

# Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025



**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

*Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.*

**GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Stand*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C:** **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

**P:** In the name of ✠ the One  
who was, who is, and who is to come.

**C:** **Amen**

**P:** Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,  
and called to live the baptized life,  
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

**P:** Holy God,  
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that make a people your own,  
that restore to wholeness,  
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C:** **make us one as you are one.**

**P:** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that strengthen believers  
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love  
and cross barriers of our own making.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C:** **make us one as you are one.**

**P:** We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,  
waters that open the hearts of believers  
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path,  
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.  
Baptized into you, O Living One,

**C:** **make us one as you are one.**

**P:** Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,  
that our every day is shaped by these waters

that give us our very lives in you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**C:** Amen

**GATHERING HYMN**

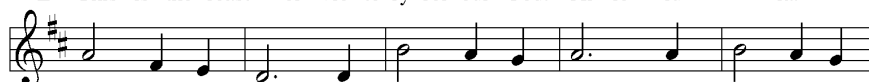
*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains, of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

**APOSTOLIC GREETING****P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!**C:** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**C:** And also with you.**CANTICLE OF PRAISE****A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

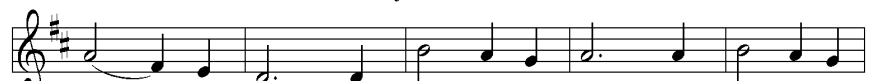
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



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 ever and ever.



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****P:** Let us pray.

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen*Sit***WORD****FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15**

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.*

**A:** A Reading from Acts:

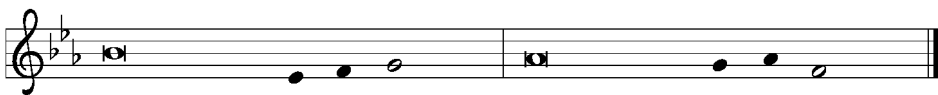
<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

**A:** The word of the Lord.**C:** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 67***The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.*

Let the na - tions be glad and sing for joy.

*Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.*

- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to | us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.
- <sup>2</sup> **Let your way be known | upon earth,**  
**your saving health a- | mong all nations.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise | you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,**  
**for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions**  
**on earth. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples | praise you, O God;  
let all the | peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought | forth its increase;**  
**God, our own | God, has blessed us.**
- <sup>7</sup> May God | give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe. **R**



May **God**  
continue to  
**bless us;**  
let all the  
**ends of**  
**the earth**  
revere him.

Psalm 67:7, NRSV

**SECOND READING: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5**

*John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

**A:** A Reading from Revelation:

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit one of the angels carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

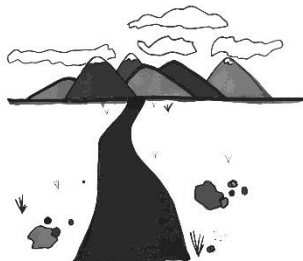
<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**A:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*



**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Cantor:** Those who love me will keep my word, and my Fa-ther will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

**C:** Repeat the Alleluias

**GOSPEL: John 14:23-29**

*As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered Judas (not Iscariot), “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit  
**SERMON**..... Janet Stroble, ALWL

Stand



**HYMN OF THE DAY***Come Down, O Love Divine*

1 Come down, O Love di - vine; seek thou this soul of mine  
 2 Oh, let it free - ly burn, till world - ly pas - sions turn  
 3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture be,  
 4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
 shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear  
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 no soul can guess his grace till it be - come the place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes his dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, d. 1434; tr. Richard F. Littledale, 1833–1890

Music: DOWN AMPNEY, R. Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

**NICENE CREED**

**C:** 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped  
and glorified.  
He 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**

*A brief silence is held after the introduction.*

**P:** God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition:*

**P:** Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P:** We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C: Amen**

**PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.

*Sit*

***MEAL***

**OFFERING**

*The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**ANTHEM**

***If You Love Me.....Natalie Sleeth***

*Stand*

**OFFERTORY**

*As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung*

**C: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**OFFERING PRAYER****A:** Let us pray:**C:** Risen One,

you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.

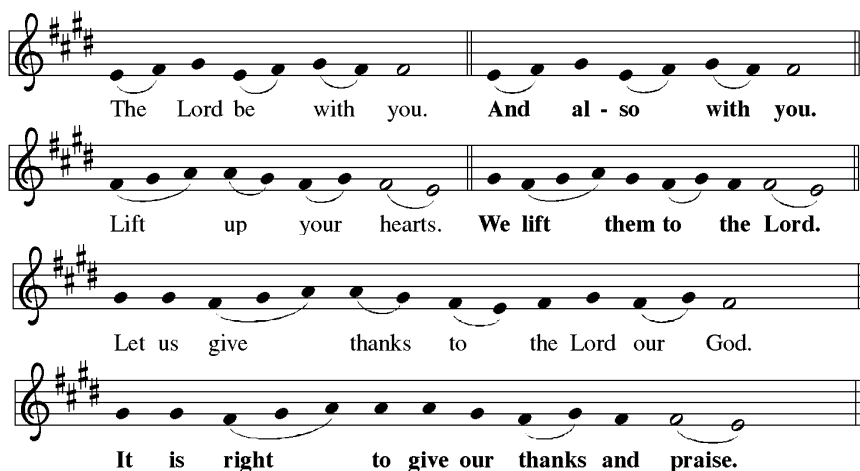
Come among us again,

breathe your life into us,

and enliven us with this meal,

that we may live as your risen body in the world.

Amen

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**


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.

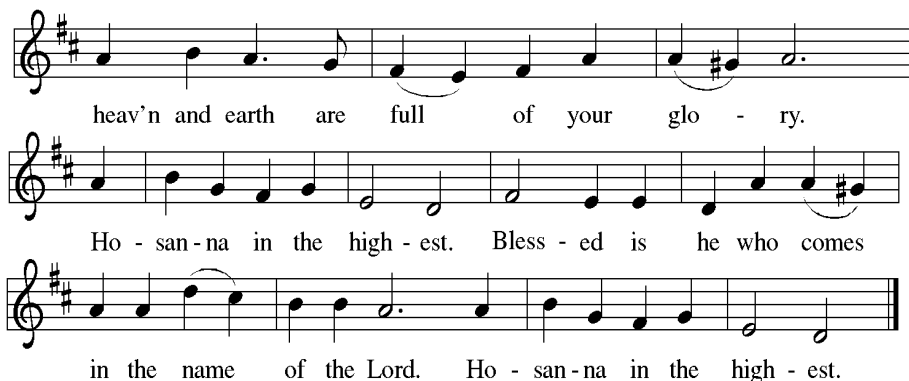
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter, and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P:** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

**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**

**P:** Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

**C:** Thanks be to 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.

*Sit*

**COMMUNION**

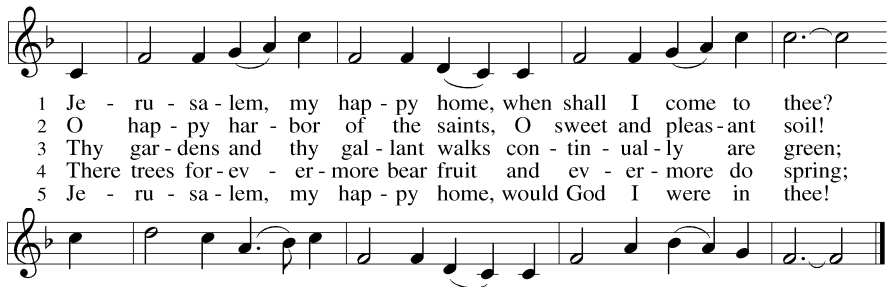
*All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:*

**The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.**

*The communicant may say: Amen*

COMMUNION HYMN

Jerusalem, My Happy Home ..... LBW 331



1

Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?

2

O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant soil!

3

Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual - ly are green;

4

There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do spring;


5


Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, would God I were in thee!

When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?  
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.  
there grow such sweet and pleas - ant flow'rs as no - where else are seen.  
there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.  
Would God my woes were at an end, thy joys that I might see!

Text: F.B.P., 16th cent.  
Music: LAND OF REST, North American melody


Stand


- 


The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- 

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- 


Let us pray.
- 


Living One,  
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

BLESSING

- 

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- 

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- 

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.
- 

Amen

**SENDING HYMN**

**All Glory Be to God on High.....LBW 166**

1 All glo - ry be to God on high and thanks to him for -  
2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and  
3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -

ev - er! What - ev - er Sa - tan's host may try, God  
hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we  
au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and  
la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -

foils their dark en - deav - or. He bends his ear to  
give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,  
source of all true plea - sure: O Lamb of God, O  
sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and

ev - 'ry call, and of - fers peace, good - will to all, and  
and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your  
Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and  
bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our

calms the trou - bled spir - it.  
lord - ship is our bless - ing.  
on us all have mer - cy.  
lives are in your keep - ing. A - men

Text: Nikolaus Decius, c. 1485–c. 1550; tr. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930  
Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, arr. Nikolaus Decius, c. 1485–c.1550

**DISMISSAL**

- A:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**C:** Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!  
Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**C:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**POSTLUDE**



### SERVICE ASSISTANTS

**Ushers:** Mike Larson, Brian Bair, Al Cole, Sally Congdon, Kim Brofee

**Lay Assistant:** Georgette Copp; **Communion Assistant:** Mandy Feinberg

**Acolyte:** Doriann Morris; **Altar Guild:** Jody Fullmer, Jeannie Bower

**Greeter/Presenter:** Barb Waltz; **Cantor:** Dave Bausinger

**Flower Delivery:** Charles Luppert

### IN BLESSED MEMORY

**The Altar Flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Lee Waltz, by his family.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to Messiah Church!** It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

**This morning we welcome Janet Stroble**, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Janet has received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist.

**In addition to wearing red on Pentecost Sunday**, Messiah will be decorating the chancel with red geraniums. *If you would like to sponsor a geranium, please submit the order form to the church office by June 4<sup>th</sup>.* Those who order geraniums may pick them up immediately after the Worship Service on Pentecost, Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, or on Monday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Call the church office at (570) 326-9171 if you have any questions.

**This year's VBS will be held June 23rd - 27th.** The topic will be "MAGNIFIED! Discovering the BIGNESS of God in the SMALLEST of things". Volunteers will be needed if you are available all week or just on certain days. Please call or text me at 570-244-6964 if you are interested. Further information will follow. Oh, and please start saving your toilet paper rolls and 16 oz. Whipped Topping or margarine containers and lids. We're looking forward to another great year at VBS. Thanks in advance. Kathryn Pratt

**PACK THE PANTRY 30 - DAY CHALLENGE:** Hunger Knows No Season... but with school letting out for the summer, families face more challenges to fill those hungry little bellies! With that in mind and our "Pack the Pantry" having received such an overwhelmingly generous response last year, we've decided to host a collection again this year. You may pick up a list of the food in the Narthex. **Monetary donations** are welcomed any time of the year. Please remember to write "food pantry" in the memo line if donating by check, or on the envelope if donating cash. **On June 29, bring your filled bags to worship with you** and place on the front pews in the sanctuary so we can see how much food will fill our pantry shelves to overflowing!

## MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702  
(570) 326-9171 | [www.messiahsouth.org](http://www.messiahsouth.org)

### Graduating in Faith

This is a season of celebration—in the church, to be sure, but also in the lives of families who eagerly anticipate graduation ceremonies. Graduations can happen at any time of life, either in the formal sense or in the many informal ways humans commemorate transitions into new phases of life. For many of us, however, May and June are Graduation Central, with all the excited hoopla that implies.

When a child graduates from a school or program, parents face the bittersweet transition of letting go. The high school senior may leave home for college, the military, or independent employment; the college graduate may head off toward the myriad adventures of adulthood. Even the newly minted preschool alum eagerly anticipates the broader fields of big-kid school and greater independence.

Amid the excitement, pride, fear, and uncertainty, those who have cared for these loved ones—parents, mentors, teachers, and others—hope their voices will travel with the grads. Remember, child, what we have taught you. Remember who you are. Remember *whose* you are.

How fitting, then, that at this time of year the church reminds itself that God feels the same way about us. God wants the voice of the Spirit to travel with us. God sends us the Advocate—one who will stay with us even when Jesus physically returns to his Parent. In baptism, we have graduated into lives in Christ that may take us to unpredictable places. In this world of uncertainty, however, we trust that, as Jesus assures us, we need not be troubled or afraid. The One who reminds us who we are, and *whose* we are, is always with us.

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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