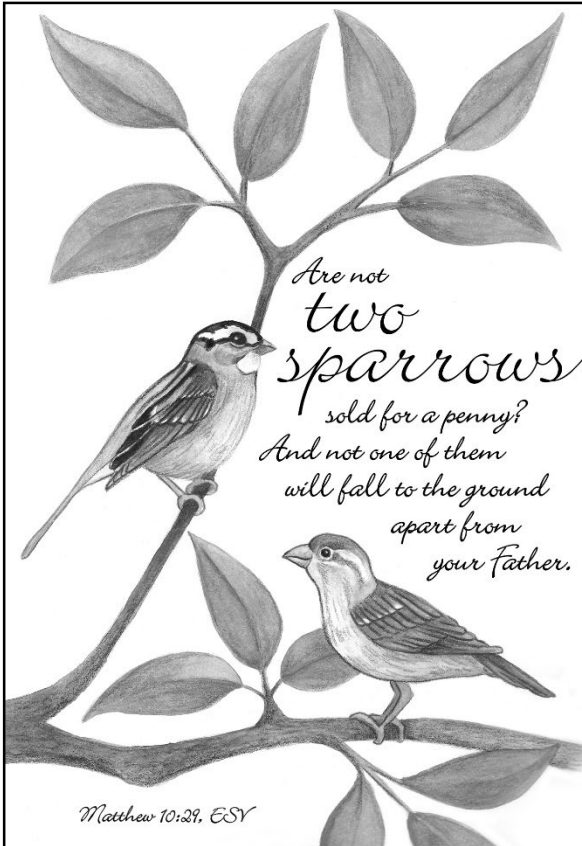


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near to God with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to grant us the forgiveness of all our sins, and through the grace of the Holy spirit, true repentance and amendment of our sinful lives.

Kneel

Silence is kept for meditation...

P: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed;
By what I have done and what I have left undone.

I have not loved you with my whole heart, mind, and strength.

I have not loved my neighbor as myself.

For the sake of our beloved Son, who suffered upon the cross for me,

Have mercy upon me and forgive me all my sin!

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. As a Called and Ordained minister of the church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Let the Whole Creation Cry*

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 War-riors fight - ing for the Lord, proph-ets burn - ing with his word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise him, our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise him, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Kings of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702, adapt.; arr. J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

A: A Reading from Jeremiah:

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my
bones;

I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:

"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,

and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;

you see the heart and the mind;

let me see your retribution upon them,

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

A: A Reading from Romans:

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes: A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The second staff is identical to the first, with the same melody and lyrics.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the twelve: ²⁴ "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the

teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

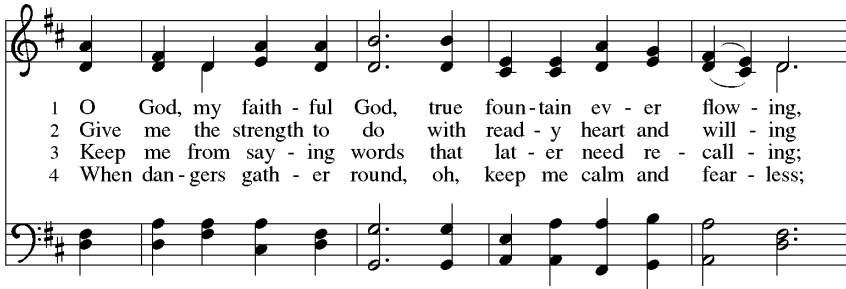
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

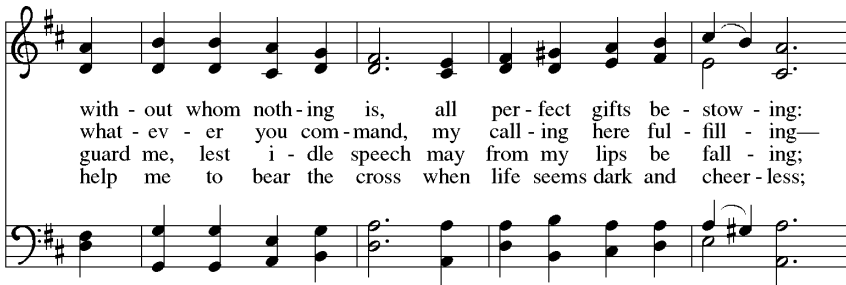
Sit

SERMON.....**Pastor Kliner**

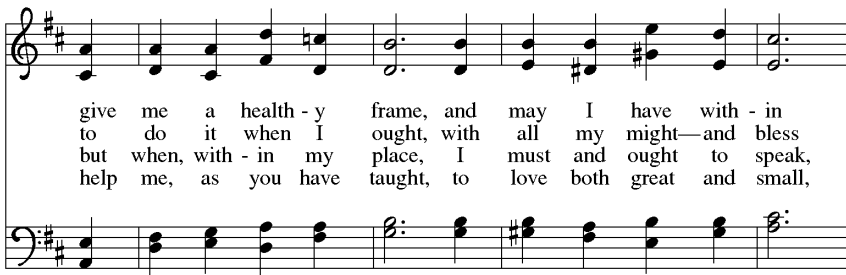
Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *O God, My Faithful God*


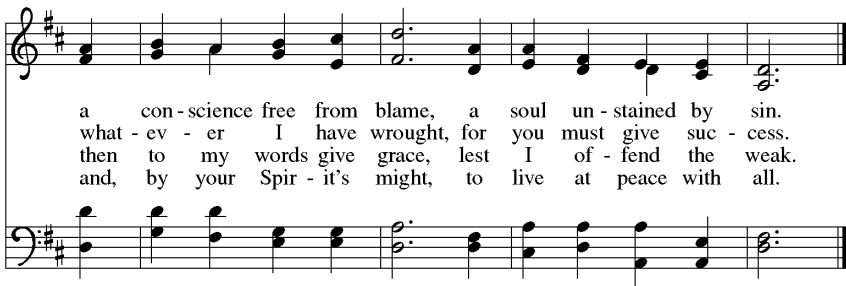
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT, Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629–1701

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their need...

After each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: All these things, most merciful God, we commend into your hands, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray... Blessed are you,

C: **O Lord, our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts. With them, we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Heavenly Father, you are holy indeed and all creation rightly gives you thanks and praise.

All life, all holiness comes from you, through your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, by the working of the Holy Spirit.

From age to age you gather a people unto yourself, so that, from the rising of the sun to its setting, a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your holy name.

And so, Father, we bring you these gifts:

We ask you to make them Holy by the power of your Spirit, that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate this Eucharist.

For, in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:

TAKE AND EAT.

THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

After supper He took the cup. Again, he gave Thanks and Praise to you and gave it them to drink saying:

DRINK OF THIS, ALL OF YOU:

THIS CUP IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT.

IT WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

The mystery of faith:

C Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

P: And so, Father Most Holy, calling to mind the death your Son endured for our salvation, his glorious Resurrection and his ascension into heaven, and ready to greet him when he comes again, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice of praise—
Look with favor on your Church, and see the Victim whose death has reconciled us to yourself.

Grant that we, who are nourished by our Lord's body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ Jesus.

May he make us an everlasting gift to you and enable us to share in the inheritance of your Saints: the Patriarchs and Prophets, the Holy Apostles and Martyrs, and all your Saints in Light, whose witness encourages us in our Faith.

Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church on earth; together with our Bishops, Pastors, Deacons and the entire people your son has won for you.

Hear now the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you. In mercy and love, unite all your children wherever they may be.

Welcome into your Kingdom our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship.

There in your Kingdom, freed from the corruption of sin and death, we shall proclaim your glory with every creature, through Christ our Lord, through whom you give us everything that is good.

Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us...

C: **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.**

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION**P:** Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**C:** Thanks be to God!**P:** Come now and eat of the Bread of Life and drink of the Cup of Salvation! Taste and see, the Lord is good!**C:** Amen!*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*Children of the Heavenly Father*

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav' n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN'INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Stand

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

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray
Father in Heaven, you have fed us with the Bread of Life, your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Sustain us by the work of the Holy Spirit, through this Holy Meal, that we may abide in Christ, and he in us, to the glory of your Holy Name.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you and gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. And may almighty God—the Father, † The Son, and The Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

If You But Trust in God to Guide You..... LBW 453



1 If you but trust in God to guide you and place your
2 What gain is there in fu - tile weep - ing, in help - less
3 In pa - tient trust a - wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful
4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



con - fi - dence in him, you’ll find him al - ways there be -
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in his care and
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e’er your Fa - ther’s
ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust his word; though un - de -



side you, to give you hope and strength with - in. For those who
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For he who
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love have sent; doubt not your
serv - ing, you’ll find his prom - ise true to be. God nev - er



trust God's change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 in - most wants are known to him who chose you for his own.
 will for - sake in need the soul that trusts in him in - deed.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite, alt.
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark, 1621–1681

DISMISSAL

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Carl Gee, Jody Fullmer, Dave and Rita Strickler, Jimmy Gardner, Paul Ulrich; **Lay Assistant:** Susan Bryan; **Comm. Assist.:** Mandy Feinberg
Acolyte: Weston Sherman, **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt
Greeters/Presenters: Paul Weaver, Jean Weaver
Flower Delivery: Charles Luppert

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dave and Fae Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Williams Mansel, Mrs. Kathy Thomas and William Thomas by Robert G. Thomas and family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in honor of Rev. A. Bruce and Virginia Amme's 53rd wedding anniversary, by their children and grandchildren.

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.

Please Join us after worship next Sunday, June 28th in Shaheen Hall for an ice cream social. There will be vanilla and chocolate ice cream with various toppings.

Wednesday, July 15, 9:00 a.m. – Knot-A-Sack “Knotty Party” – Join us for a time of fellowship, good conversation, (and Sally's cookies!) while we knot the drawstrings to complete the backpacks. ***Watch for more updates later in June!***

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the closure of our food pantry. We are making this change because our community traffic has dropped significantly. Unfortunately, because we have so few visitors right now, we are facing a tough problem with food waste. Good food is regularly expiring on our shelves before we can hand it out. We feel it is no longer responsible to spend our time and resources running a pantry that is not being highly utilized. Please know that your past support was not a waste. Your kindness helped us feed many families when they needed it most. We are deeply grateful for every hour you volunteered and every item you donated. To ensure our current inventory does not go to waste, we are packing up our remaining non-expired food. We are donating everything to ***United Churches Food Pantry*** so it can still feed hungry people. With much Gratitude, The Missional Outreach Committee

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Gerald Kliner, STS, Senior Pastor
JARED GIST, ORGANIST
324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702
(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Between Hiding and Exposing

The desire to make known that which is currently hidden can evoke various responses. When abusive power and fear suppress opposition, or when liberating truth is just under the surface, the desire for uncovering and justice is likely strong. However, when harm or injustice is not an obvious outcome and that which is hidden is perceived to benefit stability or peace, there may be resistance to making the hidden known.

Through a variety of images, the speech in Matthew's gospel calls for the unknown to be revealed and intentions made plain. Our liturgical practice of corporate confession provides an opportunity to acknowledge our relationship with what stays hidden and what we wish to reveal in our own lives. The confession may be discomforting, but it reminds us of an important dynamic in the life of faith: Just as Jesus tells his disciples not to fear and reassures them of their value, the words of forgiveness in the liturgy orient us toward a God who restores relationships and calls us beloved.

If only the liturgical practice of confession and forgiveness would once and for all set us on the right path and give us permanent assurance! But that would also free us from curiosity about what taking up the cross means in our lives. Once the cross is exposed, we must face our response to it, and it challenges our allegiances and prods at our vulnerabilities. However, Jesus is clear that the cross also uncovers a path to life. Instead of this path being a lonely, exposing journey, Jesus knows it well and joins us on the way.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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