MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Sunday, November 8, 2026
Pentecost 24



Gustave Doré, The Death of Absalom

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



MESSIAH LUTHERAN
Skidaway Island
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Built on a Faithful FOUNDATION

2027 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR FUTURE

Some months ago, Messiah began a strategic planning process to discern where God is leading our congregation in the years ahead. More than 100 people—a 95% response rate— shared their thoughts through the congregational survey.

The Messiah Strategic Planning Team is continuing its efforts this fall. Through our work over the last year, we have identified that the congregation is looking for continued spiritual growth particularly in the areas of Sunday Worship and Music and in all of Christian Education. Our next steps are to delve deeper into what those opportunities might entail and to develop plans on how we can best execute them going forward. –Ken Hylander, member, Strategic Planning Team

Rather than deciding prematurely what new initiatives should be, we want to be ready to act when our direction becomes clear. We therefore propose setting aside approximately $17,000 for future ministry initiatives in 2027.

These resources will give Messiah the flexibility to respond thoughtfully and creatively as new priorities emerge, without waiting for the next budget year. The Council will determine how the funds will be spent, based on the results of the Strategic Planning Project.

We do not know exactly what every next step will look like. We do know the foundation upon which we will take it: "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11)

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

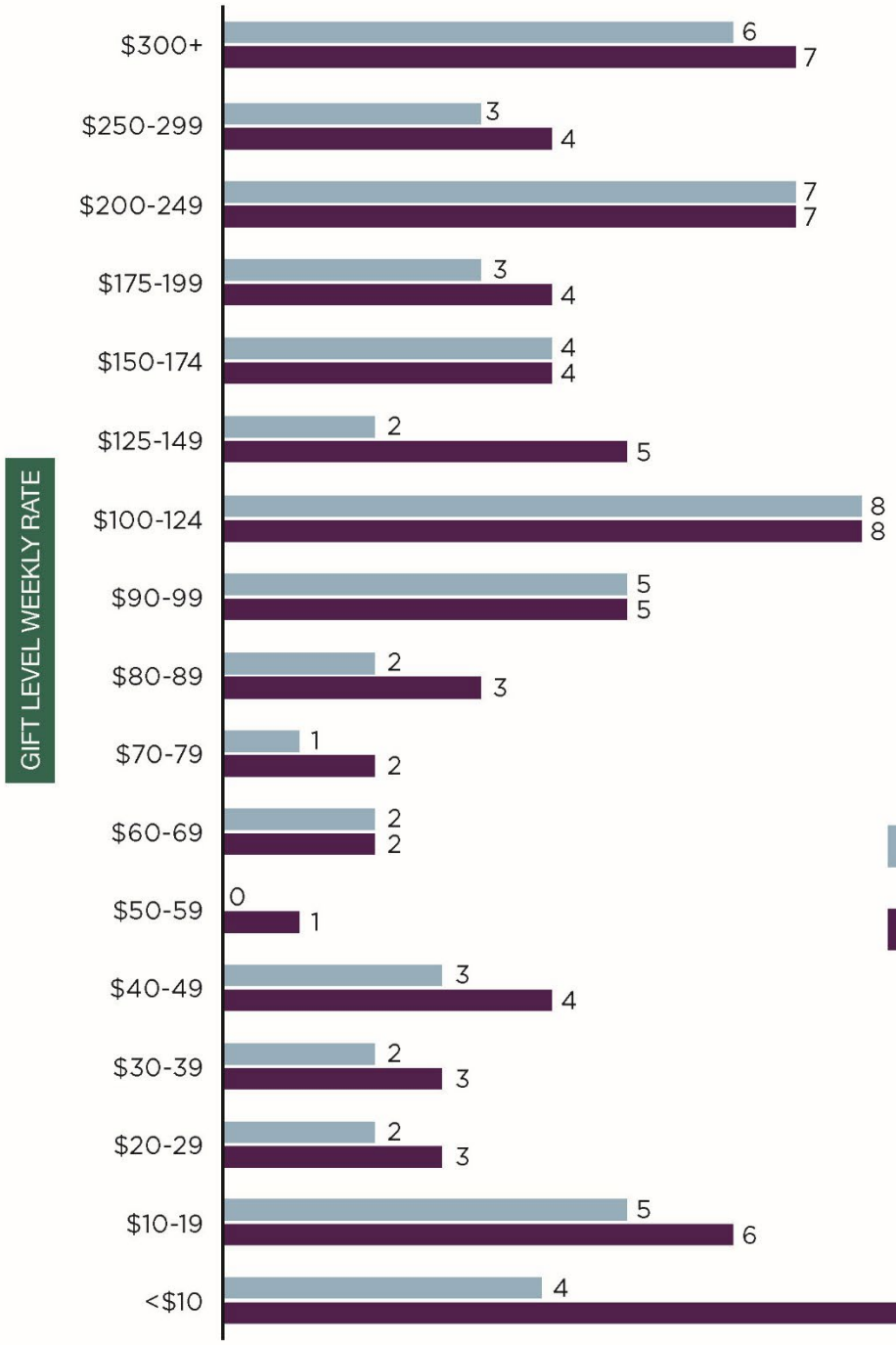
As you prayerfully consider your 2027 commitment, know that every gift, at every level, helps maintain the foundation on which all of Messiah's ministry stands.

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

Lynn McLauchlan, reader

PRELUDE "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" Rinck & Walther

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.

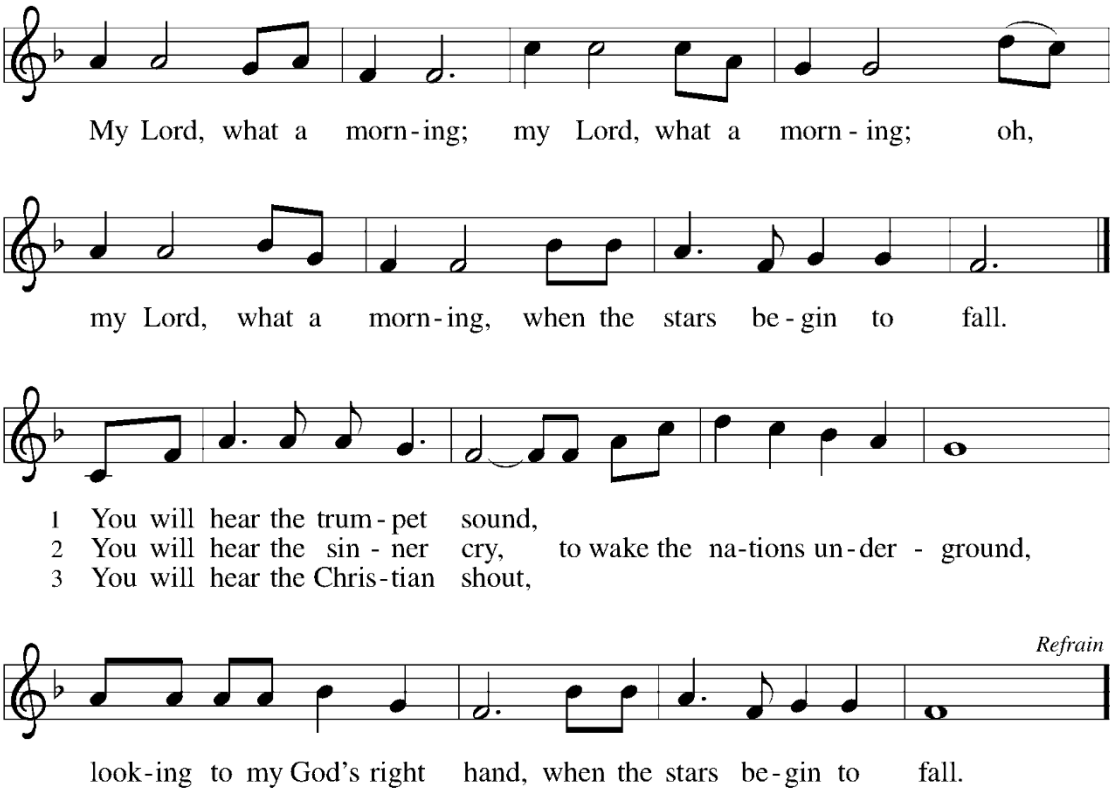
People: we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

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 "My Lord, What a Morning"

Hymn 438



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

*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.

*KYRIE

Leader: Not by our own strength or goodness, but by your grace alone, O God, are we made righteous.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: When we place our trust in ourselves rather than your promises, turn our hearts again to Christ.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Renew your church by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may live in the freedom of the Gospel.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the grace that claims us, the faith that sustains us, and the love that makes us new, let us give thanks to God!

"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.

*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: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM "You Are My All in All" Jernigan/arr. Larson

Chancel Choir

You are my strength when I am weak, you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.

Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool; you are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless your name, you are my all in all.

When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup, you are my all in all.

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name.

WORD

Lynn McLauchlan, reader

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 13–18 (excerpts, NIV)

In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David.

2 Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her…

10 Then Amnon said to Tamar, "Bring the food here into my bedroom so I may eat from your hand." And Tamar took the bread she had prepared and brought it to her brother Amnon in his bedroom. 11 But when she took it to him to eat, he grabbed her and said, "Come to bed with me, my sister."

12 "No, my brother!" she said to him. "Don't force me! Such a thing should not be done in Israel! Don't do this wicked thing. 13 What about me? Where could I get rid of my disgrace? And what about you? You would be like one of the wicked fools in Israel. Please speak to the king; he will not keep me from being married to you." 14 But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.…

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.

[21] When King David heard all this, he was furious. [22] And Absalom never said a word to Amnon, either good or bad; he hated Amnon because he had disgraced his sister Tamar…

[28] Absalom ordered his men, "Listen! When Amnon is in high spirits from drinking wine and I say to you, 'Strike Amnon down,' then kill him. Don't be afraid. Haven't I given you this order? Be strong and brave." [29] So Absalom's men did to Amnon what Absalom had ordered…

[37] Absalom fled and went to Talmai son of Ammihud, the king of Geshur. But King David mourned many days for his son. [38] After Absalom fled and went to Geshur, he stayed there three years. [39] And King David longed to go to Absalom, for he was consoled concerning Amnon's death…

CHAPTER 14

[23] Then Joab went to Geshur and brought Absalom back to Jerusalem. [24] But the king said, "He must go to his own house; he must not see my face." So Absalom went to his own house and did not see the face of the king…

Sometime later….

CHAPTER 15

[10] Then Absalom sent secret messengers throughout the tribes of Israel to say, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpets, then say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron.'" … And so the conspiracy gained strength, and Absalom's following kept on increasing…

[13] A messenger came and told David, "The hearts of the people of Israel are with Absalom."

[14] Then David said to all his officials who were with him in Jerusalem, "Come! We must flee, or none of us will escape from Absalom. We must leave immediately, or he will move quickly to overtake us and bring ruin on us and put the city to the sword.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 3

Leader: [1] O Lord, how many are my foes!
Many are rising against me;
People: **[2] many are saying to me,**
"There is no help for you in God."

Leader: [3] But you, O Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.
People: **[4] I cry aloud to the Lord,**
and he answers me from his holy hill.

Leader: [5] I lie down and sleep;
I wake again, for the Lord sustains me.
People: **[6] I am not afraid of ten thousands of people**
who have set themselves against me all around.

Leader: [7] Rise up, O Lord!
Deliver me, O my God!
For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.

People: **[8] Deliverance belongs to the Lord;**
may your blessing be on your people!

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

New Testament page 181

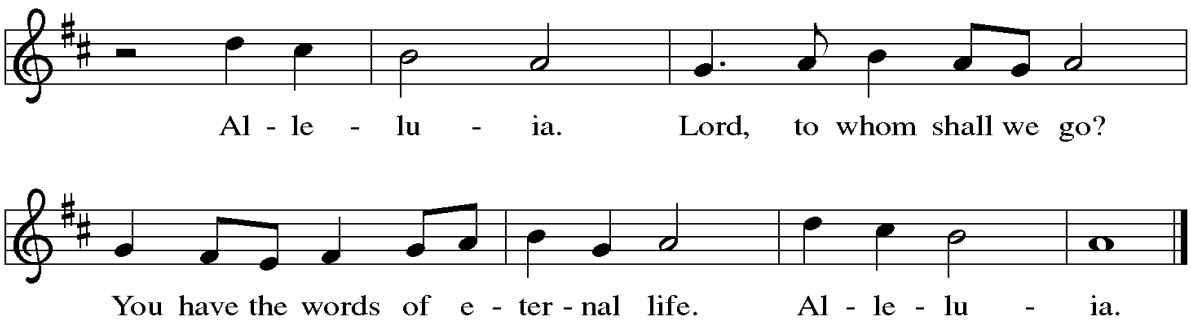
Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those
who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through
Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare
to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until
the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call
and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the
dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air,
and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one
another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Luke 15:11-24

New Testament 68

Leader: The Gospel according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[11] Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. [12] The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. [13] A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. [14] When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. [15] So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. [16] He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. [17] But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! [18] I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; [19] I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' [20] So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. [21] Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' [22] But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. [23] And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, [24] for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

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

SERMON "No Regrets"
Ken Ritz, Director of Faith Formation

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Pam Allen "in memory of her late father, Walter D. Rhoads, Jr., born on November 14, 1918," and by Peggy & Parker Pearson "in celebration of their grandson Jackson's 3rd birthday."

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.

*HYMN OF THE DAY "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Hymn 244



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

*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.

*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.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

SENDING

*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

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

People: Amen

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*SENDING SONG "Soon and Very Soon"

Hymn 439



Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945
Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch
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*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE "Praise to the Lord" Walther

Shirley Newhart, organ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Italics indicate outside group

Sunday, November 8	8:30 am Chancel Choir Warmup 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Strategic Planning Discussion Group *2:00 pm Voice Recital Rehearsal* 2:30 pm Mosaic Holiday Tree Workshop *5:30 pm South Harbor Homeowners Association*
Monday, November 9	10:00 am Women's Bible Study *6:30 pm Mahjong*
Tuesday, November 10	3:00 pm Stephen Ministers
Wednesday, November 11	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, November 12	3:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
Friday, November 13	*Junior League Setup*
Saturday, November 14	*8:00 am Junior League Event* *3:00 pm Beth Splaine Student Recital*

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 and Layne Rabold
Reader	Lynn McLauchlan
Evangelism Greeters	Bonnie LaPread and Layne Rabold
Ushers	George Lawrence and Phil Nack
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Christine Lind (host) Cheryl Liebgott (cake)

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Patti Small 11/12; Tim Andrews 11/14

Anniversaries: Steve & Jody Voss 11/12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Today is the second Sunday of the month, which means that we will celebrate everyone with November birthdays during Fellowship Time. Please join us in Peper Hall following worship today for birthday cake and other refreshments.

ANNUAL MEETING & ANNUAL REPORT
Sunday, November 15, After Worship

Plan to attend the 32nd Annual Meeting in Peper Hall next Sunday. Copies of the Annual Report are available on the Narthex Table.

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
Sunday, 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 be 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.

OUTREACH MINISTRY
Thanksgiving Baskets
Deadline: Sunday, November 22, 2026

The Outreach Ministry is once again organizing Thanksgiving Baskets of food for the families of students at The Learning Academy (formerly Coastal Georgia Comprehensive Academy). The ministry is requesting individual contributions of $35 or more (but will be delighted to accept checks in any amount) for these families in need. There are multiple ways for you to donate by check with Thanksgiving Baskets in the memo line:

- At a table in Peper Hall on November 8, 15, and 22
- In the Sunday offering plate
- At the Church Office

You can also donate online at the website messiahsi.org/giving with your debit or credit card. (Just select Outreach as the Fund, then click on Thanksgiving Baskets for the memo.)

Coat Drive
Start Date: Sunday, November 15, 2026
End Date: Sunday, January 31, 2027

Check your closets, storage bins and attics! The Outreach Ministry is collecting outerwear for Square One Ministry, which is run by Cale Robert Hall, Resident Chaplain at Trinity United Methodist Church in Savannah. Donate new or gently used coats, hats, gloves and scarves to provide some comfort and warmth when the weather eventually turns colder. These items will be collected in a big bin in the Narthex, and a member of the Outreach Ministry will pick up collections weekly so there will be no messy overflow. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in donating your items to this worthy cause.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY
Don't Miss Out, You CAN Catch Up!

If you have not dropped into the weekly Adult Discipleship Sunday School class at 10:20 am on Sunday, you are missing an extraordinary opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the Book of Romans--Paul's review of the message of salvation and what it has to say to us today. Each week, the group explores new information.

The class will not meet for the next three weeks due to conflicts and Thanksgiving; however, you can catch up with the study video *The Book of Romans* by J.D. Greear. The video and more resources are available through Messiah's account at RightNow Media. To help you access this collection of videos, use the QR code below. Here's how:

1. Open your phone's camera and hover over the QR code until the yellow bar showing Messiah Lutheran appears on the screen.
2. Click the yellow bar.
3. Type your email address and create a password.
4. Tap the login button and start browsing the videos.

SERMON PREVIEW
No Regrets

The story of King David and his son Absalom is found in 2 Samuel chapters 13–18. It is a tragic story that ends in regret for all involved, but it has much to say to us today.

The key question to ask myself: If I keep living the way I'm living today, what will be my biggest regret when I get to the end of my life?

The follow-on question: How might God call me to change the way I'm living so that I don't end up with regrets?

Whenever sin is not dealt with directly, it always leads to more sin, and more damage.

"The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth… and his heart was filled with pain." (Genesis 6:5-7 NIV)

What do you do with a regret you cannot fix? You give it to a God who cannot fail.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL
2026

Jason Talsness, Pastor
(912) 556-8056
skidawaypastorj@gmail.com

Peggy Pearson (2026)
Education & Discipleship Ministry
443.995.1146
parkpear@aol.com

Claire Cornwell-Williams (2028)
President
Evangelism Ministry
912.658.4114
cwilliams17@comcast.net

Vacant
Finance Ministry

Lisa Oswald (2026)
Secretary
Outreach Ministry
203.554.5845
laoswald@icloud.com

Gayle Denny (2026)
Parish Life Ministry
513.604.0764
gdgardener@comcast.net

Rick Tallon (2028)
Property Ministry
417.294.2002
rick.tallon@gmail.com

Greg Stinson (2026/2027)[1]
Staff Support/Mutual Ministry
912.704.4084
gtstinson@comcast.net

George Lawrence (2026/2028)[2]
Stewardship Ministry
912.484.2818
mppggl13@gmail.com

Parker Pearson (no term)
Treasurer
410.349.7704
parkpear@aol.com

Pat Cooper (2027)
Worship & Music Ministry
912.508.4250
cooperpat5@gmail.com

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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