



# WHY LUTHERAN?

***FOURTH SUNDAY  
BECAUSE OF THE THEOLOGY OF THE CROSS***

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

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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

*Greg Stinson, Reader*

## PRELUDE "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

arr. Hildebrand

*Shirley Newhart, Organ*

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

*Hymn 719*

*Verses 1-4*



1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside  
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
 among these restless throngs abide;  
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
 and follow where your feet have trod;  
 till glorious from your heav'n above  
 shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.

Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

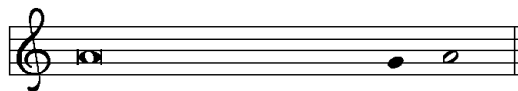
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## \*GREETING

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" 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.

## \*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



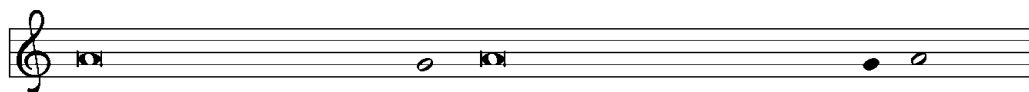
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



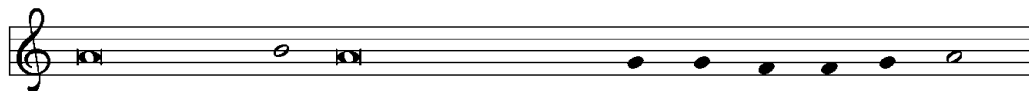
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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**

Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **ANTHEM** “Beautiful Savior”

Farrell

*Chancel Choir*

*Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming  
spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.*

*Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.  
Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be thine.  
Now and forever more be thine!*

## **WORD**

*Greg Stinson, Reader*

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:1-5**

*Old Testament 643*

*He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity... But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities...”*

<sup>1</sup> Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant

and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity,

and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases,  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 22:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my  
groaning?  
<sup>2</sup> **O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night but find no rest.**  
<sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
<sup>4</sup> **In you our ancestors trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.**  
<sup>5</sup> To you they cried and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.  
<sup>6</sup> **But I am a worm and not human,  
scorned by others and despised by the people.**  
<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me;  
they sneer at me; they shake their heads;  
<sup>8</sup> **“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—  
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”**  
<sup>9</sup> Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.  
<sup>10</sup> **On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**  
<sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

*New Testament 145*

*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### \*GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-35

*New Testament 38*

*The Son of Man must undergo great suffering... If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**



<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

## **SERMON "Finding God in Suffering"**

*Reverend Jason Talsness*

## **\*HYMN OF THE DAY "The Church of Christ in Every Age"**

*Hymn 729*

*Verses 1-4*



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by  
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims  
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing  
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the  
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its  
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for  
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's  
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to  
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.  
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.  
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.  
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.  
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are  
given by Lynn & Ken  
McLauchlan "to God  
be the glory now and  
forever," and by  
Amanda & David  
Ridberg celebrating a  
happy 25 years of  
marriage.

The **ETERNAL**  
**CANDLE** for  
September is given by  
Amanda & David  
Ridberg with thanks  
for all Messiah's  
ministry leaders.

*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 entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name  
of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**People:** Amen.

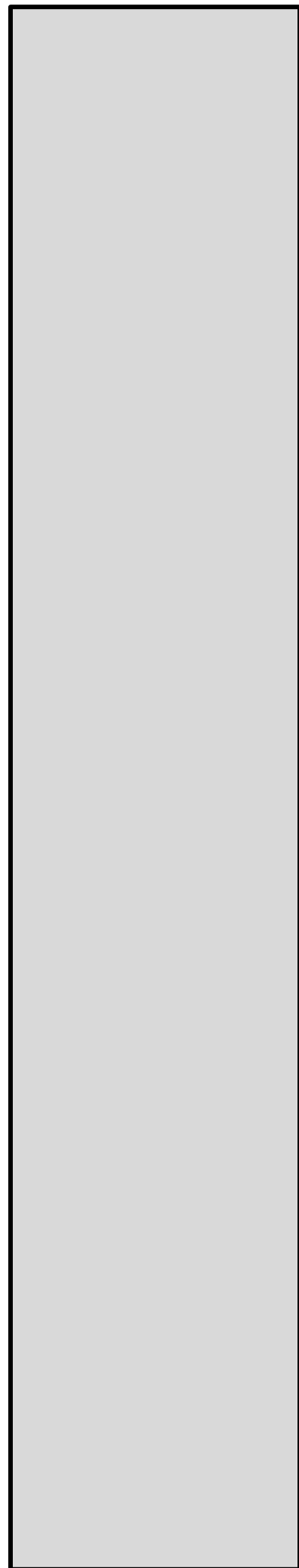
## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**



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## \*SENDING SONG “God Be With You Until We Meet Again!”

*Hymn 536*



- 1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
- 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
- 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

## \*DISMISSAL

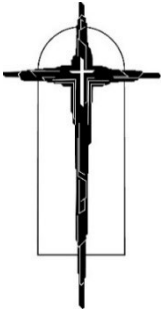
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*POSTLUDE “Celebration”

*Shirley Newhart, organ*

Callahan



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, September 28	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, September 29	10:00 am Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, September 30	
Wednesday, October 1	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group 7:00 Choir Practice
Thursday, October 2	
Friday, October 3	<i>1:00 pm Needlepoint Society</i> 3:30 pm Grief Support Group
Saturday, October 4	

*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	Kathy Ritz and Marcia Stinson
Reader	Greg Stinson
Evangelism Greeters	Gayle & John Denny
Ushers	Parker Pearson and Randi VenHuizen
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Jennifer Nguyen (host & treats)

## MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Elsa Lindenschmidt 09/28, Connie Squibb 09/29, Anne Gladden 10/03,*

*Barbara Johnson 10/03, Eve Wells 10/04*

*Anniversaries: Amanda & David Ridberg 09/29, Karin & Jimmy Viglione 09/30*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **PARISH LIFE MINISTRY**

### **Sunset Cruise**

**Friday, October 17, 4:45 pm**

This churchwide event will leave from Landings Harbor (north harbor on Marina Drive) promptly at 5:00 pm. BYOB and an appetizer to share is optional. The cost is \$35 per person with a maximum of 34 people. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk. Questions? Contact Gayle Denny (503.604.0764)

### **Women's Retreat**

**May 15-17, 2026**

#### **Epworth-by-the Sea, St. Simons Island**

Women may still reserve a space at next Spring's retreat until March by contacting Gayle Denny (503.604.0764)

### **Tour to Ebenezer, Georgia**

**Tuesday, October 7, 10:30 am**

The Salzburger were a group of German-speaking Protestant exiles from Salzburg, Austria, who settled in Ebenezer, Georgia, (currently located on Ebenezer Road in Rincon, Georgia) in 1734 after being expelled for their faith. Invited by General James Oglethorpe, they established one of the earliest and most successful immigrant communities in colonial Georgia. Known for their industrious farming, strong religious devotion, and resilience, the Salzburger built schools, mills, and churches, most notably Jerusalem Lutheran Church, the oldest continuously active Lutheran church in America.

More recently, hotelier Richard Kessler, a devout Lutheran with Salzburger roots, created a home for an extensive collection of items by

and about Martin Luther in the Martin Luther Exhibition at the New Ebenezer Retreat Center.

In conjunction with the Parish Life Ministry, Messiah's Lynda Beam is organizing a trip to Ebenezer for Messiah members to tour the church, view the collection, and have lunch on the first Tuesday in October. The group will carpool from Messiah at 9:00 am. The cost will be \$25 person for lunch and fees at the Center. Sign up on the Narthex Kiosk and indicate if you are willing to be a driver.

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY**

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

Peanut butter is the food for September.

## **KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY**

### **Please Help!**

On October 2nd, the Kairos Prison Ministry Team will return to Emanuel Women's Facility in Swainsboro, Georgia. Kairos means "God's Special Time." The purpose of this program is to establish a Kairos Community inside this prison by the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. A Kairos Team of 22 Kairos volunteers will spend 3½ days with the residents sharing God's love for them.

### **How to Participate**

- **Pray for us:** Be a part of the Prayer Chain. This is vital...without prayer this weekend cannot happen. There will be a sign-up sheet and suggested prayers on the Kairos Table in the Fellowship Hall for the next four Sundays.
- **Donate:** All Kairos activities are funded by donations. One way to help is to buy meal

tickets for the participants. A \$5 donation is suggested, but any amount will be helpful. The residents will see that someone they did not know was thinking about them and paid for their meal.

- **Color Placemats:** These placemats are used for each meal to brighten their mealtime during the weekend. The residents are thrilled to see that someone has taken the time to brighten their day.

Please stop by the table in the Fellowship Hall after worship and participate in this worthwhile mission. You may also contact Pat Cooper at 912-508-4250. God Bless

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Music Department Dinner & Program Thursday, October 16, 2025, 5:30 pm**

Messiah's Music Department will host a "welcome back" dinner and program for anyone that has helped to provide music at Messiah Lutheran Church. This event includes all members of the Chancel Choir, handbell choir, summer choir, wind ensemble, instrumentalists, sound technicians and soloists from the summer worship services. One guest per person is encouraged.

The program will be *"Name That Tune meets Family Feud."* It's an interactive game for musicians and enthusiasts. This event is limited to invitees listed above and their guest. Please mark your calendars and set aside this date. More details to follow.

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# SERMON PREVIEW

## Finding God in Suffering

Jesus shocks his disciples when he tells them that the Messiah will suffer, be rejected, and be killed. Peter cannot believe it, and he tells Jesus so. Yet Jesus insists that this is the way of God. If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Martin Luther found this truth stated by Jesus to be central to the life of the Christian. He developed a “Theology of the Cross,” centered on suffering and hardship, contrasting it with a “Theology of Glory,” when God is only found in victory and success. To deny ourselves and follow Christ, then, is not to seek pain but to trust that even there, we are not abandoned. We follow a crucified Lord who walks with us through suffering into life.

How does the FACT that Jesus suffered on a cross and died challenge popular notions of what God “should” be like? When Jesus says, “deny yourself and take up your cross,” how might modern people do that today? We don’t look at carrying the cross in isolation, we also see it in the light of the resurrection. How does Jesus’ resurrection help us understand our suffering further?

# CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

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



