MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Sunday, November 1, 2026
All Saints Sunday

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

MESSIAH LUTHERAN
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Built on a Faithful
FOUNDATION

2027 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR ASSETS

God blesses Messiah with skillful, experienced volunteer leadership in the management of its finances. Thanks to their faithful service and countless hours, Messiah stands in a strong financial position today, and we are deeply grateful.

As Messiah's financial resources have grown in size and complexity, so has the work of managing them. Today that includes accounting oversight, budgeting, investment funds, building reserves, and reporting to Council and the congregation. The time, effort, and expertise this requires now go well beyond what we can reasonably ask of any one volunteer, and it would be difficult for future volunteers to take on the same load.

For 2027, we will engage a qualified part-time **controller**, a financial professional who will:

- provide consistent, ongoing financial oversight
- strengthen our internal financial practices and safeguards
- help Council make well-informed decisions about our resources
- ease the increasingly complex workload carried by our volunteer treasurer

The controller will work alongside our bookkeeper and treasurer and will help ensure continuity whenever volunteer leadership changes.

This is an investment of approximately **$20,000**, not simply in bookkeeping, but in **good stewardship**: creating the financial structures and safeguards appropriate for the resources God has entrusted to Messiah, so that every gift you give is managed with care, accountability, and transparency.

For 2027, increased giving of $595 per week will allow us to accomplish all our ministry goals, including stewarding our assets.

As you prayerfully consider your 2027 commitment, know that every gift, at every level, helps maintain the foundation on which all of Messiah's ministry stands.

Messiah needs a part-time financial controller. This employee will oversee all of Messiah's financial functions. In the past we have had a wonderful volunteer doing this, but we must move on as that person steps away from his volunteer role.

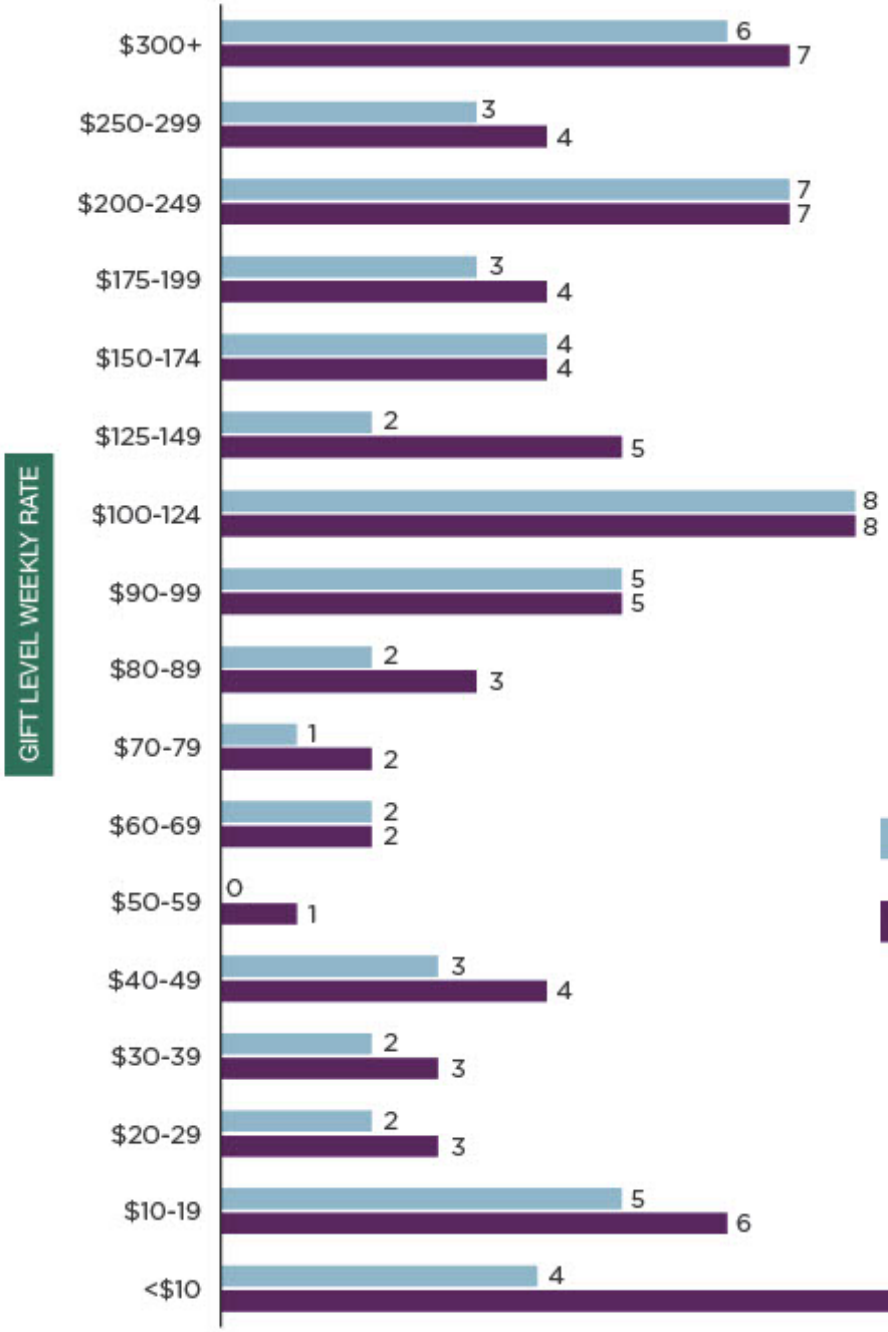
–Amanda Ridberg, member, Staff Support/Mutual Ministry

GIVING TOGETHER

The bar graph displays our giving. One bar shows how many gifts are currently being given at the indicated weekly amounts. The other bar shows how many gifts are needed in those levels to reach our goal.

- How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- How does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?
- How would my life change if I doubled my giving?
- How much more could I give if I really wanted to?

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR



IN THE NAME of JESUS
Welcome
Grow
Support
Serve
MESSIAH LUTHERAN

To submit your intent online,
scan the QR code

or visit **messiahsi.org/give**

Number of Current Givers	59
Number of Hoped for Givers	78

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community.

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

Congregational responses are in bold

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

GATHERING

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Voss, reader

PRELUDE "For All the Saints" arr. Cassler

Shirley Newhart, organ

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Leader: Compassionate God.

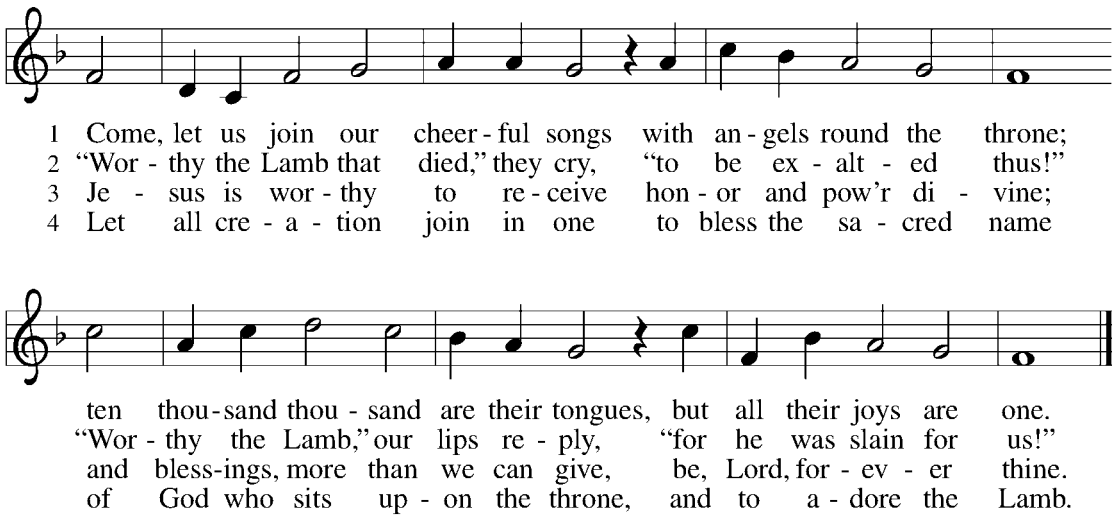
People: we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Leader: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

People: Amen.

*GATHERING SONG "Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"

Hymn 847



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: NUN DANKET ALL, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

*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.

*LITANY FOR ALL SAINTS

Leader: We remember the great ancestors of our faith,
from Abraham and Sarah, to Paul and Phoebe:

People: Ancestors of the faith, we remember you.

Leader: We remember the prophets and priests,
the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

People: Teachers of the faith, we remember you.

Leader: We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts and uncles, those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

People: Family of our faith, we remember you.

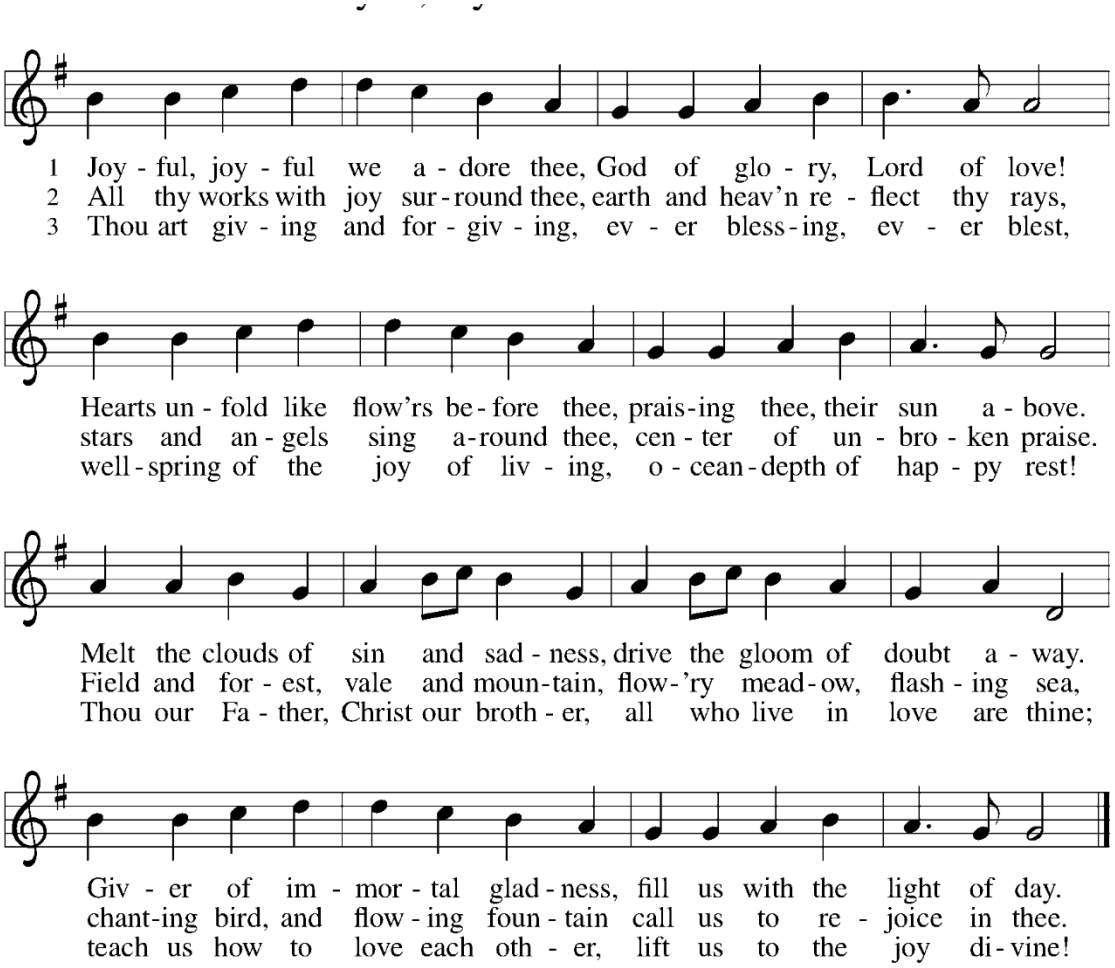
Leader: We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, wives and parents whose lives ended too soon:

People: Those close in our heart, we remember you.

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Hymn 836

Verse 1



Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922
Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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, You Saw My Early Being" Starke/Hobby

Trudy Harting & Karen Scheib, duet

O God, you saw my early being when no one else was seeing,
knitting me within my mother's womb, weaving me upon a living loom,
marking days of my life's span according to your plan.

O Christ, you cleansed me and forgave me, yes, only you could save me.
Baptized into you, your dying breath; buried with you, raised with you from death,
now no more an heir of shame, you gave me your own name!

O Christ, I starve in sin, come, feed me that food by which you freed me.
Very body given when you died, very blood poured out, O Crucified;
meal of thanks for great and least: you seat me at your feast!

O Spirit, holy Comfort, guide me; your Word, a cleft to hide me.
Still, small voice, you keep me through each storm, breathing life into my earthen form;
with your love my life infuse to serve now, where you choose.

O God Most High, my start and ending, to you, I am commending
soul and body, ev'ry care and fear, ev'ry time and season, day and year;
God of grace, grant your shalom till I am welcomed home.

WORD

Jody Voss, reader

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

New Testament 221

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could
count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with
palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

The reading of Scripture is the time that 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.

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"

[11] And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" [14] I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

[15] For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
[16] They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
[17] for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord; for those who fear the Lord lack nothing. (Ps. 34:9)

Leader: [1] I will bless the Lord at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.
People: [2] **I will glory in the Lord;**
let the lowly hear and rejoice.
Leader: [3] Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt God's name together.
People: [4] **I sought the Lord, who answered me**
and delivered me from all my terrors.

Leader: [5] Look upon the Lord and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
People: [6] **I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me**
and saved me from all my troubles.
Leader: [7] The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord and delivers them.
People: [8] **Taste and see that the Lord is good;**
happy are they who take refuge in God!
Leader: [9] Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.
People: [10] **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,**
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.
Leader: [22] O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

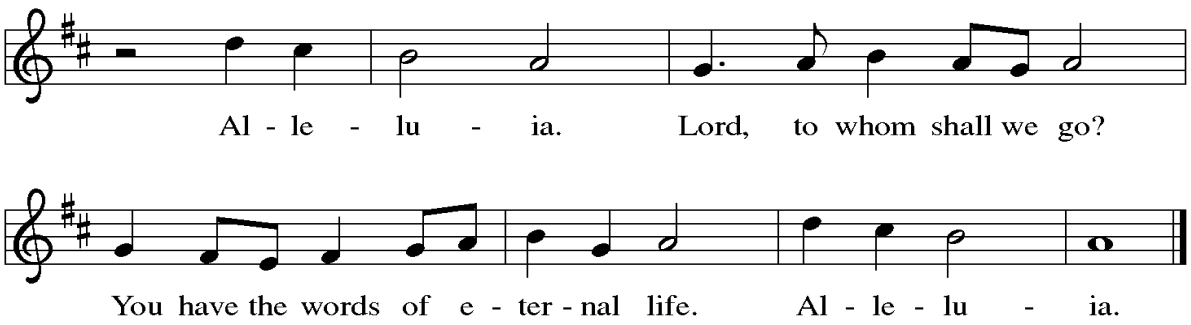
New Testament page 213

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

[1] See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. [3] And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Flower and Candle Calendar for 2027 is now posted on the Narthex Kiosk.

Please consider donating to support Altar Flowers or the Eternal Candle in November or in 2027.

*GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

New Testament page 3

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

Leader: The Gospel according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[1] When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2] And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

[7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "Glorious Inheritance"

Pastor Jason Talsness

*__HYMN OF THE DAY "__For All the Saints"

Hymn 422

Verses 1,2,6,7

Music follows on the next page.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
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In the Apostles' Creed, the phrase "holy catholic Church" refers to the universal Christian church, not exclusively the Roman Catholic Church. It signifies the belief in a single, unified body of believers across time and space, united by their shared faith in Christ.

That Christ visited the dead after his crucifixion is based on 1 Peter 4:6 "For this is the reason the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that, though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged, they might live in the spirit as God does."

The congregation is invited to share a sign of Christ's peace with those nearby, saying, "Peace be with you" or "The peace of the Lord be with you." You may shake hands, bump fists, or simply nod to one another.

*APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

TEMPLE TALK

George Lawrence, Chair, Stewardship Ministry

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Leader: God, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

(Final petition and response.)

Leader: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

People: Amen.

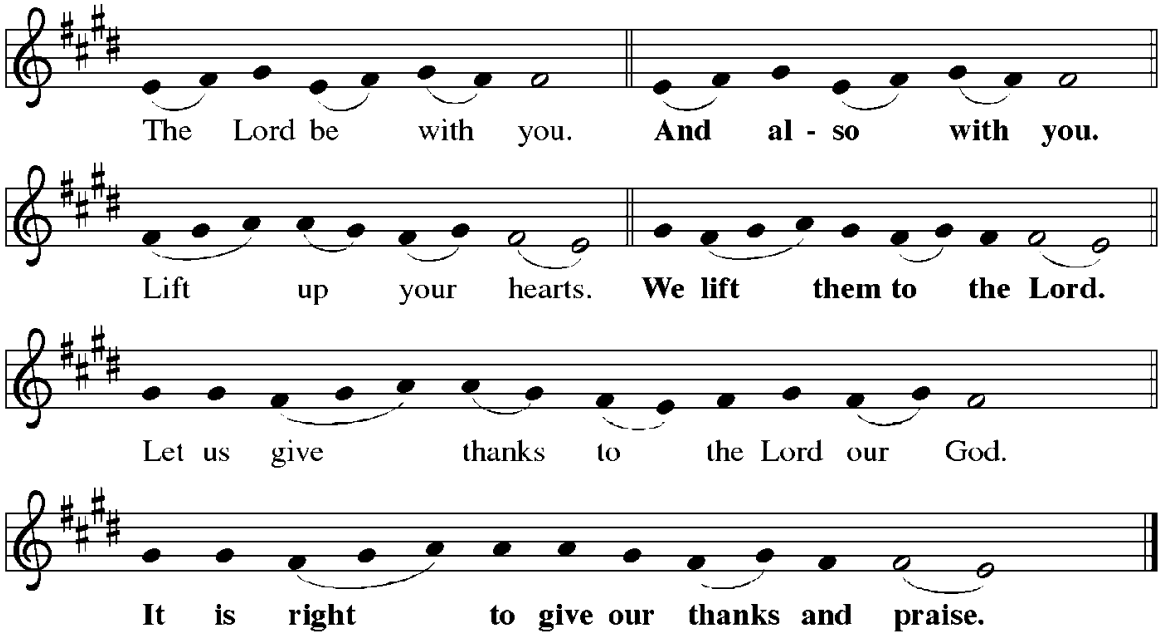
*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

MEAL

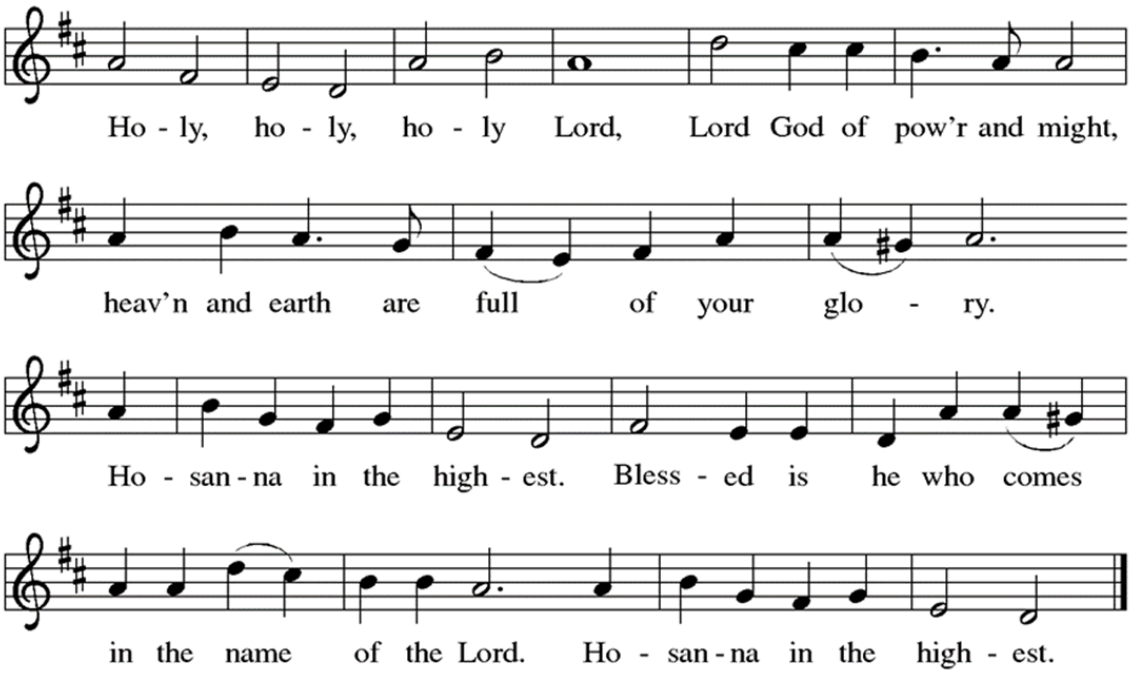
*DIALOGUE



*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

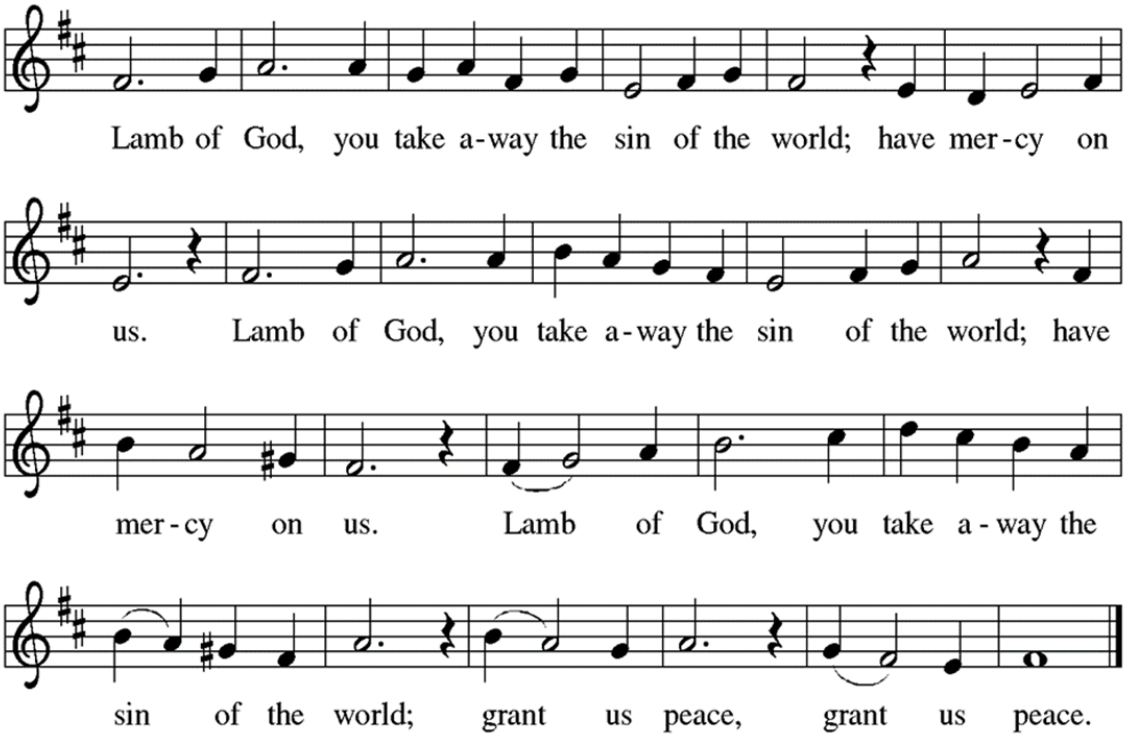
*LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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"



COMMUNION

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Compassionate God,

People: **through the gifts of bread and wine**
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

Leader: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

People: Amen

*SENDING SONG "As Saints of Old"

Hymn 695

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE** "By All Your Saints in Warfare" arr. Wold

Shirley Newhart, organ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Italics indicate outside group

Sunday, November 1	8:30 am Chancel Choir Warmup 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, November 2	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm RMH House Dinner
Tuesday, November 3	*12:00 pm SNC Book Signing*
Wednesday, November 4	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, November 5	3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Friday, November 6	*1:00 pm Needlepoint Society*
Saturday, November 7	

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	Cheryl Liebgott & Layne Rabold
Reader	Jody Voss
Communion Assistants	Lynn McLauchlan & Jody Voss
Evangelism Greeters	Barbara Van Doren & Tim Andrews
Ushers	Ken Mitchell and Parker Pearson
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Pam Allen (host) Lynn McLauchlan (treats)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Steve Holst 11/4; Lynnetta Hartson 11/7

Anniversaries: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The Strategic Planning Committee is pleased to announce two upcoming discussion sessions to explore, in more detail, follow-on topics identified during our survey as well as planning work earlier in the year. The sessions will be held after church in place of Adult Discipleship Class in the Conference Room:

1. November 8 - Who are we called to serve and what does our future congregation look like? Survey and demographic data will be shared, and our discussion will explore where is God calling us in regard to reaching new members.
2. December 13 - What opportunities exist to further enhance our worship and music experience? Worship and music are foundational elements of our faith experience. How do we use worship and music as an entry point into people's lives and what is our worship and music identity in the future?

Please sign up for one or both sessions on the Narthex Kiosk. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Strategic Planning Committee - Ken Hylander, Howard Anderson, and Barbara Moore.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY

Mosaic Holiday Tree Class
Saturday, November 8, 2:30 pm

Join us for an afternoon of fun creating your own holiday mosaic tree (8" tall). Instructor Marie Powell will teach the class and provide the materials and tools needed. Cost is $40 by Venmo or cash at the class. RSVP to Gayle Denny (513.604.0764; gdgardener@comcast.net).

Ladies Christmas Dinner
Thursday, December 3, 5:00 pm

The 5-Spot in Sandfly is the location for this holiday gathering. There is space for 22 people; please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk. Questions? Contact Gayle Denny (513.604.0764).

DECORATING THE CHURCH
Saturday, December 5, 8:30 am

The Men's Group will be trimming the Sanctuary tree at 8:30 am, joined later by the Ladies, who will e responsible for decorating the rest of the Sanctuary and the church building.

Messiah Christmas Potluck
Sunday, December 6, 5:00 pm

The annual event will be held in Peper Hall. The church will provide hams and wine. Please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk.

A RETURN TO THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

At its October meeting, Messiah's Worship and Music Ministry voted to include the Sharing of the Peace in our order of worship during November and December on a temporary, trial basis. Messiah discontinued this practice before the COVID pandemic because of health concerns. Since then, members have expressed interest in bringing it back.

Biblical and Historical Background

The Sharing of the Peace has ancient roots in Christian worship. In Matthew 5:23–24, Jesus teaches the importance of reconciliation with one another before bringing our gifts to the altar. The apostle Paul repeatedly encourages Christians to greet one another with a holy kiss (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20). And in John's Gospel, the risen Christ greets his disciples with the words, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19).

By the second century, Christians were exchanging a sign of peace during worship. Over the centuries, the practice has taken different forms and occupied different places in the liturgy. In our Lutheran tradition, the Sharing of the Peace ordinarily follows the Prayers of Intercession. It is intended to express the peace and reconciliation we receive through Christ and share with one another.

Benefits and Concerns

At its best, the Sharing of the Peace is a brief expression of Christian community and reconciliation. It reminds us that worship is not simply an individual experience, but something we share as the body of Christ. At the same time, there are reasonable concerns about including this practice in worship. It adds time to the service and can interrupt the flow of the liturgy. Some worshipers are uncomfortable with physical contact, while visitors and others who do not know many people may find the experience awkward or even isolating. It is also worth remembering that the Sharing of the Peace, while rooted in biblical themes, is not a required element of Christian worship.

November and December

For these two months, we will include the Sharing of the Peace as a brief exchange with those immediately around us. This is temporary, not a decision to restore it permanently. Following this period, the Worship and Music Ministry will consider what we have learned from the experience. Our hope is that we can approach these two months with openness and consideration for one another, recognizing that faithful Christians may have different experiences of this part of worship.

We encourage everyone to use the traditional words, "Peace be with you" or "The peace of Christ be with you," rather than ordinary social greetings. Physical contact is not necessary. A spoken greeting, a nod, or another simple gesture is entirely appropriate. But shaking of the hands is common for those who wish to. Otherwise even a fist bump can suffice.

SERMON PREVIEW
Glorious Inheritance

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh,” Jesus promises.

We tend to think of grief in terms of what we have lost. But grief can also reveal what remains: the love we have received, the lives that have shaped us, and the countless people whose influence continues long after they are gone.

Sometimes tears bring us closer to one another, revealing feelings that words cannot express. And sometimes, in the midst of sorrow, we discover just how much we have been given.

On All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us and celebrate the glorious inheritance we share with them in Christ. We belong to a communion far greater than the people we can see, held together by a love that even death cannot destroy.

Questions for reflection: What does the word saint mean to you? Who comes to mind when you hear it? Why do you think the church sets aside a Sunday each year to remember those who have died? If you could become more aware of the richness of your life and the people who have blessed it, what might you begin to appreciate differently today?

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 we'll focus on one simple but meaningful activity designed to help you draw closer to Christ.

November—Month of Hidden Service

This month, practice the quiet discipline of serving without recognition. Jesus teaches us to give and serve in secret, trusting that the Father who sees in secret will reward openly (Matthew 6:1–4). Therefore, intentionally look for opportunities to bless others without drawing attention to yourself.

Each week, commit to at least one unseen act of service. This could include anonymously:

- paying for someone's meal
- covering a small bill for a person in need
- leaving a grocery gift card in a church office with no name attached
- completing a household chore that normally goes unnoticed
- volunteering for a behind-the-scenes ministry role
- cleaning up after an event without being asked
- writing an unsigned note of encouragement
- praying daily for someone without telling them.

The key is intentional secrecy. Resist the urge to mention what you've done. Do not post it, hint at it, or look for acknowledgment. If someone discovers your act, simply say, "It was a joy."

Use each opportunity to examine your heart: Am I content for God alone to see what I do? Am I serving out of love rather than recognition?

Hidden service quietly reshapes our hearts—training us to love, give, and serve for God's approval rather than human recognition, and forming in us the humble character of Christ.

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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.

IN THE NAME of JESUS
Welcome
Grow
Support
Serve
MESSIAH LUTHERAN