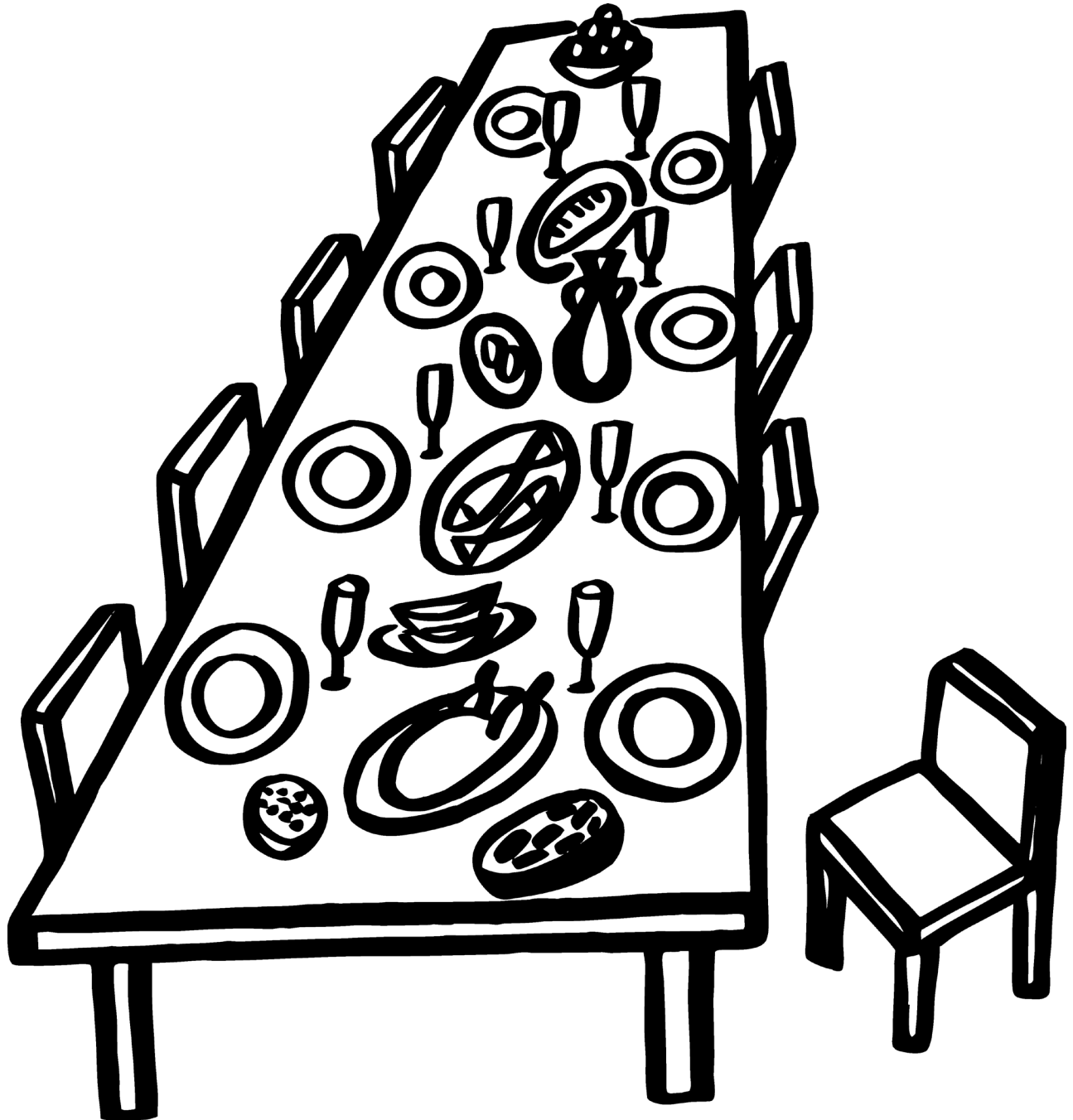


MESSIAH LUTHERAN  
*Skidaway Island*  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**Sunday, August 31, 2025**  
**12<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

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

arr. Innes

Shirley Newhart, organ, and Rodney Powers, piano

*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**

*O God Beyond All Praising*

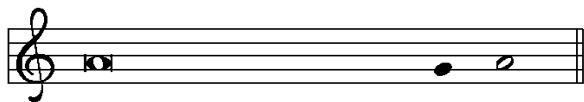
**Hymn 880**

## **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



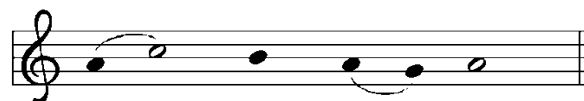
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



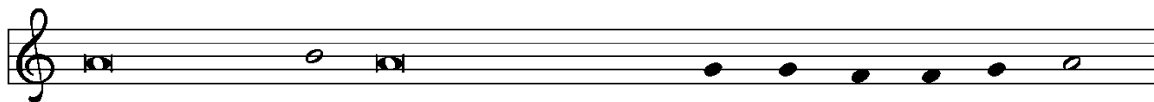
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## ANTHEM

*I Heard the Lord Call My Name*

Krieger

Summer Choir with Oskar Liu-Johnson, cello

## WORD

### FIRST READING: Proverbs 25: 6-7a

Old Testament 570

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature.*

*Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 112

*The righteous are merciful and full of compassion. (Ps. 112:4)*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

- <sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
- <sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- <sup>6</sup> **For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- <sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
- <sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- <sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.
- <sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

## **New Testament 201**

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 14: 1, 7-14

## New Testament 67

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But



when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

*The Power of the Table*

**Rev. Jason Talsness**

*Please stand if you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Almighty God, Your Word is Cast*

**Hymn 516**

## **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:* Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Response at end:* Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.  
**Amen.**

## **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.

## **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**

*Let Justice Flow Like Streams*

**Hymn 717**

### **POSTLUDE**

*Highland Cathedral*

arr. Callahan

### **DISMISSAL**

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

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today by

- Milda & Terry Blaney *in gratitude for our many blessings*, and
- Virginia & Ken Hylander *in celebration of our 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*.

## IT'S CHAPEAU SUNDAY

If you are wondering why the ladies are wearing hats today, 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

## PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

### Questions & Answers from a Geriatric Doctor

**Thursday, September 18, 6:30 pm**

Geriatric specialist Dr. Judy Hildebrand will lead a Question & Answer event. 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.

## 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).

## **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 25<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

**Beginning Friday, September 26 at 3:30 pm**

Have you lost a loved one recently? Join the Grief Support Group to come to a deeper understanding of grief, share experiences, and become companions on the journey towards healing. The group, which is open to anyone in the community, is for a maximum of 10 adults who have lost someone in a significant relationship.

The course will be held in the Conference Room at Messiah and will run for eleven weeks on Fridays, from 3:30 to 5 pm, on September 26 to November 21 and December 5 and 12. The cost is \$20, which pays for the course materials. To register, contact Pastor Scheib ([kdsspin54@gmail.com](mailto:kdsspin54@gmail.com); 404.401.0219) or contact the Church Office.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**From Rodney Powers**

The first choir rehearsal of the new year will be Wednesday, September 3, at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. I look forward to welcoming everyone back from last season and will be delighted to see anyone new interested in joining us for the new season.

The first time to share the choir's music during worship will be Sunday, September 7, at 9:00 am. We will meet at 8:30 am in the Choir Room to prepare.

I am looking forward to a great year for the choir.

## **GLASS VASES NEEDED**

Glass vases are needed for an Altar flower project. If you have any vases to donate, please leave them on the counter in the Sacristy, which is the room at the back of the Sanctuary behind the altar.

# **SERMON PREVIEW**

## **The Power of the Table**

Jesus often attended and spoke about meals, connecting them to God's abundant grace. In Luke 14, Jesus gives two examples, one about where to sit at a banquet, encouraging humility. In the second, he invites listeners to consider the guest list at parties, and to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind.

Questions for Reflection: Can you think of examples of seats of honor in our culture today? Can you recall when you had a bad seat at dinner? Who is welcome in our community of faith? How would they know if that they are? Who are we reluctant to embrace?



# THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

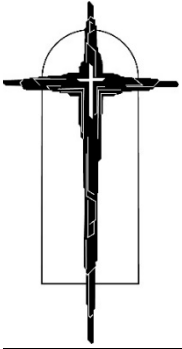
Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Minister, Pastoral Care	Karen Scheib
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Elizabeth A. Eaton
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Janet Reardon
Reader	Marcia Stinson
Evangelism Greeters	Julie Anderson and Gayla Webb
Ushers	Diana & Geoff Wilson
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	TBD (host)

## MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Parker Pearson 09/03, Betty Anderson 09/05, Barbara Van Doren 09/05,  
Rev. Jim Peper 09/06*

*Anniversaries: None*





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, August 31	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship
Monday, September 1	LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 5:00 pm Ronald McDonald House Dinner
Tuesday, September 2	
Wednesday, September 3	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group 7:00 pm Choir Practice
Thursday, September 4	4:00 pm Theology 101
Friday, September 5	<i>1:00 pm Needlepoint Society</i>
Saturday, September 6	

*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](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.



