

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tim Andrews, reader

PRELUDE “Beautiful Savior”

Shirley Newhart, organ

arr. Hildebrand

*CONFESSION 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.**

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.

*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.*

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 "Sanctuary"**

2164 Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
 ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a
 liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

WORDS: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs
 MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

SANCTUARY
 Irregular

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***GREETING**

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

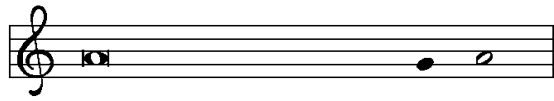
People: And also with you.

*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.



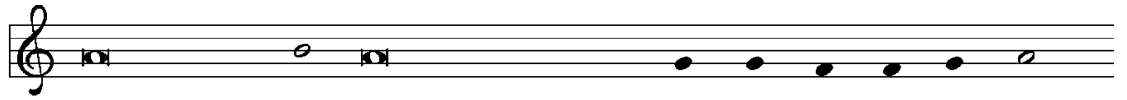
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC “The Summons”

Arr. Bell/Daigle

Lana Gilster, soloist

See Hymn 795 for text

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-10

Sofia Center, reader

Old Testament 762

¹ The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Buller Claiborne, reader

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (Ps. 31:5)

Leader: ¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

People: ² **Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.**

Leader: ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

People: ⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, for you are my tower of strength.**

Leader: ⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

People: ¹⁵ **My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

Leader: ¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Shelby Vick, reader

New Testament 15

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

New Testament 95

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Reverend Jason Talsness

***HYMN OF THE DAY** “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Hymn 857

Please use your hymnal; the music is not available to download.

CONFIRMATION

PRESENTATION

Sandra Weinwurm Wade and
William Wade

We present Sophia Grace Wade, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Sophia, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold Sophia in the gifts and promises of baptism and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Altar Flowers (both vases) today are given by **Cheryl & Frank Liebgott** *with thanks for all the blessings he has given us.*

People of God, let us join Sophia Grace Wade in our Confession of Faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support this sister of faith and pray for her in her life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,
stir up in Sophia the gift of your Holy Spirit;
confirm her faith,
guide her life,
empower her in her serving,
give her patience in suffering,
and bring her to everlasting life.

Amen.

Let us rejoice with this sister in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

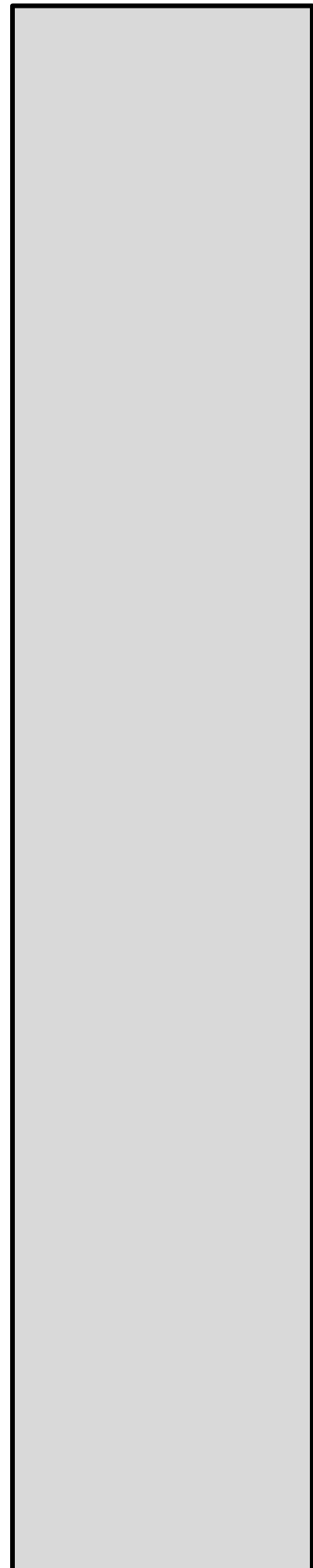
Leader: Merciful God,

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.



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

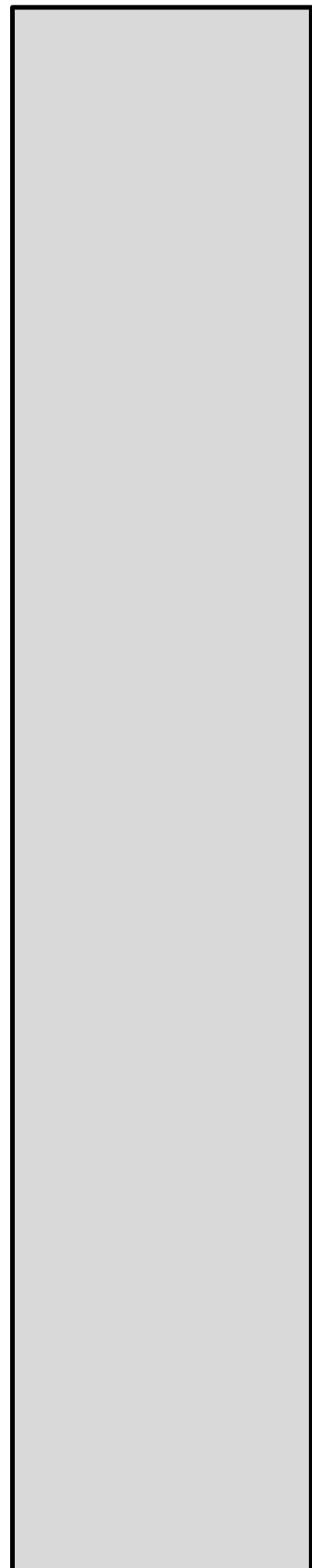


mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION



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***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 BLESSING**

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** “Awesome God”

Our God is an awesome God;

He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, pow’r, and love.

Our God is an awesome God.

***DISMISSAL**

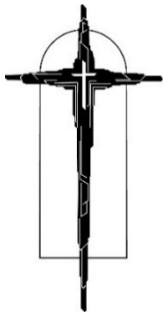
Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***POSTLUDE** “Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

arr. Held

Shirley Newhart, organ



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 3	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Confirmation Celebration 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, May 4	10:00 am Women's Bible Study <i>3:00 pm Recital Rehearsals</i> 5:00 pm Ronald McDonald House Dinner <i>6:30 pm Mahjong</i>
Tuesday, May 5	<i>3:00 pm Recital Rehearsals</i>
Wednesday, May 6	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
Thursday, May 7	
Friday, May 8	7:00 pm The Arts at Messiah
Saturday, May 9	

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	Janet Reardon
Reader	Tim Andrews, Sofia Center, Buller Claiborne, Shelby Vick
Evangelism Greeters	Jennifer Nguyen
Ushers	Greg Stinson and Randi VenHuizen
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Marcia Stinson & Brad VenHuizen
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen & Lynn McLauchlan (hosts) Jennifer Nguyen(treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Gerry Quirk 05/05. Cheryl Liebgott 05/07

Anniversaries: Tammy & Gerry Quirk 05/07

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFIRMATION TODAY

Congratulations to Sophia Grace Wade, who will be confirmed during today's service. Sophia selected the Readings and Hymns for today. We welcome her three friends—Sofia Center, Buller Claiborne, and Shelby Vick—who are Readers this morning. Sophia's family invites you to join them at today's Coffee Fellowship to greet and congratulate Sophia.

MESSIAH'S NEW PURCHASE

Messiah recently purchased a synthesizer, an electronic instrument that generates sounds by creating and shaping electrical signals, which are then converted to audio through speakers. This new synthesizer has 3,800 "voices," which include every instrument in a band, orchestra, or symphony, including rhythm instruments such as drums and bells. Also included are various sound effects that will add a creative touch to worship services throughout the year, enhancing the music program. The synthesizer is being used this morning with a flute sound to accompany the piano as Lana Gilster sings today's special music, *The Summons*.

THE ARTS AT MESSIAH 2026

Friday, May 8, 7:00 pm

This season's first concert will be The Joseph J. Pramberger Memorial Concert featuring guest pianist Derek Hartman playing in Messiah's Sanctuary. Hartman shot onto the international classical piano scene in 2025 when he was awarded First Prize in the prestigious 17th International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna, becoming the first American-born musician to receive top honors in the event's sixty-year history.

Mr. Hartman has established an international career as an award-winning performer, a dedicated educator, and an enthusiastic advocate for music. He has performed on stages across the United States and Europe, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. and the Golden Hall of the Musikverein in Vienna. He won top prizes in the Washington International Piano Competition, the Chicago International Music Competition, the PianoArts North American Competition, and the Music Teachers' National Association Young Artist Piano Competition.

Mr. Hartman is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the Yale School of Music, where he studies with Boris Slutsky. He holds a Master of Music from Yale, and he previously earned a Bachelor of Music from the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University under the tutelage of Dr. James Giles; he also received a minor in music theory. Born and raised in the Twin Cities metro area of Minnesota, he currently is based in Nashville, Tennessee.

No reservations are required. No admission charge, but a suggested donation of \$20 per person would be welcomed.

PRAMBERGER MEMORIAL CONCERT Messiah Lutheran's Pramberger Piano

The late Joseph (Joe) Pramberger, a member of Messiah Lutheran, was a renowned piano craftsman with a worldwide reputation for excellence, uncompromising ethics, and quiet humility. Joe spent almost 30 years honing his

skills at Steinway and Sons where he worked first as Design and Project Engineer, then as Vice President of Manufacturing and Chairman of the International Technical Exchange Group. He left in 1987 to form his own company, Pramberger Ltd., where he worked along with his father to restore and build world-class pianos. Joe saw the culmination of his work in 2000 with the launch of his own piano line, the highly acclaimed Pramberger Piano.

In 2003, Joe donated to Messiah a 7'6" grand piano, finished in African pommeli wood. Only 20 pianos of that size were manufactured. The piano was manufactured by the Young Chang Piano Company in South Korea under license to Joe. It was manufactured to Joe's exact design specifications. Joe and his wife, Joyce, traveled to Korea so that he could re-view and test all the pianos. Messiah received Joe's "pick of the litter" and the remaining pianos were distributed to dealers throughout the world.

Although seriously ill, Joe personally supervised the uncrating and set up of the grand piano we now enjoy in our Sanctuary. He signed the piano's soundboard on June 1, 2003, dedicating the piano "To the Glory of God." Joe died on December 11, 2003, and his funeral services were held at Messiah Lutheran Church.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Mother's Day Collection

Deadline: Sunday, May 10

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!

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 beer 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).

MESSIAH MESSENGERS

Ministry Opportunity

Messiah is looking for volunteers willing to help provide ongoing pastoral care support to homebound members during Pastor Talsness' sabbatical. Each volunteer will be asked to make one to two home visits per month over the three-month Sabbatical, June through August. We need at least six visitors, who will be designated Messiah Messengers.

Pastor Scheib will provide training and oversee and support the volunteers. Two orientation and training meetings will be offered. We ask you to attend one. Meeting dates are May 14, 4:00-5:00 p.m. and June 4, 11:00 am-12:00 pm. If you are willing to assist with this ministry, please contact Pastor Scheib. (912-598-1188 ext. 105; 912-556-8394; kdsspin54@gmail.com; text 404-401-0219).

MOBILE TAX OFFICE At Messiah on Tuesdays

Chatham County Tax Commissioner Sonja Jackson has selected Messiah Lutheran Church as the Skidaway Island location for the new Mobile Tax Office. Beginning Tuesday, May 5, the Church parking lot will be home for the

mobile van from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each Tuesday. Anything that you need to do at the Tax Commission Office, you can do at the Mobile Office--e.g., property tax issues, tag renewals, title services. You can make an appointment on the Tax Commissioner's website. This is a convenient service for everyone. Spread the word; tell your friends and neighbors.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Shirley Newhart is organizing an informal Summer Choir to sing on Sunday, May 17. If you are interested in joining the group, she will be holding a rehearsal right after worship on Sunday, May 10.

SERMON PREVIEW

Our gospel reading from John 14 brings Jesus' words to his followers on the night he was handed over to be crucified. He assures them, "I will not leave you orphaned." Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, the risen Christ comes to abide with us still. As Pentecost draws near, we hear Jesus speak words of promise to his disciples—and to every generation.

It is a special Sunday as we will celebrate another member's confirmation as she affirms her baptism—our very own Sophia Wade. Our confirmand as well as the rest of us carry a past, but in baptism we were claimed by grace and given the Spirit of truth. We live in a present filled with change and uncertainty, yet Christ dwells with us now. We wonder about the future, but Jesus promises, "Because I live, you also will live."

We remember this promise belongs to the whole church. Gathered at the Lord's table, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to transform us into the body of the risen Christ for the sake of the world.

Questions for Reflection: When you think about your past, what stories most define you? How might God's grace tell a deeper story? Where in your present life do you most need the promise that you are not alone? What concerns or hopes do you carry about the future?

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.

Message to Messiah Congregation About Pastor Talsness' Upcoming Sabbatical

Pastor Jason Talsness will be on Sabbatical from June 1-August 31, 2026. Pastor Karen Scheib will be in charge during this period. She will be responsible for coordinating church worship services, as well as supervising day-to-day church operations and church staff. Pastor Karen will be assisted by Pastor Ken Ritz as well as by the Staff Support and Mutual Ministry committee and the Messiah Council.

SABBATICAL FAQs

What is a sabbatical?

The purpose of a sabbatical is to support long-term sustainability in ministry. A sabbatical is a planned, intentional period of rest, renewal and study for a pastor. It is not a vacation, but a time to step away from regular pastoral duties so the pastor can return reinvigorated with a fresh perspective for ministry. (continued)

Why is the pastor taking a sabbatical?

Sabbaticals of three months are recommended every 5-7 years for lead clergy. Pastor Jason has never had a sabbatical since being ordained 29 years ago. The process was discussed by the Mutual Ministry committee in 2020, planning ensued and culminated with a policy in 2024, which was approved by Messiah Council in 2025.

How long will the sabbatical last?

June 1-August 31, 2026. Pastor Jason's farewell Sunday is May 31 and he will return to the office on September 1.

Who will be taking over pastoral duties while Pastor Talsness is away?

Pastor Karen Scheib. Her office hours at Messiah will be Monday-Thursday from 10:30-12:30. The church office hours for Office Administrator Sandy Cooper will remain the same as posted in the Messiah Minute and church bulletin.

Will worship services continue as usual?

Yes. The congregation will continue to gather for the Word and Sacrament on Sundays at 9:00am.

Who will lead worship and pastoral care during the sabbatical?

Pastor Karen Scheib is responsible for coordinating worship services and pastoral care. She and/or Pastor Ken Ritz will lead the majority of worship services, supported by supply pastors from the Lutheran Church and other denominations.

Who should I contact in an emergency?

For pastoral emergencies such as hospitalization, death or urgent spiritual care needs, contact Pastor Karen Scheib [Direct: (912) 556-8394, Office: (912) 598-1188, ext.105, Email: kdsspin54@gmail.com, Text Only: (404) 401-0219]

Will church programs continue?

Most regular ministries (education, fellowship, outreach) and church administration will continue as normal.

Will Pastor Talsness be available during the sabbatical?

He will not be available for regular pastoral duties, meetings, or communications during the sabbatical. Exceptions will be made for emergencies as mentioned above, but Messiah members wanting to communicate with Pastor Jason about church business should request it through the church office.

What if I bump into Pastor Talsness on the island, at the club or downtown?

Feel free to engage him as much or as little as you like, but **please refrain** from discussing church business. (continued)

I am friends with Pastor Talsness on Facebook, can I engage him there?

Pastor Jason may give updates on his sabbatical, or he may take time away from Facebook. Feel free to follow his lead, but it is likely he will not be engaging with other people's posts during the summer months.

How can the congregation support the sabbatical?

Support can be shown by:

- Participating actively in worship and ministries
- Supporting the Messiah interim leadership and staff members
- Praying for the pastor and congregation during the summer
- Respecting the pastor's time away

What will the pastor be doing during the sabbatical?

Activities may include:

- Reading and study
- Travel or retreat time
- Class attendance
- Surveys of other worship services
- Rest and renewal
- Time with family and personal interests

Will there be a report or sharing after the sabbatical?

Often pastors share reflections, learnings, or insights through sermons, presentations or written reports. Details will be shared closer to the return date.

Will there be updates during the sabbatical?

Yes. Information will be provided through the Messiah Minute and weekly church bulletin. If you have any specific questions not covered, feel free to contact Pastor Karen Scheib or someone on the Mutual Ministry committee (Chair - Greg Stinson, Amanda Ridberg, or David Ridberg).

Final Note

This sabbatical is a gift to both the pastor and the congregation. It is a time to trust God's continued presence and care within the life of the church. It improves and extends the spiritual and mental well-being of the pastor while building resiliency within the congregation.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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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.

SOPHIA GRACE WADE CONFIRMATION

