in much wisdom is much vexation,  
and those who increase knowledge increase sorrow.

<sup>1</sup> I said to myself, “Come now, I will make a test of pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But again, this also was vanity. <sup>2</sup> I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” <sup>3</sup> I searched with my mind how to cheer my body with wine—my mind still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, until I might see what was good for mortals to do under heaven during the few days of their life. <sup>4</sup> I made great works; I

built houses and planted vineyards for myself; <sup>5</sup> I made myself gardens and parks and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. <sup>6</sup> I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. <sup>7</sup> I bought male and female slaves and had slaves who were born in my house; I also had great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup> I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and of the provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and delights of the flesh, many concubines.

<sup>9</sup> So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem; also my wisdom remained with me. <sup>10</sup> Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them; I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure from all my toil, and this was my reward from all my toil. <sup>11</sup> Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had spent in doing it, and again, all was vanity and a chasing after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 63**

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup> **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.**

<sup>3</sup> Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise you.

<sup>4</sup> **So I will bless you as long as I live;  
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

<sup>5</sup> My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

<sup>6</sup> **when I think of you on my bed  
and meditate on you in the watches of the night,**

<sup>7</sup> for you have been my help,

and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

<sup>8</sup> **My soul clings to you;  
your right hand upholds me.**

<sup>9</sup> But those who seek to destroy my life  
shall go down into the depths of the earth;

<sup>10</sup> **they shall be given over to the power of the sword;  
they shall be prey for jackals.**

<sup>11</sup> But the king shall rejoice in God;  
all who swear by him shall exult,  
for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-3**

**New Testament 141**

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you are able.*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 12: 16-21

**New Testament 64**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

*What Goes in the Box*

Pastor Ken Ritz

*Please stand if you are able.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright*

**Hymn 745**  
**v. 1-4**

## **APOSTLES' 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**

*Response after each prayer:* God of grace,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Response at end:* Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

# LORD'S PRAYER

## SENDING

### PASTORAL BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

**Hymn 543**

### POSTLUDE

*Now Thank We All Our God*

Karg-Elert  
arr. Wells

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today by:

- **Katharine & John Marshall** *in honor of their wedding anniversary*, and
- **Shirley Stiber** *with thankfulness for God's blessings*.

**ETERNAL CANDLE** for July is given by **Shirley & Phil Nack** *in celebration of our wonderful Messiah family*.

## TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER

Pastor Talsness is away again today. Messiah's own Ken Ritz is leading worship in his absence. Ken and his wife Kathy have been active members of the congregation since February of 2023. In 1994 he quit the corporate world and became pastor of a church near Cincinnati, and Ken ended up staying there for 28 years (during this time he earned a Master of Theology degree from Regent University). He retired in June of 2022 after which they moved to The Landings.

## OUTREACH MINISTRY

### **Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia**

The July food for collection is packaged snack crackers with cheese or peanut butter.

Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk to volunteer to transport the monthly donations to Second Harvest at the end of each month. There are still two months this year without volunteers.

### **“Back to School” Supply Drive**

#### **Deadline: Today**

The Outreach Ministry thanks everyone who has contributed to this drive!

School starts in August, and the Outreach Ministry will be collecting school supplies the entire month of July with donations going to The Learning Academy. Needed items: red and black pens, college ruled composition books, glue sticks, scissors, colored pencils, crayons, paper towels, antibacterial wipes, tissues, hand sanitizer, and zip lock bags. Leave donations at the Outreach Table in the Narthex. If you would like to donate money, make a check out to Messiah Lutheran with “Back to School Drive” in the memo line and drop it in the offering plate.

## **THE ARTS AT MESSIAH 2025**

**Friday, August 8, at 7:00 pm**

The final concert of the 2025 season will feature two internationally acclaimed musicians — pianist Catherine Lan and cellist Claudio Jaffé, playing together as Duo Arpeggione. Their program will demonstrate some of the best works for this winning combination of instruments. The program — Beethoven's groundbreaking A Major sonata, Grieg's ultra-romantic masterpiece Sonata No. 3, and Foote's lyrical pieces for cello and piano, will be pure musical magic! *No reservations are required. No admission charge, but donations for the concert series are welcomed.*

## **PARISH LIFE MINISTRY**

**Ladies Fellowship**

**Thursday, August 14, 5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Join the group at Jane Holst's house at 29 Riverwatch Lane for fun and fellowship. Bring an appetizer or wine. Please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk or see the information about online signups. Contact Gayle Denny (513.604.0764) if you need a gate pass.

## **HELP TEST ONLINE SIGN UPS**

Messiah is testing SignUp.com (an online tool) for events or to volunteer. There are two opportunities to pilot this new approach to supplement lists on the Narthex Kiosk--one to attend the August 14 Ladies Fellowship and another to volunteer to assist with Coffee Fellowship.

The Church Office staff will make sure that the paper signups and the online list match--so there is no need to do both. Be sure to share your feedback with the office staff, since it is a pilot.

You can reach the web pages to sign up in one of three ways:

1. Click on this link: <https://signup.com/go/zKpExsq>
2. Click on the Sign Up button on Messiah's website ([messiahsi.org](https://messiahsi.org))
3. Use the QR code.



## **FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

### **A Message from Rodney Powers, Choir Director**

Messiah is recruiting new choir members for the upcoming calendar year. If you are interested in joining, you would be welcomed by a warm and loving group of people that are dedicated to one common goal: to provide exceptional music for worship. I know there are some musicians out there in the congregation that might commit to the choir.

Beyond the general recruitment for the choir, we need SOPRANOS. For various reasons, the soprano section is in immediate need of new members. Generally, the soprano sings the melody. The ability to read music is not a necessity. We work on music reading and vocal production at every rehearsal.

If you are interested in sharing your talent with the congregation, the first rehearsal for this coming season is on Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. We sing every Sunday, wear robes, warm up in the Choir Room at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays and provide leadership for the congregational singing as well as an anthem (special music) for worship. Please pray about this opportunity to help the congregation through music. If you are interested, please let me know and/or attend the first rehearsal in September. Call or text me (912.321.4048).

## **SERMON PREVIEW**

### **What Goes in the Box**

Pastor Ken Ritz will be discussing some of the big questions of life, like “why were we born?”, “what is our purpose while we live?”, and “what must be at the center of our lives?”, using the Bible book of Ecclesiastes as a starting point.



# THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Minister, Pastoral Care	Karen Scheib
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Elizabeth A. Eaton
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Pat Cooper
Reader	Elijah Nguyen
Evangelism Greeters	Milda & Terry Blaney
Ushers	Clyde Olson and Kathy Ritz
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Audio Visual	Steve Allen, Ben Baur and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Jennifer Nguyen (host & treats)

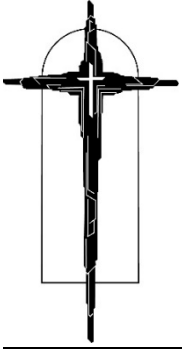
## MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Frank Liebgott 07/30, Karin Viglione 07/30, Betty Mitchell 07/30*

*Anniversaries: Phil & Shirley Nack 07/27, Michele & Steve Derr 07/28,*

*Trish & Rick Tallon 07/28, Lisa & Richard Oswald 07/29,*

*Katharine & John Marshall 07/31*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, July 27	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class
Monday, July 28	3:15 pm Nominating Committee 4:30 pm Council Meeting 6:30 <i>pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, July 29	3 pm MLC Staff Meeting
Wednesday, July 30	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group
Thursday, July 31	
Friday, August 1	
Saturday, August 2	

*Italics indicate Outside Groups.*



# CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

POSITION	NAME (Term Ends)	PHONE	EMAIL
Pastor	Jason Talsness	770.570-7407	skidawaypastorj@gmail.com
Education & Discipleship	Randi VenHuizen (2025)	402.216.3067	randiv1026@gmail.com
Evangelism (Membership)	Claire Cornwell-Williams (2025)	912.658.4114	cwilliams17@comcast.net
Finance	Chloe Baur (2026)	605.430.7444	chloebaur@outlook.com
Parish Life	Gayle Denny (2026)	513.604.0764	gdgardener@comcast.net
Property	Tim Andrews (2025)	612.868.5222	timandrews1114@comcast.net
Outreach	Lisa Oswald (2026)	203.554.5845	laoswald@icloud.com
Staff Support/Mutual Ministry	Milda Blaney (2025) *	912.247.6898	mildablaney@gmail.com
Stewardship	Steve Derr (2025)	912.429.6371	sederr83@gmail.com
Treasurer	Parker Pearson (No Term)	410.349.7704	parkpear@aol.com
Worship & Music	Pat Cooper (2027)	912.508.4250	cooperpat5@gmail.com

\*Milda Blaney is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

Officers/Executive Team: Claire Cornwell Williams, President; Tim Andrews, Vice-President; Steve Derr, Secretary; Parker Pearson, Treasurer.

## ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website ([messiahsi.org](http://messiahsi.org)) and clicking on the Donate tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader.



If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.





