

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

The Church's One Foundation

arr. Jordan

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

How Firm a Foundation

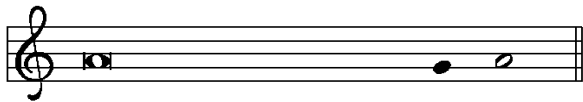
Hymn 796

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



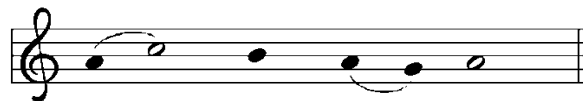
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



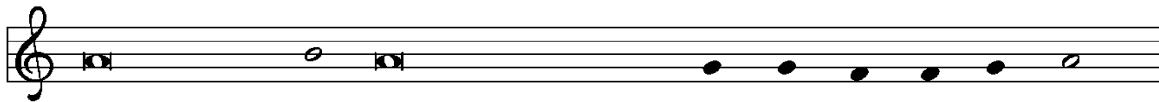
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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-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

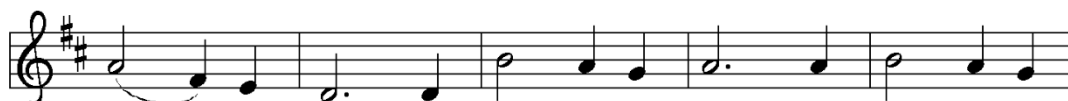


strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

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

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

ANTHEM

Prelude from Cello Suite in D Minor

J.S. Bach

Oskar Johnson-Liu, cello

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Old Testament 685

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 82

Arise, O God, and rule the earth. (Ps. 82:8)

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **“How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?”**

³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’”

⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

New Testament 199

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received

their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

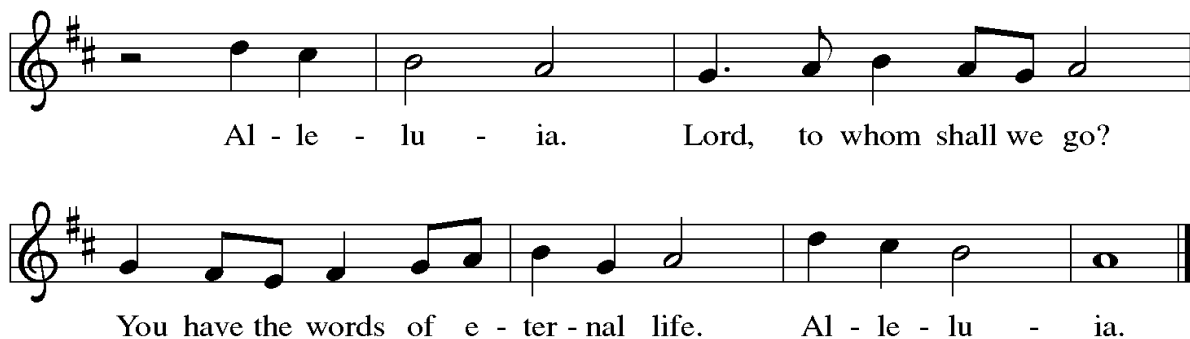
^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 12: 49-56

New Testament 65

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

From Wilderness to the Finish Line

Rev. Jason Talsness

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Walk by Faith

Hymn 635

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.**

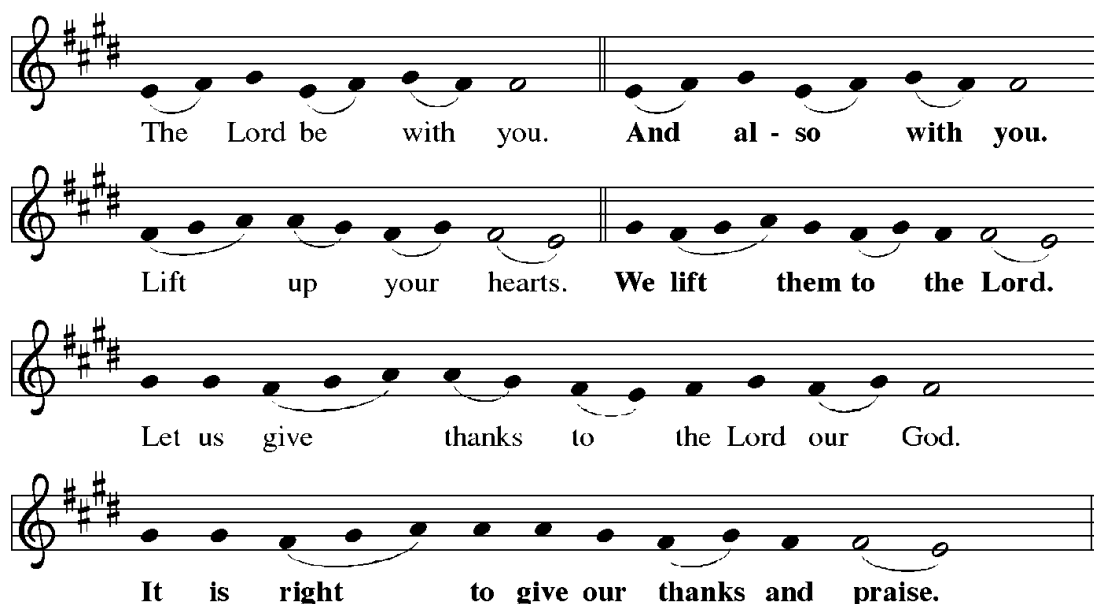
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

MEAL

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

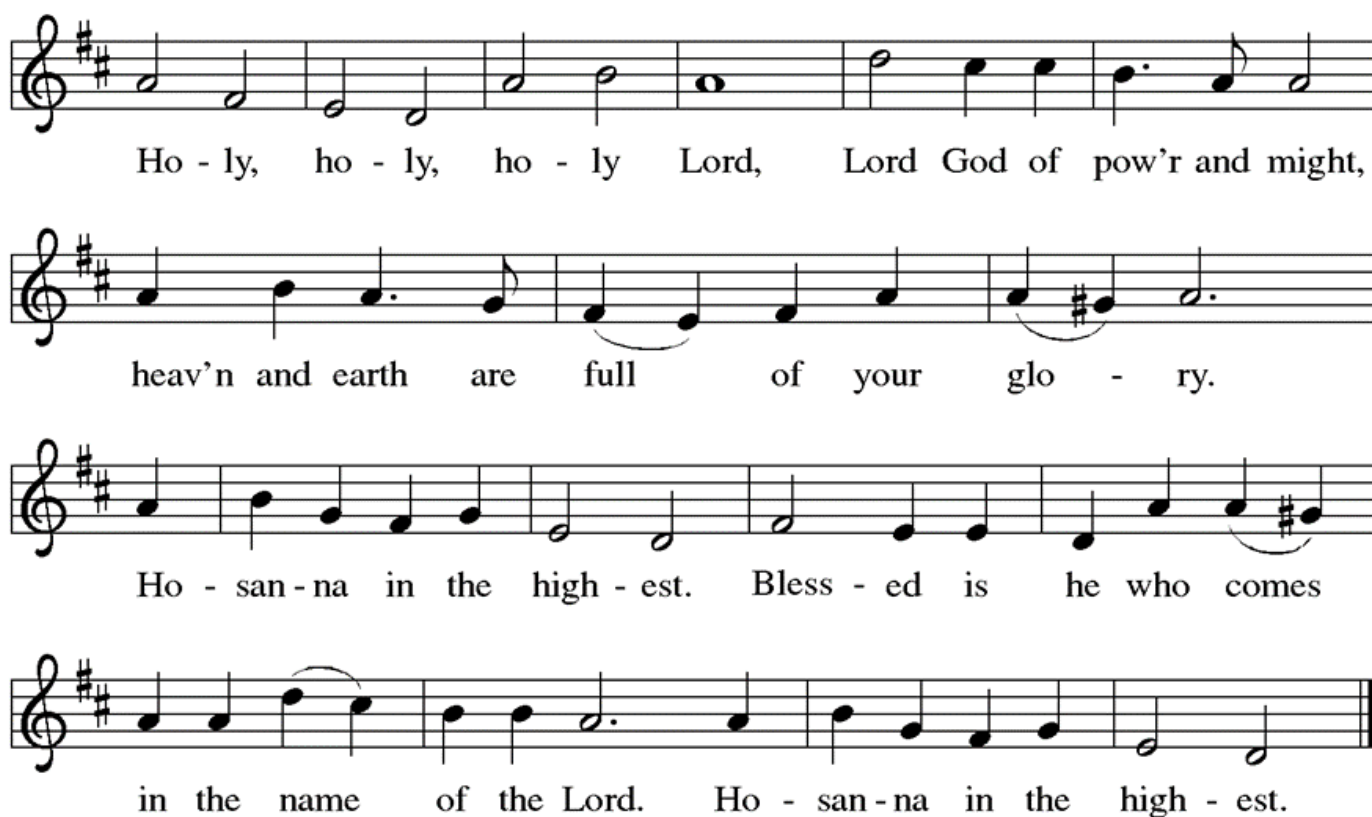
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

LORD'S PRAYER

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

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God



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.

COMMUNION

Please stand if you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

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

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

Hymn 603
v. 1-4

POSTLUDE

Allegro

Boyce

DISMISSAL

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today by:

- **Cheryl & Frank Liebgott** *in celebration of their 59th wedding anniversary*, and
- **Argerie Martin** *in memory of Bill Martin on their wedding anniversary*.

ETERNAL CANDLE for August is given by **Cheryl & Frank Liebgott** *in remembrance of all those Messiah saints who have gone on before us*.

EVANGELISM INVITATION

Thursday, August 21, 5:30 pm

If you are a visitor and would like to learn more about joining Messiah, there will be a “drop-by” at the home of Kathy and Ken Ritz at 15 Middleton Road at The Landings on Thursday, August 21 at 5:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity to learn more about Messiah. To RSVP and to request a gate pass, contact Claire Cornwell-Williams (912.658.4114; cwilliams17@comcast.net).

MESSIAH READS

Tuesday, August 26, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

The book club is planning for the 2025-26 year. If you would like to be part of this group, please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk. The first meeting will be a potluck dinner on August 26 at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Along with a dish to share, bring suggestions for books to read (a copy of the book would be helpful, too). Any questions, please contact Patti Small (smallpatricia13@yahoo.com) or Lisa Oswald (laoswald@icloud.com).

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

Aging in Place Q&A

Thursday, September 18, 6:30 pm

Geriatric specialist Dr. Judy Hildebrand will lead a Question & Answer event to follow up on the earlier program on Aging in Place. This is the second of five sessions sponsored by the Parish Life Ministry. The group will meet in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk to aid planners.

Chapeau Sunday

August 31

Ladies, get your hats out of the closet! Our Parish Life Ministry created this Messiah “tradition” in 2013. While we take the Gospel seriously, we do not have to take ourselves seriously! Playfulness can be a part of the joy of the life of a congregation. The ladies of Messiah Lutheran remind us of how important this philosophy of life is when they celebrate Chapeau Sunday. On that day, all women and girls of Messiah Lutheran are encouraged to wear their finest hats to church to proclaim their devotion to the chapeau, sometimes known as the bonnet, the hat, the head covering, the cap. What a plethora of millinery designs is then on display! Typically, we observe this tradition on the last Sunday of the Chancel Choir’s summer break. So, this year, Chapeau Sunday is August 31.

Women’s Retreat

May 15-17, 2026

Epworth-by-the Sea, St. Simons Island

Planning is underway for the next retreat, and Karen Scheib will lead the sessions focused on the theme “Our Story and God’s Story.” Messiah’s folks get so busy that the Parish Life Ministry is challenging the women of the church to create time for themselves at this special Women’s Retreat. Early planning is necessary to secure conference center space and get on people’s calendar.

There is a \$50 deposit due by Sunday, September 7, to help plan and secure numbers. The total cost will be \$150 for each shared hotel-like room with 2 queen beds and a balcony overlooking the river. Parish Life Ministry Chair Gayle Denny hopes to get sponsorship for 1/3 of the total cost for the retreat. The registration form is on the Narthex Kiosk. Please write a check to Messiah Lutheran Church for \$50 (with

Women's Retreat in the memo line) and submit it by September 7 with a completed copy of the registration form to the Church Office or place it in the Sunday offering plate. Need more information? Contact Parish Life Chair Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

THEOLOGY 101: AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY **August 28-September 25, Thursday, 4-5 pm.**

Theology is not just something pastors or scholars do. If you practice your Christian faith, take the spiritual dimension of life seriously, and think about God, you are a theologian. This five-week class introduces participants to different types of theology (Biblical, historical, systematic, constructive, practical) and some of the basic doctrines within systematic theology (theological anthropology, Christology, soteriology, ecclesiology, etc.) We will review some of the classical doctrines. Students will be encouraged to explore and articulate their own theological convictions. Recommended books: Stone and Duke, *How to Think Theologically*, and Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding*, 4th edition."

The class is open to all interested individuals and will be taught by Rev. Dr. Karen Scheib, Emerita Professor of Pastoral Theology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Pastor of Congregational Care, Messiah Lutheran Church. Sessions will be held in Messiah's Conference Room. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk or online by clicking the Sign Up button on the Church's website (messiahsi.org) or using this QR code.



OUTREACH MINISTRY

Brats, Band & Building Beds

A Celebration of Music, Food & Giving

Saturday, September 27, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Plan to attend this fun-filled evening of great music, delicious food, and a powerful purpose—helping children get the beds they deserve. The event will be in the church parking lot, and there will be:

- Live music by the Bourbon Boys
- Brats and hot dogs fresh off the grill with sides, all courtesy of Messiah
- Leopold's ice cream for purchase
- Bring a chair and your drinks.

All proceeds will go directly to Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a nonprofit that builds beds for children in need. *Because every child deserves a bed to sleep in.*

Can't make it? Consider donating or joining the event to build the beds on Saturday, October 25th. Guerry Lumber is a sponsor of the event.

Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia

Cereal is the food for August.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Mondays at 10:00 am

The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin its Fall season on September 8 at 10:00 a.m. using Max Lucado's Bible Study *Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. In this five-session video Bible study, the group will explore in detail God's treatment plan for anxiety found in the most underlined verse in the Bible, Philippians 4:6–7. As we follow the biblical prescription for anxiety—celebrating God's goodness, asking for His help, leaving our concerns with Him, and meditating on good things—we will learn how to experience God's peace. This is a peace that "transcends all understanding" and will help us reframe the way we look at our fears. If you are interested in attending, please let Randi VenHuizen know (402-216-3067 or randiv1026@gmail.com).

SERMON PREVIEW

From Wilderness to the Finish Line

The writer of Hebrews takes us on a sprint through Old Testament salvation history—from the Red Sea to the walls of Jericho, from judges and prophets to those who endured difficult trials. All of them ran their legs of the race by faith, even when they could not see the finish line. Today, the baton is in our hands. We, too, have our own

“race marked out,” surrounded by that same great cloud of witnesses invoked in Hebrews. The wilderness moments—when we feel trapped, weary, or unsure—are part of the course, not signs we have lost our way. But the race does not end in the desert. Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, we press on, knowing the One who parted the sea and broke down walls will bring us to the joy set before us. Questions for reflection: Who can you remember who had strong faith? How has your faith sustained you in times of trial? If life is like a race, how do you want to finish well?



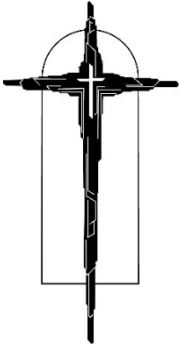
THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

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	Janet Reardon
Reader	Ryder Nguyen
Evangelism Greeters	Karin & Jimmy Viglione
Ushers	Shirley & Phil Nack
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread and Gayla Webb
Eucharistic Ministers	Shirley & Phil Nack
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Lynn McLauchlan (host)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Argerie Martin 08/17, Tammy Quirk 08/18, Alexandra Talsness 08/18

Anniversaries: Carol & Fred Kuhn 08/17, Cheryl & Frank Liebgott 08/20



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 17	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class
Monday, August 18	10:00 am Women's August Bible Study
Tuesday, August 19	2:00 pm Outreach Ministry
Wednesday, August 20	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group
Thursday, August 21	
Friday, August 22	
Saturday, August 23	

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	Vacant		
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) 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.