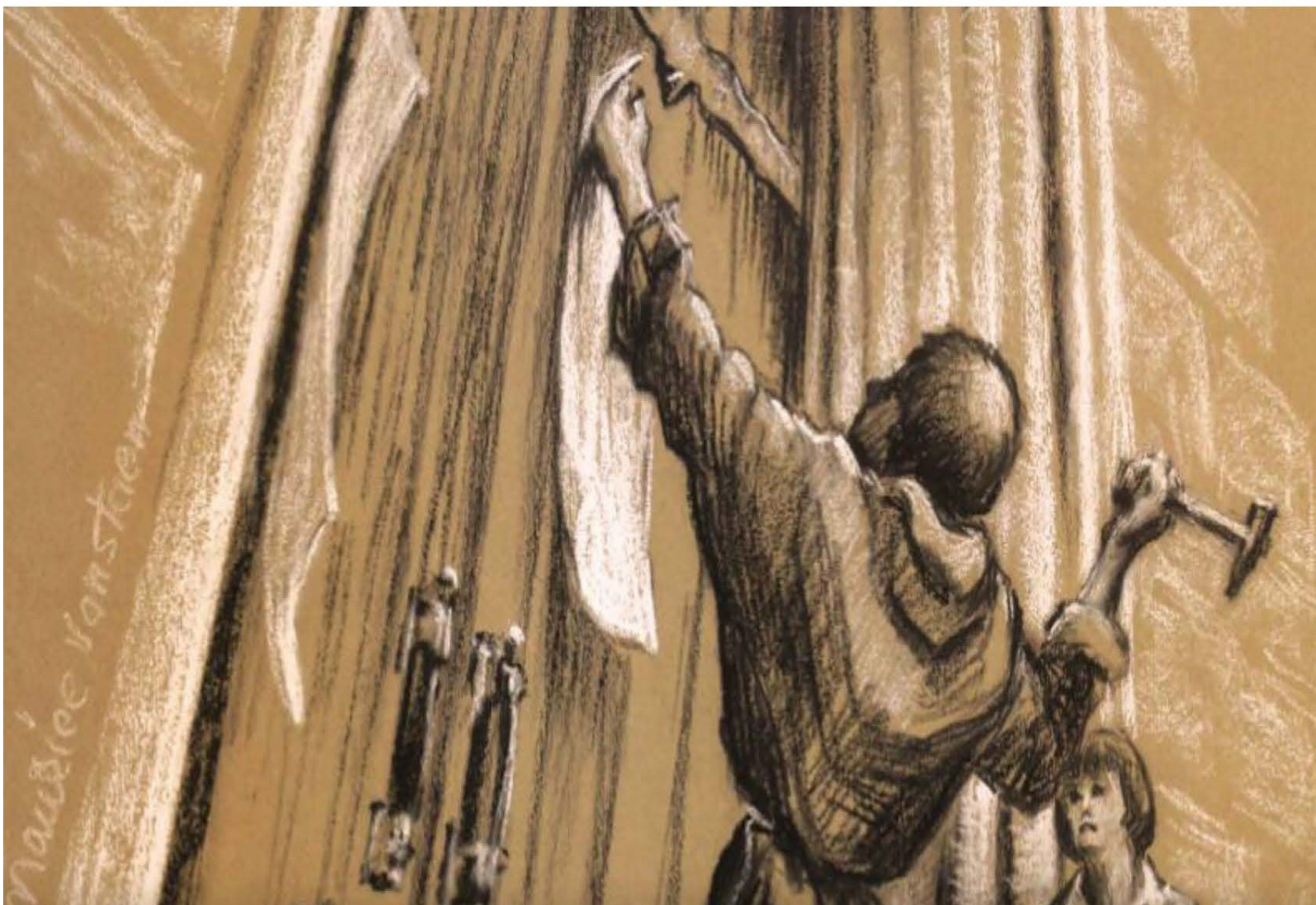


WHY LUTHERAN?



EIGHTH SUNDAY ***BECAUSE WE LIVE OUR FAITH IN THE WORLD***

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

LIVING HOPE



2026 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL — MESSIAH LUTHERAN SKIDAWAY ISLAND

Envision a Bold Future



Messiah looks to the future with great hope. We're excited to understand what God has in store for us.

Messiah's last strategic plan was adopted more than eight years ago. Since then, the church and its people have grown and changed. Skidaway Island also has experienced change. We will work together to understand what God has in store for us in this new world.

Through a planning process we will thoughtfully assess our ministries, set priorities, making intentional decisions about how to grow and serve our community more effectively in the next five years. A plan will reflect a consensus of the members, leaders, and staff, guiding decision-making as we move forward and ensuring that we continue to a vibrant, welcoming, and consequential church in our Skidaway Island community and beyond.

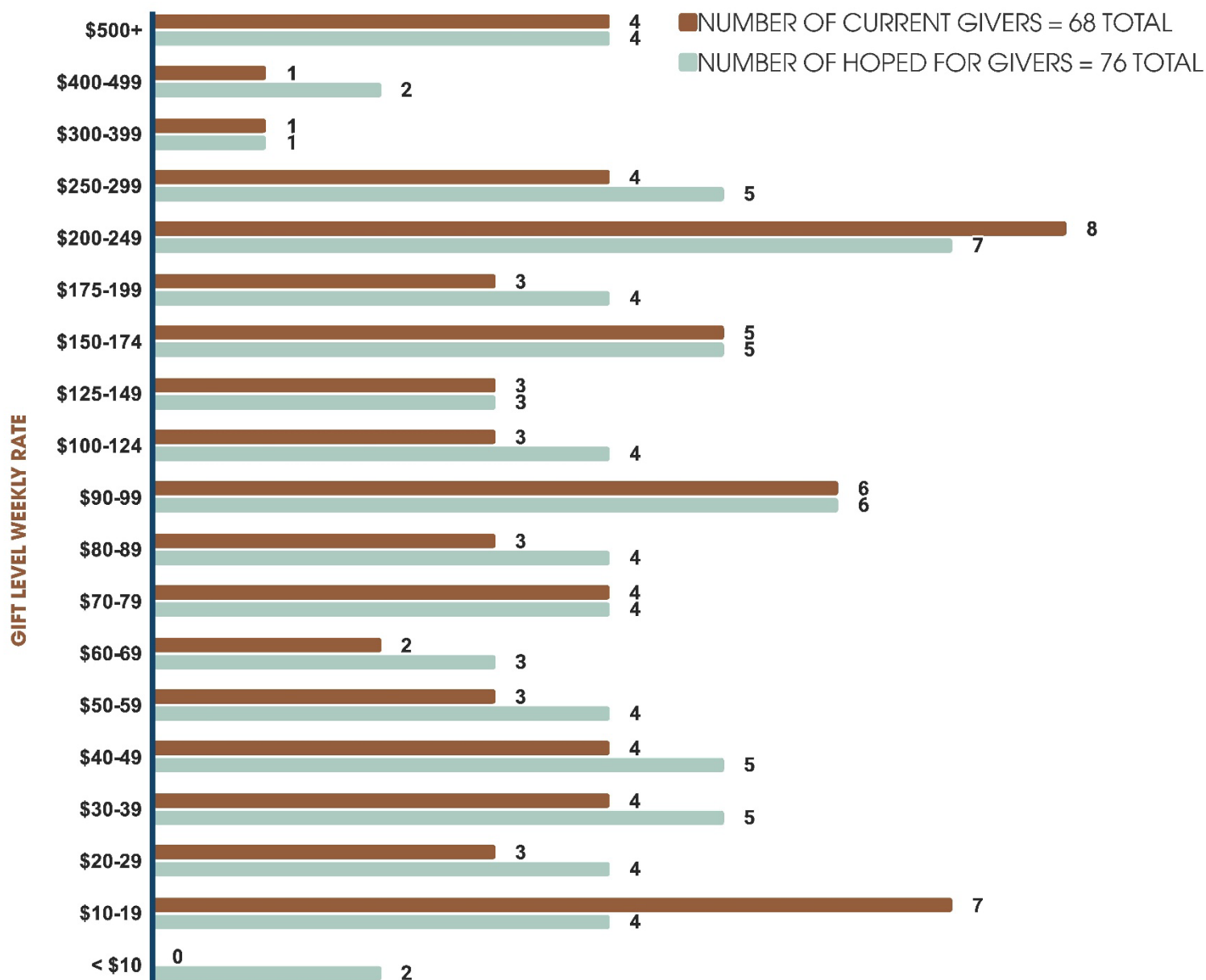
Our goal for the Living Hope Appeal is to increase our gifts and offerings by \$200 per week in the coming year. This will allow Messiah to nurture faith development, envision a bold future, and keep our ministry strong. We ask for your prayers for a generous response, and we encourage you to prayerfully consider increasing your gift for the coming year.



This graph displays two charts of our giving. The first shows how many gifts are currently being given at the indicated weekly amounts. The other shows how many gifts are needed in each level to reach our goal. As you look over the charts, prayerfully ask yourself the following:

- How does my offering level compare with other ways I use my money?
- How adequately does my offering reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?
- Where would I be if I doubled my offerings? And can I consider doing that?
- How much more could I give if I really wanted to?

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR



**MESSIAH
LUTHERAN**
Skidaway Island
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

1 Peter 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

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.

*As the Confession and
Forgiveness begins, all
may make the sign of
the cross, the sign that
is marked at baptism.*

*Congregational
responses are in bold*

** Asterisks
throughout the
order of worship
indicate the people
standing, in body
and/or in spirit.*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tim Andrews, Reader

PRELUDE "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

arr. Walther

Shirley Newhart, Organ

*THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Leader: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: Who made heaven and earth

Leader: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

People: And thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Leader: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against thee by thought, word and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring thy grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: O Most merciful God, who hast given thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all sins; and by thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of thee and of thy will, and true obedience to thy Word, that by thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and hath given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe his name, he giveth power to become the children of God, and bestoweth upon them his Holy Spirit. He that believeth, and be baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

***GATHERING SONG "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"**

Hymn 504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham-pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap-ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

"Kyrie" is a Greek word meaning "Lord."

In Christian liturgy, particularly in Kyrie Eleison, it's used as a plea for God's mercy. The full phrase, "Kyrie eleison," translates to "Lord, have mercy," and has a common element in various Christian worship services since the 4th century.

*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

Minister



1. Lord, have mercy upon us. 2. Christ, have mercy upon us. 3. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Plainsong, Tone V

PFALZ, 1557

Adapted, REGINA H. FRYXELL

Congregation. Unison

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,

The first system of musical notation for the Canticle of Praise. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, unison style. The lyrics "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son," are written below the treble staff. The bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment.

and to the Ho - ly Ghost: as it was in the be - gin - ning,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody from the first system. The lyrics "and to the Ho - ly Ghost: as it was in the be - gin - ning," are written below the treble staff. The bass staff continues the harmonic accompaniment.

is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men.

The third system of musical notation, which concludes the canticle. The lyrics "is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men." are written below the treble staff. The bass staff concludes the harmonic accompaniment.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM “Praise to the Lord Almighty”

McDonald

Chancel Choir

WORD

Tim Andrews, Reader

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 29:4-7

Old Testament 690

⁴ Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

*The reading of
Scripture is when God
makes known his will:
God desires mercy and
salvation.*

*Ultimately, this word
points us to the Word,
the incarnate Son of
God.*

*Through Christ —
God's only Son — are
we able to know the
Father's favor and
grace.*

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields
with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;**

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

New Testament 141

Paul calls the church to a non-conforming, love-driven public life—engaged, not isolated; humble, not self-righteous, but embodied love as a witness.

¹ 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. ² 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.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALTAR FLOWERS
(both vases) are given
today by **Rodney**
Powers “in honor and
in memory of Mr. &
Mrs. Rodney Powers
wedding anniversary.”

THE ETERNAL
CANDLE for October
is given by **Shirley**
Stiber “with
thankfulness for God’s
blessings.”

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: John 17:14-21

New Testament 97

Jesus prays to God the Father about the future of his followers.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ “I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “Living Our Faith in the World”

Reverend Jason Talsness

***HYMN OF THE DAY “Take My Life, That I May Be”**

Hymn 685

Verses 1-4



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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*That Christ visited the
dead after his
crucifixion is based on
I Peter 4:6 "For this is
the reason the gospel
was proclaimed even to
the dead, so that,
though they had been
judged in the flesh as
everyone is judged,
they might live in the
spirit as God does."*

*In the Apostles' Creed,
the phrase "holy
catholic Church" refers
to the universal
Christian church, not
exclusively the Roman
Catholic Church. It
signifies the belief in a
single, unified body of
believers across time
and space, united by
their shared faith in
Christ.*

***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**

*(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is
offered.)*

Leader: God of Grace,

People: Receive our prayers.

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your
everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

People: Amen.

***SPECIAL HYMN** "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

From a Melody by J. A. FREYLINGHAUSEN
Adapted, HAROLD W. GILBERT

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first line of the hymn is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -".

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second line of the hymn continues the melody. The lyrics are: "new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -".

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third line of the hymn continues the melody. The lyrics are: "way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly".

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

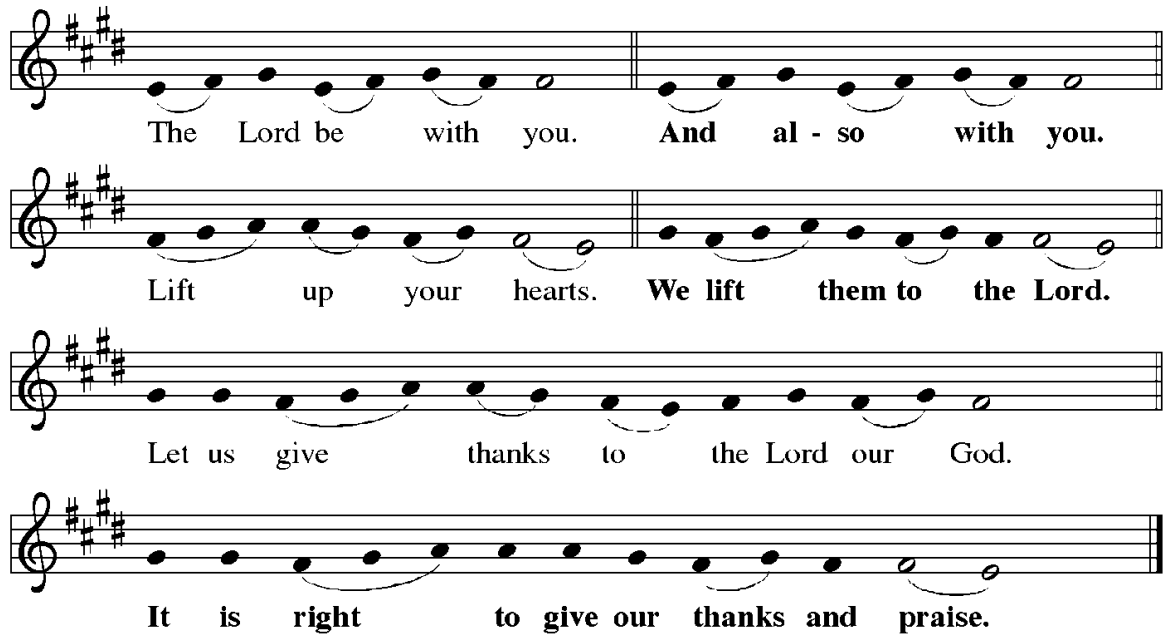
The fourth line of the hymn continues the melody. The lyrics are: "Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of".

thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth line of the hymn concludes the melody. The lyrics are: "thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it."

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.

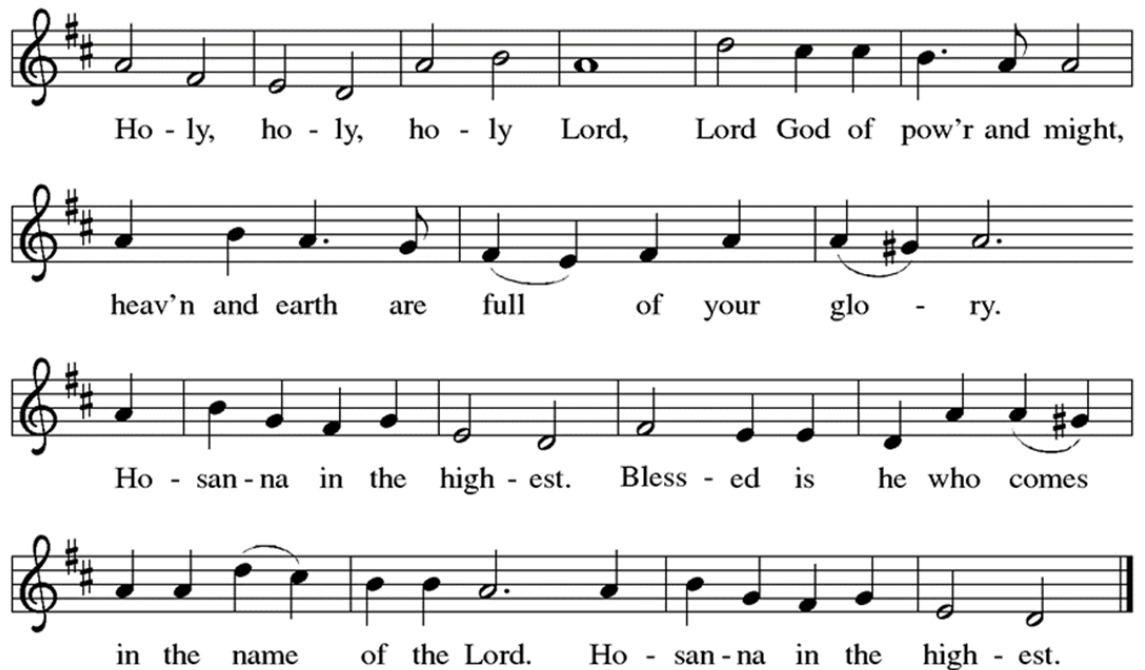
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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.

COMMUNION SONG

Unison

O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin
of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, thou Lamb of God,
that tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer -
cy up - on us. O Christ, thou Lamb of God, that tak - est
a - way the sin of the world, grant us thy peace. A - men.

COMMUNION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

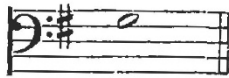
Loving God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SENDING

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Leader:

Minister



THE LORD bless thee, and keep thee.
The LORD make his face shine upon
thee, and be gracious unto thee.
The LORD lift up his countenance upon
thee, and give thee peace:



In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

People:



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*SENDING SONG “The Church’s One Foundation”

Hymn 654

Verses 1-4



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n-ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

*DISMISSAL

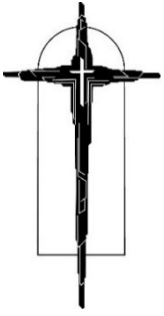
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE “A Mighty Fortress”

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Held



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 26	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, October 27	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Shirley & Friends 4:30 pm Council <i>5:00 pm Landings Garden Club</i>
Tuesday, October 28	3:00 pm MLC Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Messiah Reads
Wednesday, October 29	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group 7:00 Choir Practice
Thursday, October 30	3:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday, October 31	
Saturday, November 1	

Italics indicate outside group



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Jane Holst and Kay Yablecki
Reader	Tim Andrews
Evangelism Greeters	Debra & Dean Coon
Ushers	Trish & Rick Tallon
Communion Assistant	Diane Munroe and Marcia Stinson
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen (Host) and Andrea & Robert Felkins and David Greenawalt (treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Randi VenHuizen 10/26, Jill Poole 10/27, George Lawrence 10/28,
Dr. Billy Ray 10/29*

Anniversaries: Tamara & Dr. Steve Walker 10/29

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RED ROSE ON ALTAR

The roses today celebrate the birth of two new grandchildren:

- Jane & Steve Holst's new granddaughter Summer Jane Holst, who was born on September 14 and weighed 7 lbs., 1 oz.
- Lisa & Richard Oswald's new grandson James Isaac Oswald, who was born on October 15th and weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz.

A SPECIAL REFORMATION SUNDAY

The *Why Lutheran?* Sermon series culminates today, on Reformation Sunday. We are doing a classic liturgy from the *Lutheran Service Book and Hymnal* (SBH, called the "red book"). The liturgies of SBH are remembered for their musicality and dignity. The chant tones are often described as simple yet beautiful, and many who grew up with them recall how singable they were. SBH, published in 1958, holds a special and somewhat nostalgic place in American Lutheran history. It was the first major common hymnal for eight Lutheran church bodies that would later form part of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and The American Lutheran Church (ALC), who then eventually merged into our denomination today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We will sing portions of the liturgy and remember our heritage as well as recognizing how our worship tradition has evolved.

As is traditional, worshipers are wearing red today, reflecting the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

FAREWELL TO PASTOR PEPER Sunday, November 2

Messiah's Pastor Emeritus The Reverend Jim Peper is moving to Nashville. He came to Savannah in 1992 to start what became Messiah Lutheran Church, where he served until 2008. Since then, he has lived on Tybee Island and served as interim pastor for many area churches. The congregation will take time during worship to say thank you and farewell to Pastor Peper and his wife Kala with a special reception after worship in his honor.

OUTREACH MINISTRY Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia

The food for October is canned fish and meat (e.g., tuna, chicken, etc.).

SERMON PREVIEW

Living Our Faith in the World

What does it mean to be “in the world but not of it”? In these modern times, that question presses deeply on those who follow Christ. In John 17, Jesus prays for his disciples—not that they would escape the world’s tensions but that they would be grounded in truth and sent into the world.

This week’s sermon, “Living Our Faith in the World Today,” explores how our Lutheran identity shapes our life within a pluralistic society. Rooted in grace alone, we do not withdraw or dominate but engage the world with humility and courage. To be faithful is not to shout our distinctiveness but to live from a deep center of trust in God’s mercy—so that grace becomes visible in how we speak, serve, and stand with others. As Jesus prays that his followers “may be one,” we’ll consider how unity, truth, and grace form a witness in the world today, drawing from our heritage and identity as Lutheran Christians.

Questions for Reflection:

- How does Jesus’ prayer in John 17 challenge our assumptions about what it means to live “in the world but not of it”?
- How have you found strength from your Christian or Lutheran heritage and tradition?
- In what ways can Lutherans’ trust in grace free us from fear or defensiveness in a pluralistic and anxious society?

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Parker Pearson (no term)

Treasurer

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

