

MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Sunday, April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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

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 re-
sponses are in bold*

** Asterisks through-
out the order of
worship indicate
the people stand-
ing, in body and/or
in spirit.*

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Floto, reader

PRELUDE "The King of Love"

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Young

*CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us come into the light,
the revealing and healing light of God.

Leader: God of grace and glory,

**People: you have brought us through the night of sin
into the light of Jesus' resurrection.
Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin.
Make us alive in Christ, O God.
Make us new as you make all things new.
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin,
renew us in grace,
and restore us to living in your holiness,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
Amen.**

Leader: Rejoice with all creation around God's throne!
 The light of the risen Christ
 puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin,
 restores innocence to the fallen,
 casts out hate, brings peace,
 and humbles earthly pride.
 Jesus Christ loves you
 and † frees you from your sins by his blood.
 To him be glory and dominion forever and ever!

People: Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** "All People that on Earth Do Dwell"

Hymn 883

Verses 1-4



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - jice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
 an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594
 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

***GREETING**

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

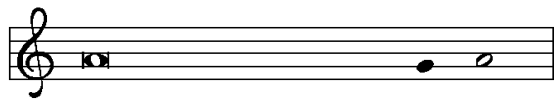
People: And also with you.

*Easter is the demon-
 stration of God that
 life is essentially spir-
 itual and timeless.*

—Charles M. Crowe

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.

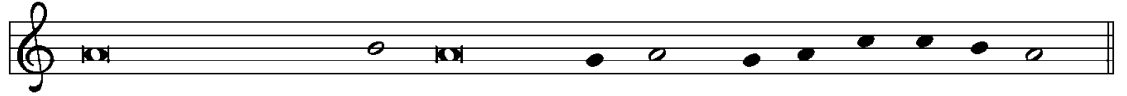
***KYRIE**



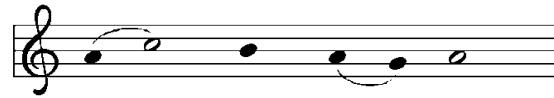
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



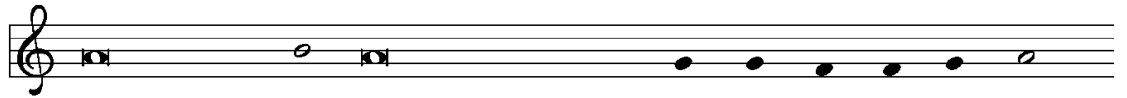
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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**

Leader: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

ANTHEM "O God of Music, Art, and Word"

Lambrecht

Chancel Choir

1.

*O God of music, art, and word, of painted sky and hummingbird, you call
creators in your world to use our gifts for you,
to color, sculpt, compose a line, faint echoes of divine design,
that move the spirit, stir the mind and turn the eye to you.*

2.

*You made the mountains and the sea. With just a word, they came to be!
And then you gifted us, that we could be creators too.
You grace mere mortals with the skill to craft and dance, compose and build
with clay and chord, with rhyme and quill, our finest works for you.*

3.

*The gospel glows when clothed in art! Through poem and song, the Spirit sparks
the fire of faith within the heart, a soul in tune with you.
The arts explore the mysteries, unlock profound epiphanies,
make visible what can't be seen. Their power comes from you.*

Refrain:

*Unleash, O God, these gifts of grace! May we compose in time and space
a thousand ways to paint your praise, creations made for you.*

WORD

Karen Floto, reader

FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

New Testament 104

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (Ps. 23:1)

Leader: ¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

People: ² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

Leader: ³ You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

People: ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your
staff, they comfort me.**

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

Leader: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

People: ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

New Testament 206

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² “He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

New Testament 90

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON “The Difference Between Guidance and Control”

Reverend Jason Talsness

*April's Eternal Candle
is given by Dawn
Meade “in loving
memory of her dad
John Schaffner.”*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** "The Lord's My Shepherd"

Hymn 778

Verses 1-4



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Leader: Merciful God,

People: Receive our prayer.

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers
to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

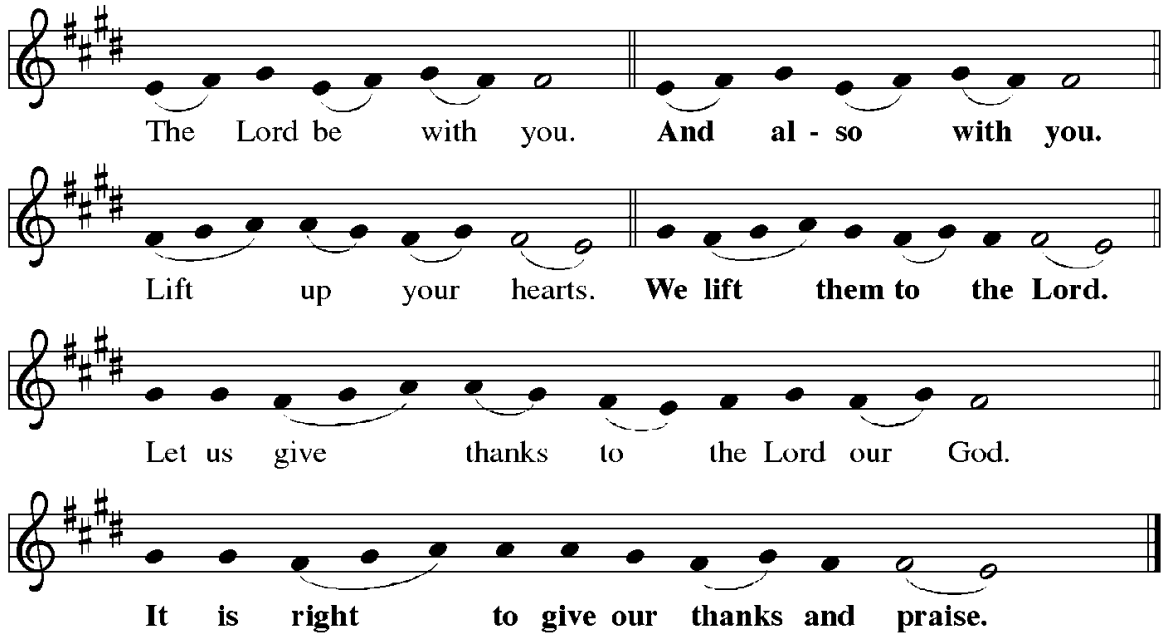
People: Amen.

Lutherans typically use the Nicene Creed at Easter because it is the church's most fully developed confession of Christ's resurrection and divinity, shaped precisely to address questions about who Jesus is. On a festival as central as Easter, it emphasizes that the risen Christ is "true God from true God," not just raised, but eternally one with the Father.

The Nicene Creed comes from the early church councils of First Council of Nicaea and First Council of Constantinople in 325 AD, where bishops clarified Christian teaching about Christ's nature in response to controversy. It is longer and more doctrinally precise.

MEAL

*DIALOGUE



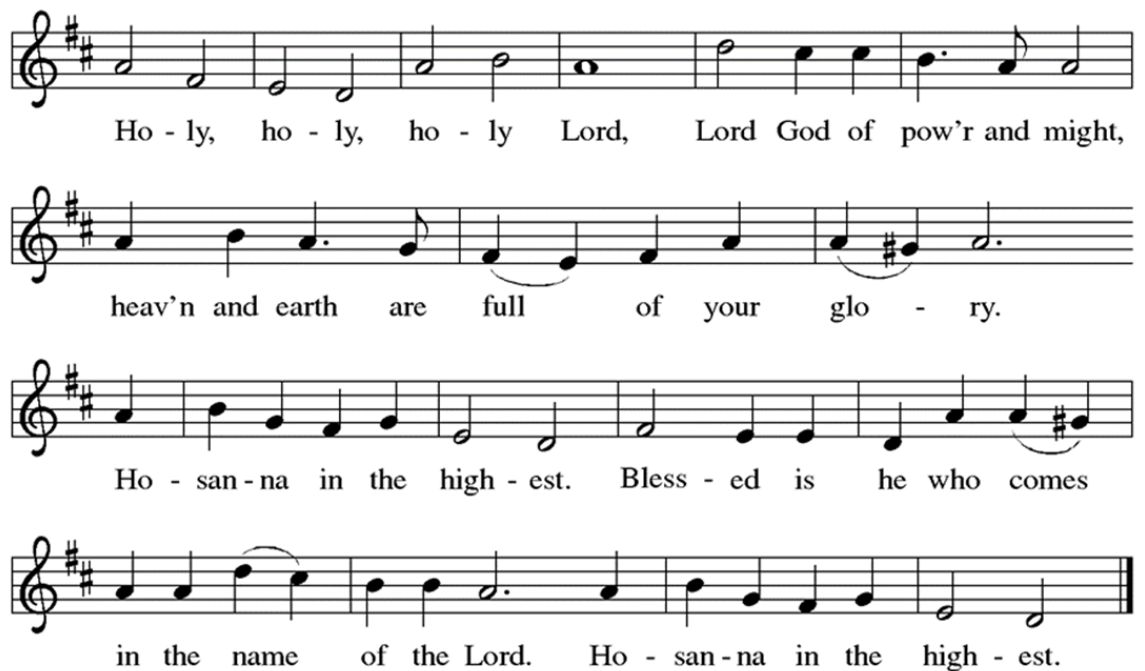
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Holy One,

People: **through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.**

Send us as bearers of your peace and healing.

Amen.

SENDING

***PASTORAL BENEDICTION**

Leader: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing"

Hymn 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Scat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - 'ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l'wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
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*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE "When in Our Music, God is Glorified"

arr. Hobby

Shirley Newhart, organ

PERMISSIONS

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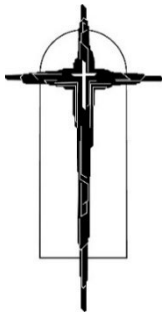
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 26	9:00 am Worship 10:20 Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, April 27	<i>8 am Landings Garden Club</i> 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, April 28	6:30 pm Messiah Reads
Wednesday, April 29	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 4:30 pm Investment Committee
Thursday, April 30	
Friday, May 1	
Saturday, May 2	<i>1:00 pm Needlepoint Society</i>

Italics indicate outside group

MESSIAH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Wednesday-8:30 am to 11:30 am

Friday-Closed

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 Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader. This link may be used for paying for altar flowers and other church-related activities. Questions? Contact the Church Office.



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



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
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	Lisa Oswald
Reader	Karen Floto
Evangelism Greeters	Debra & Dean Coon
Ushers	Trish & Rick Tallon
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Randi VenHuizen & Brad VenHuizen
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen (coffee)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Judy Lawrence 04/26, Kay Yablecki 04/28

Anniversaries: Corinne & Jeff Samuels 04/28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME ONE, COME ALL 2026-27 Fellowship Dinners Deadline: Sunday April 27

It's that time of year again—time to sign up for Messiah's Fellowship Dinners for the coming year. They are open to anyone, singles or couples, and are a great way to meet new members, to renew friendships, and to enjoy each other's company in member homes. Groups of six to eight people meet three or four times over the year. Each person/couple hosts one time, providing the main course and beverages. For the other gatherings, they alternate providing an appetizer, salad, or dessert.

Sign up now on the Narthex Kiosk by April 27. Group assignments will be made by early May. Need more information? Contact Lana Gilster (952.250.7510; lanagilster@earthlink.net) or Layne Rabold (912.598.9313; lalayne@yahoo.net).

MESSIAH READS Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30 pm

This month's book group gathering will be at Joni DiGiorgio's house at 12 Middle Marsh Retreat in The Landings. The book is *Mob Island*. Please let Joni know if you will attend (jjdigior-gio@aol.com; 912.598.1646).

OUTREACH MINISTRY Mother's Day Collection

A Mother's Day collection to benefit Shelter from the Rain will take place from April 26th through May 10th. Shelter From the Rain, Inc. (SFTR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit in Savannah, that assists single mothers. Established in 2010, SFTR is designed to show how God's love

shelters us from the different rain showers that come into our lives.

- Household Items needed: Clorox Wipes, Laundry Detergent, Dish Detergent,
- Baby Supplies needed: Baby Wipes, Baby Oil, Baby Shampoo, Diapers (Newborn to Size 5), Pull-Ups (Girls and Boys)

More information is available at the Outreach Table in the Narthex. The Outreach Ministry thanks you for your support!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL UPDATE July 6-10, 2026

Planning is underway for this summer's Vacation Bible School (VBS), and registration is open on Messiah's website (messiahsi.org). The theme is *Kingdom Quest*. Planners still need help for the team leaders. The two newest leaders will head up the Décor Team—Penny LeBlanc and Debra Coon will be executing the design plans during May and early June. If you are willing to help with painting, wrapping, cutting and gluing, this is the VBS volunteer role for you. It takes a congregation to make VBS happen! For more information or to volunteer, contact Peggy Pearson (443.995.1146).

MEN'S GATHERING Tuesday, May 5, 5:30 pm

The men of Messiah are celebrating Cinco de Mayo on the Pearson Porch (51 Delegal Rd.) on May 5 at 5:30 pm. Mexican style food and beers will be served. No need to bring anything, but we will have a donation collection for a chosen charity. Please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk or notify Parker Pearson (parkpear@aol.com or 410.349.7704).

SERMON PREVIEW

The Difference Between Guidance and Control

There are many voices that claim authority in our lives that promise security, direction, or certainty. In John 10, Jesus draws a clear line: not every voice that leads is a voice that cares. He speaks of shepherds and strangers, and then says, “I am the gate.” Through Jesus there is an opening—through him there is safety and freedom: “they will come in and go out and find pasture.” That is the difference between guidance and control. Jesus is the shepherd who guides, not who controls or forces us. And yet, control often feels more familiar—even within us. We can mistake pressure for guidance, urgency for truth. But Jesus names another reality: “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” This is not a life we secure, but one we receive—held within the care of the one who knows us and goes ahead of us.

Questions for Reflection: What voices tend to shape your daily decisions—are they rooted more in pressure and control, or in trust and care? Where in your life do you feel “managed” (by expectations, fear, or internal pressure), and what might it mean to be led instead? As someone sent into the world as Christ’s follower, how might you reflect Christ’s care in a way that resists controlling others and instead creates space for life?

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

12 Monthly Activities for Spiritual Growth

We are inviting our whole church family to participate in a 12-month spiritual growth journey. Each month will focus on one simple, but meaningful activity designed to help you draw closer to Christ. Here’s the activity for May:

May — Write Your Spiritual Story

Set aside time to thoughtfully write your story of faith. Include:

- (if it applies) your life before following Christ
- how you have come to trust Him
- how He is presently growing and changing you

Also include:

- scriptures that have been meaningful along the way,
- prayers that God has answered,
- challenges He has carried you through.

Consider sharing it with a friend or loved one.

Writing your testimony helps you recognize God’s ongoing presence in your life, strengthens gratitude, and prepares you to share your faith with humility and confidence when opportunities arise.

WITH APPRECIATION

This is the final Sunday for the Chancel Choir before their summer break. Messiah would like to thank all the choir members for their faithful service here at Messiah in the months since they reconvened for the year in September 2025: Here are the members:

Accompanist:

Shirley Newhart

Sopranos

Bonnie LaPread

Claire Sampson-Fields

Jane Holst

Lana Gilster

Pat Cooper

Sharon Kilpatrick

Altos

Babette Borsani

Diane Munroe

Joy Olson

Rev. Dr. Karen Scheib

Trudy Harting

Danielle Pilgrim

Anna Olson

Baritones

Dick Munson

Howard Anderson

Rev. Jason Talsness

Steve Allen

Tom Olson

Trevor Olson

John Denny

David Greenawalt

Tom Thomas

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

Jason Talsness, Pastor

770.570.7407

skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Randi VenHuizen (2028)

Vice President

Education & Discipleship Ministry

402.216.3067

Randiv1026@gmail.com

Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)

President

Evangelism Ministry

912.658.4114

cwilliams17@comcast.net

Vacant

Finance Ministry

Lisa Oswald (2026)

Secretary

Outreach Ministry

203.554.5845

laoswald@icloud.com

Gayle Denny (2026)

Parish Life Ministry

513.604.0764

gdgardener@comcast.net

Rick Tallon (2028)

Property Ministry

417.294.2002

rick.tallon@gmail.com

Greg Stinson (2026/2027)¹

Staff Support/Mutual Ministry

912.704.4084

gtstinson@comcast.net

George Lawrence (2026/2028)²

Stewardship Ministry

912.484.2818

mppgg13@gmail.com

Parker Pearson (no term)

Treasurer

410.349.7704

parkpear@aol.com

Pat Cooper (2027)

Worship & Music Ministry

912.508.4250

cooperpat5@gmail.com

¹ Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

² George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.

IN THE NAME of JESUS
MESSIAH LUTHERAN

Welcome
Grow
Support
Serve