

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN

*Skidaway Island*

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**Sunday, April 5, 2026**  
**Easter Sunday**



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

# WELCOME

**WELCOME TO THIS EASTER SERVICE.** The people and pastors of Messiah Lutheran Church wish you a Happy Easter wherever you are in your faith journey! If you are visiting, please know we are glad you have joined us and would love the opportunity to get to know you better. Please visit us again for Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m.

There is a nursery for preschool children located down the long hallway, just take a right after you exit the Sanctuary going through the second set of double doors. There are changing stations in the restrooms, which are also located in that hallway, next to the water fountains.

If you wish to donate to Messiah, the offering plate is next to the Sanctuary exit. You can also donate to Messiah on the website (<https://messiahsi.org>).

We will celebrate Holy Communion today, when Christ meets us in a special meal. All those who seek Christ and his grace are welcome at our communion table. Further instructions on communion are in the bulletin in the Communion Section.

**ALL ARE WELCOME** to join us in the Peper Hall following worship for a special Easter Brunch and conversation.

## WORSHIP NOTES

- Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other devices.
- Bold wording is to be said by the congregation.

# GATHERING

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Randi VenHuizen*

## PRELUDE “La Réjouissance”

*Yvonne Johnson, violin*

*Oskar Johnson-Liu, cello*

*Daniel Reardon, trumpet*

Handel

## \*EASTER GREETING

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Leader: People of God, rejoice! You seek Jesus Christ who was crucified.

He is not here! He is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Leader: By his death we have died to sin. By his resurrection we have been born again.

He is risen!

People: **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy,  
loved us even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.

People: **Amen.**

*WELCOME TO THIS  
WORSHIP CELEBRA-  
TION 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.*

*Congregational re-  
sponses are in bold*

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

Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.

—Charles M. Crowe

## \*GATHERING SONG “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

Hymn 365



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4  
Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

## \*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.**

## \*AN EASTER LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader: The risen Christ meets us at the tomb, and turns our tears to joy.

For your love and goodness

**People: we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: Christ comes through our locked doors, and turns our fear to courage.

For your love and goodness

**People: we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: Christ comes to daily life and work, and turns our failure to new vision.

For your love and goodness

**People: we give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: Christ breaks the bread, and turns our despair to hope.

For your love and goodness

**People: we give you thanks, O God.**

# \*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



## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## ANTHEM “The Hallelujah Chorus”

Handel

VOX CORDIUM

*Yvonne Johnson, violin*

*Oskar Johnson-Liu, cello*

## WORD

*Randi VenHuizen, Reader*

## FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

*New Testament 113*

*Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, “receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*

<sup>34</sup> Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but

*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.*

—Martin Luther

God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)*

Leader: <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
God’s mercy endures forever.

**People:** <sup>2</sup> **Let Israel now declare,  
“God’s mercy endures forever.”**

Leader: <sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and has become my salvation.

**People:** <sup>15</sup> **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the  
righteous:  
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**

Leader: <sup>16</sup> The right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

**People:** <sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the Lord.**

Leader” <sup>18</sup> The Lord indeed punished me sorely,  
but did not hand me over to death.

**People:** <sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

Leader: <sup>20</sup> “This is the gate of the Lord;  
here the righteous may enter.”

**People:** <sup>21</sup> **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and you have become my salvation.**

Leader: <sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**People:** <sup>23</sup> **By the Lord has this been done;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Leader: <sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26**

*New Testament 113*

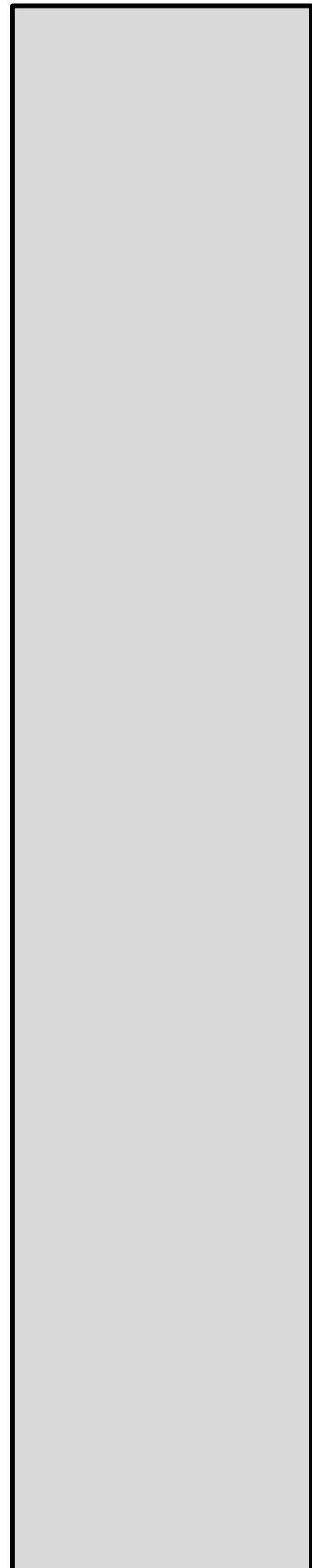
*Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God's victorious rule over all.*

<sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup> for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10

*New Testament 29*

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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

**SERMON** “The Great Reversal”

*Rev. Jason Talsness*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY** “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds”

*Hymn 367*



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds  
2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,  
3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;  
4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: “Christ has  
there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: “Christ has  
set heart and will on things a - bove that we  
and with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: “Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Sing, choirs of  
tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!” Now still he  
con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -  
tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!” Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry  
comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all  
fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly  
Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
strife. “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
say: “Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!”  
God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
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*Today's Altar Flowers  
are given by Dawn  
Meade “with blessings  
for all her grandchil-  
dren” and by Susan &  
Ron Whitaker “in cel-  
ebration of Susan's  
birthday and to God's  
glory.”*

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

## **\*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: **Your mercy is great.**

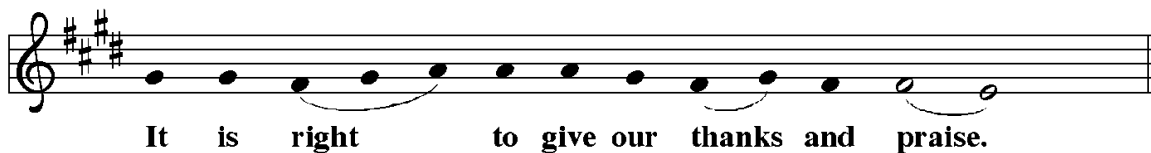
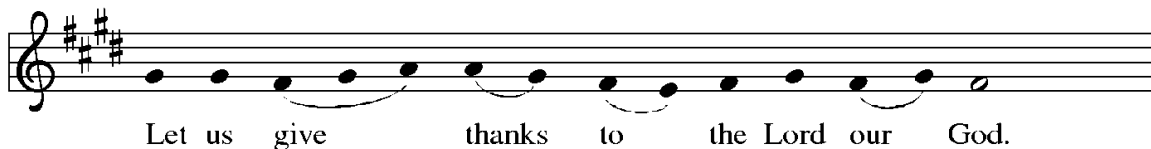
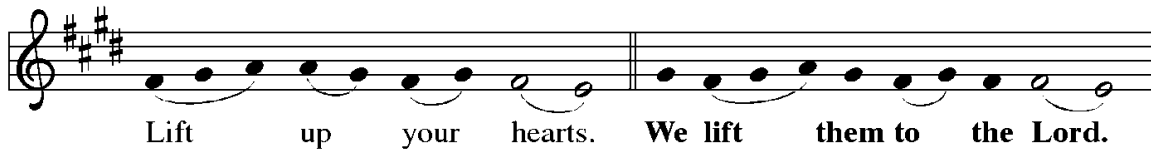
*(Final petition and response.)*

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.**

## MEAL

### \*DIALOGUE



### \*PREFACE

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

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



## **\*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

*Participation in Holy Communion is open to all those seeking Christ and his grace. To receive communion, the ushers will notify each row when it is their turn to go up for communion. Two lines will form, one for each side of the church. When you come to the front of the line, a good way to receive the bread is to put one hand on the other, with your palms facing up. The communion assistant will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free bread is available — please let the communion assistant know when you get to the front of the line. After receiving the bread, depending on which side of the church you are on, you will place the bread in your mouth as you walk to the left or right to receive wine. The communion assistant distributes red wine in small cups, which you will take from the tray. White grape juice cups are available in the center of each tray. After drinking the wine, you may put your empty cup onto the tray held by the communion assistant next in the line.*

*Golf is just the adult version of an Easter Egg Hunt.*

*—Unknown*

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "Sheep May Safely Graze"

J.S. Bach

*Yvonne Johnson, violin*

*Oskar Johnson-Liu, cello*

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Living One,

People: **in this feast you have made yourself known to us.**

**Send us now to tell of your wonders,**

**sing of your glory,**

**and proclaim your risen life**

**to a wounded and weary world.**

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*PASTORAL BLESSING**

Leader: The triune God,

who was, who is, and who is to come,

Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,

light your way with resurrection dawn,

now and always.

People: **Amen.**

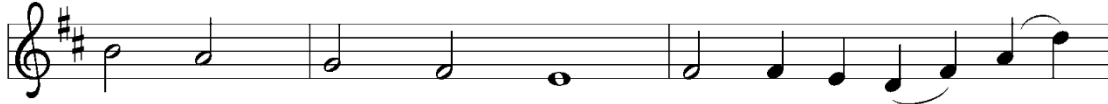
# \*SENDING SONG "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Hymn 619

Verses 1-4



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -  
3 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; he lives to  
4 He lives to si - lence all my fears; he lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,  
guide me with his eye; he lives to com - fort  
wipe a - way my tears; he lives to calm my



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!  
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.  
me when faint; he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.  
trou - bled heart; he lives all bless - ings to im - part.

- 5 He lives to bless me with his love;  
he lives to plead for me above;  
he lives my hungry soul to feed;  
he lives to help in time of need.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;  
he lives and loves me to the end;  
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;  
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
he lives, and I shall conquer death;  
he lives my mansion to prepare;  
he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name!  
He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
what joy this blest assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

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## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## \*POSTLUDE "Toccata"

Shirley Newhart, organ

Widor  
arr. Smith

## PERMISSIONS

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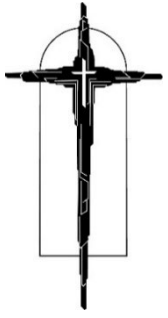
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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 5	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Easter Brunch
Monday, April 6	<b><i>OFFICE CLOSED EASTER MONDAY</i></b> 5:00 pm Ronald McDonald House Dinner <i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, April 7	
Wednesday, April 8	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group 1:30 pm Worship & Music Ministry 6:30 pm Union Mission Concert
Thursday, April 9	<i>3:00 pm Skidaway Abigails</i>
Friday, April 10	<i>1:00 pm Needlepoint Society</i>
Saturday, April 11	

*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](http://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	Randi VenHuizen
Evangelism Greeters	Elijah, Luke & Ryder Nguyen
Ushers	Susan & Ron Whitaker
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Randi VenHuizen & Brad VenHuizen
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	EASTER BRUNCH (Potluck)

## MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Dawn Meade 04/07, Susan Whitaker 04/08, Diane McCabe 04/08*

*Anniversaries: None*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NEW ASSISTIVE LISTENING

To support our goal of making worship accessible to everyone, Auracast™ assistive listening technology is now available in the Sanctuary. It provides clearer sound for those who may have difficulty hearing in large spaces. This new service allows audio from the worship service to stream directly to compatible hearing aids, earbuds, or smartphones using Bluetooth LE Audio.

To use the Auracast technology during worship:

- Turn on Bluetooth on your phone or compatible hearing device.
- Select the broadcast titled “Messiah Lutheran Worship Audio.”
- The service audio will stream directly to your hearing aids or device.

If your device does not support Auracast, the assistive listening receivers are still available on the Narthex console table. If you have questions or need help connecting, contact the Church Office or speak to Rick Tallon or Ken McLauchlan.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT-FINAL PLANS

**May 15-17, 2026**

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

Karen Scheib will lead the sessions focused on the theme “Our Story and God’s Story,” which will feature examination of participants’ own life stories and how God’s story intersects with their stories. There will be creative exercises, written reflections, small group discussions, and crafts. The retreat will also include free time to explore the Center and the island. The Parish Life Ministry will provide \$50 per person

to help defray the cost. This means that the total cost will be \$250 per person for each shared hotel-like room with 2 queen beds and a balcony overlooking the river. Price includes 6 meals. Cost of a private room is \$380 for the 2 nights.

**If you submitted a deposit, the balance is due no later than Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.**

That is \$200 for a shared room and \$330 for a private room. You can pay the balance by writing a check and note Women’s Retreat on memo line. You can also pay by credit card online at Messiah’s website (messiahsi.org). If you want to pay online, contact Sandy Cooper in the Church Office (912.598.1188; messiahsk@gmail.com) for details.

Need more information? Want to sign up now? There are registration forms on the Narthex Kiosk. Have questions? Contact Parish Life Chair Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

## KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

### **Please Help**

On April 16-19, a team of 26 Kairos volunteers 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. This Kairos Team will spend 3 ½ days with the residents sharing God’s love for them.

### **Here Is How You Can 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 Peper Hall to participate in this worthwhile mission. You may also contact Pat Cooper (912.508.4250).

## THE ARTS AT MESSIAH

Here is the schedule for this Summer's concerts. Mark your calendar now for this exciting lineup of guest artists! All concerts are on Friday evenings starting at 7:00 pm

- May 8-Derek Hartman, pianist
- June 12-Ethel Trujillo, soprano, and José Meléndez, pianist
- July 10 (Young Artist Concert)-William Ge, pianist
- August 14-Russell Iceberg, violinist, and Anthony Ratinov, pianist

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

The group completed its current study of Revelation on Monday, March 23. They are not meeting on April 6 and will resume meeting on April 13. The new study will be *I Know His Name: A Bible Study on the Names of God*.

The Women's Bible Study meets on Mondays at 10:00 am in Messiah's Conference Room. For more information about the meetings, contact Randi VenHuizen (randiv1026@gmail.com; 402.216.3067).

## 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).

# **SERMON PREVIEW**

## **The Great Reversal**

The first Easter begins in the quiet aftermath of everything falling apart. The cross has done its work. Jesus perished, dashing the hopes of Jesus' followers. Early on Sunday morning, a few women go to the tomb—not expecting anything new, just doing what grieving people do, visiting his grave. But at the tomb they meet an angel, who tells them, “He is not here, for he has been raised.”

The Good News of Easter is cast in a different light in Matthew: Fear and joy show up at the same time. The past does not hold the way it used to. And whatever has happened at the tomb does not stay contained, it sends people running!

Questions for Reflection: The women are given a message before they fully understand it—how do you respond when you are asked to trust something you cannot yet make sense of? They leave the tomb quickly, still afraid, still unsure. What might it mean to move forward without having everything resolved? Where do you need new life this Easter?

## **MESSIAH HAS A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

On Friday, March 27, Messiah went live with a new, modern telephone system. You can now reach the entire staff by dialing 912.598.1188. The lovely artificial intelligence voice will give you options for dialing Pastor Talsness, the Church Office, Dr. Scheib, Ken Ritz, Shirley Newhart, or Rodney Powers. They will each be reachable via an app on their telephone. In the office, Pastor Talsness and Sandy Cooper have the option of using the traditional handset on their desk or an application on their desktop computers as well as an app on their telephone. You can also dial three of the staff directly at these numbers: Pastor Talsness (912.556.8056). Rev. Karen Scheib (912.556.8394) or the Church Office (912.556.8208)

# APRIL SPIRITUAL GROWTH ACTIVITY

## Twelve Monthly Activities for Spiritual Growth

Director of Faith Formation Ken Ritz is inviting our whole church family to participate in a 12-month spiritual growth journey. Each month we'll focus on one simple, but meaningful activity designed to help you draw closer to Christ. Here's the activity for April:

### April—Nature Walk with Scripture Meditation (1 hour)

Find a peaceful place to walk through nature (if you cannot walk for an extended period then find somewhere you can sit, surrounded by nature). Read Psalm 104 aloud before the walk begins. Ask God to speak through both Scripture and creation.

Walk much slower than normal. This is not exercise, it is prayer in motion. As you walk, try to notice:

- something beautiful that reflects God's creativity,
- something small or overlooked that reveals His care,
- something enduring that speaks of His faithfulness.

Express your thanks to God as you notice these things.

Stop once or twice during the walk. Re-read the Scripture silently and ask:

- What does this reveal about God?
- What does this awaken in me—trust, humility, peace?

Invite God to speak personally to you. Ask Him:

- What are you inviting me to release or receive?
- What truth from Scripture do I need to carry back into daily life?

End the walk with a brief spoken prayer or the Lord's Prayer, thanking God for His Word, His creation, and His presence.

*This practice helps slow the pace of life and opens your heart to worship.*

# CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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**George Lawrence (2026/2028)<sup>2</sup>**

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

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



## **2026 EASTER LILIES**

### *IN LOVING MEMORY OF*

*My Parents*

*Pearl & Charles Borsani*

*By—Babette Borsani*

*Mr. & Mrs. Robert Holmes*

*Mr. & Mrs. Victor LeBlanc*

*By—Penny & Joseph LeBlanc*

*Dolores Cornwall*

*Jack Munroe*

*Elissa Nichols*

*By—Diane Munroe & Jim Nichols*

*Ellen, Mom, Dad, Beth*

*Punch & Hannah*

*By—Clyde Olson*

*Armand Presto*

*Evelyn & John Ridberg*

*By—The Ridberg Family*

*Carl Stiber*

*By—Shirley Stiber and the Stiber Family*

*Martie Thomas*

*By—Tom Thomas*

*Doris & Martin Otto*

*Jim Hazel*

*Pat Cummiskey*

*Cathie & Kirk Barefoot*

*Chuck Ortman*

*Don Schaet*

*Ellen Olson*

*Dick Williams*

*By—Wilette & Lloyd Thompson*

*Gulnara Tabagua*

*Caroline & Raymond Walker*

*By—Tammy & Steve Walker*

*Jean & Richard Williams*

*By—Deborah Williams Ann & Terry Brantley,*

*& Riley Williams Bush*



## *IN HONOR OF*

### ***Our Parents***

*By—Lynn & Ken McLauchlan*

### ***Hamlet Kobakhidze***

*By—Tammy & Steve Walker*

### ***Sophia Wade***

### ***Sophia Wade's Grandparents***

*By—Sandra Beth Weinwurm Wade*

## *TO THE GLORY OF GOD*

*Lana & Erick Gilster*

*Lane & Gary Rabold*

*Janet & Walter Reardon*



## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO VOX CORDIUM**

During Lent and Easter, a special emphasis choir called VOX CORDIUM has performed. VOX CORDIUM translates as “Voice from the Heart.” Messiah wishes to thank them for their work and beautiful music over the past weeks. Today is their final performance. A list of those participating is shown below.

*Shirley Newhart, accompanist*

### **SOPRANOS**

*Bonnie LaPread*  
*Claire Sampson-Fields*  
*Eve Wells*  
*Jane Holst*  
*Lana Gilster*  
*Pat Cooper*  
*Sharon Kilpatrick*

### **ALTOS**

*Anna Olson*  
*Babette Borsani*  
*Diane Munroe*  
*Joy Olson*  
*Dr. Rev. Karen Scheib*  
*Karin Viglione*  
*Lynnetta Hartson*  
*Trudy Harting*

### **BARITONES**

*Brad VenHuizen*  
*David Greenawalt*  
*Dick Munson*  
*Howard Anerson*  
*Rev. Jason Talsness*  
*Ken Ritz*

*Steve Allen*  
*Steve Walker*  
*Tom Olson*  
*Tom Thomas*  
*Trevor Olson*

union  mission PRESENTS

# A Night of MUSIC at Messiah

-FEATURING PERFORMERS FROM BROADWAY-



ERICA  
GABRIEL



MICHAEL  
MALIAKEL



JESSE  
NAGER



ANDREA  
ROSS



ALYSHA  
UMPHRESS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 | 6:30PM**  
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

NON-TICKETED EVENT

*reception to follow...*



AMERICAN  
TRADITIONS  
vocal COLLECTION