

Messiah Lutheran Church
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ZOOM ID #898-0296-5268 passcode - church

We are glad you are worshiping with us! If you are looking for a church home or if you would like a pastoral visit, let us know by giving your contact information to an usher or the Pastor. **Our mission** *Living in God's grace, we reach out to invite & welcome all with God's Love.* **Our welcoming statement** *We welcome people of every age, color, culture and political persuasion, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and ability as we celebrate together our unity in Christ. Messiah is a Reconciling in Christ congregation*

*According to our 2022-2023 Mission Action Plan:
"In all we say and do we ask for God's guidance."*

During Lent we have the unique experience of hearing from area pastors through a Preaching Series with the theme, "Justice = Restoring Relationships." Today we welcome Pastor Lawrence Lee from Bayfield Presbyterian to speak with us about The Exclusion of Vengeance and the Justice of Inclusion. Be sure to give Lawrence a warm welcome. Stay for coffee fellowship when we continue this inclusive justice conversation. Thank you!

March 19, 2023

During Lent we have the unique experience of hearing from area pastors. Last week Pastor Jason Clifton from Our Savior's in Solon Springs ministered to us regarding Mental Health Justice. Today we welcome Pastor Lawrence Lee from Bayfield Presbyterian Church who will help us understand the Justice of Inclusion. Next Sunday Pastor Nancy will explore LGBTQ Justice. On March 26 Pastor Rachel Sieja will delve into the topic of Environmental Justice. During Lent we pray for ways to do God's will which includes doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly. Local preachers are helping us!

Prelude: Owen Polifka
Welcome & Announcements

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT We acknowledge the Anishinaabe people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are worshipping today. We acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations and we celebrate their continuing contributions to the life of this region. *Moment of silence*

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. (*Silence is kept for reflection*)

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen. Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for all! God embraces us with divine mercy, forgives us in Christ's name, and revives us in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Gather Us In" ELW # 532

1 Here in this place the new light is streaming
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this place our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of the day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

2 We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout all of history,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

3 Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven light years away;
Here in this place the new light is shining,
Now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together,
Fire of our love in our flesh and our bone

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE (ELW p. 147) spoken

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of Boundless love, help us follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your love and grace fill our words and actions. Soften our hearts and expand our awareness so we continue to create our churches as places where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, Amen.

Choir

Children's Time

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 82

¹ God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:

² **“How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked?”**

³ Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

⁴ **Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”**

⁵ They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **I say, “You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince.”

⁸ **Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations belong to you!**

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-5

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p.151) *spoken*

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-30 (printed on back of bulletin)

The gospel of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

SERMON: Pastor Lawrence Lee

Hymn of the day: “Let Streams of Living Justice” ELW # 710

1 Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth.

Give freedom's light to captives; let all the poor have worth.

The hungry's hands are pleading; the workers claim their rights,

The mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.

Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power.

Abolish ancient vengeance. Proclaim your people's hour.

2 The dreaded disappearance of family and friend,
The torture and the silence – the fear that knows no end.
The mother with her candle, the child who holds a gun,
The old one nursing hatred – all seek release to come.
Each candle burns for freedom, each light's a tyrant's fall.
Each flower placed for martyrs gives tongue to silenced call.

3 For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end.
For love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together: knit our lives as they are spun.
On your loom of life enrol us till the thread of life is run.
O great Weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one.
Dye our texture with your radiance, light our colours with your sun.

4 Your city's built for music: we are the stones you seek.
Your harmony is language. We are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in other's dreams.
Our love in hand of neighbour. Our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice, your way – the path untried:
Your truth – the heart of stranger, your life – the Crucified.

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Respond to Gracious God, thank you for hearing our prayer.

OFFERING

Offertory: "We Are an Offering" ELW #692

We lift our voices
We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering

Lord use our voices
Lord use our hands
Lord use our lives they are Yours
We are an offering

All that we have
All that we are
All that we hope to be

We give to You
We give to You

We lift our voices
We lift our hands
We lift our lives up to You
We are an offering
We are an offering

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray, God our provider, **you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 (*spoken*)

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.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*spoken*)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Today we serve ourselves with individual pre-packaged cups.

COMMUNION

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

Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Light Dawns on a Weary World" ELW #726

1 Light dawn on a weary world
When eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawn on a weary world:
The promised day to justice comes.

When hungry hearts find bread
And children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world;
The promised feast of plenty comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;
The dry lands, gush with spring;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with
singing!
We shall go out with joy,
And be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Refrain

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
When creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness
reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
The promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain

2 Love grows in a weary world

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements

Pastor Lawrence will continue the conversation started in the sermon. How do we contribute to restorative justice rather than division? Join Lawrence in the tiled room. Bring your coffee and treats. Mike Miller and Mary Trettin will facilitate the discussion. All welcome!

Many thanks to Darlene Anderson and Gloria Danula for hosting coffee fellowship downstairs after worship today.

Messiah's Stained Glass Window Fundraising Update

We have raised \$68,823 toward our \$100,000 goal. If you want to contribute, write "windows" in your check memo or use an envelope from the usher station. Thank you.

Tues., 1:30 pm Bible Study meets for fellowship and ongoing discussion of today's sermon.

Quilting, Wednesdays 9:00 am. No experience needed, we want you!

Choir rehearsal on most Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. All voices welcome.

Wed. March 15 Messiah hosts pizza lunch for 9-12th graders from 12:40-1:10. We need volunteers to make desserts, serve and clean-up. Many thanks to all who have already volunteered! Call church to help for March 15 at 715-373-5378!

***GIFT stands for Generations in Faith Together**

We meet at 5:30pm starting with a meal, then worship and lesson. All ages welcome. GIFT meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Our next meeting is March 15.

Adventure Women Monthly Gathering - Women of any age are welcome to meet at Messiah at 1:00 pm on the third Saturday of each month. Join us on March 18. Contact Jana Lindh at 651-308-7472 if any questions. New folks are always welcome.

Women of all ages study and fellowship group gather at 6:00 pm. We meet the first and third Tuesdays each month to view and discuss *The Chosen*. Come join us even if you haven't come before. Women all ages welcome! Next meeting is March 21.

MESSIAH WILD GAME FEED, APRIL 16, 5:00 PM Everyone please come! Hunters and fishers love to eat and share wild game! We look forward to sharing with everyone in the Messiah community. We will have a potluck-style wild game feed on Sunday, April 16, starting at 5 pm in the church basement. If you have wild game and recipes you wish to share, please bring them. We know there will be plenty of food (sloppy joes, Lake Superior fish, summer sausage, chili, wild rice and venison hot dish, etc.)! If you do not have game to share, no worries! You can share a dessert or salad, or just come to partake together with us. We hope to see you there! If you have questions contact Jared Myers (715-685-8020) or Mike Miller (651-226-7993).

Thrivent Choice Dollars Eligible Thrivent members are encouraged to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice. Messiah Lutheran is able to receive these dollars. Contact Thrivent before the March 31 deadline to make your designation. Thank you!

We grieve the loss of Messiah's long-time member and organist, Sue Grube. We also celebrate her long life of 92 years. There will be no formal funeral services. Cards can be sent to her daughter: Cindy Ferrara, 47755 North Trapper Lake Drive, Cable, WI 54821. So far over \$400 have been donated to the Window Fund in memory of Sue.

Today's Worship Leaders

Ministers and Stewards: Everyone Pastor: Nancy Hanson
Guest Preacher: Rev. Lawrence Lee
Choir Director: Tom Yost
Altar Guild: Linda Leis
Parish Assistant: Tracy Martinez Pianist: Owen Polifka
Ushers: Mary Westlund and Alvin Westlund
Zoom Assistant: Michelle Lampson Reader: Dick Olson

New people always welcome!

***Ukulele practice** on Saturday, March 18, 9:30 am

Thank you for your faithful attendance.

March 5, 66 in-house, 16 on Zoom.

Prayers for Healing

Terry Morris
Carol Salminen
Ken Belanger
Cynthia Warren
Nancy Heaton
Donna Kramolis
Jamie Klema
Penny Sandor
Wendy Murphy
Rosie Bodin
Eva Livingston
Bradley Faulkner
Jan Moreland
Dana Cinker
Kristen Albrecht-Works
Julie Vadnais
Bernice Fuhrman
Michelle Lampson

Requested by

Cindi Orley
Pastor
Marne Belanger
Gail Ballinger
Margie Motiff
Linda Schoch
Jamie Zak
Kelly Beirl
Sue Nelson
Wendy Murphy
Diane Tetzner
Lynn Faulkner
Linda Leis
Pastor
Julie Vadnais
Pastor
Julie Fuhrman
Lorraine Young

Prayers for Comfort in grief

Eric Swansen
Kelly Kirchner
Lionel Dicharry
Dick Bellile
Sue Grube
Baby Hoyt Heggedahl
Tyre Nichols
Robert Steel

Requested by

Pastor Nancy
Bev Dehn
Tom & Jessica Mitchell
Pastor
Pastor
Cindi Belanger
Tracy Martinez
Pastor

Prayers Comfort for all affected by earthquakes in Syria and Turkey

- Peaceful resolution regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Verne Pratt is at Court Manor in Ashland
- Rosie Bodin and Wilma Lamken are at The Oaks

Today's readings:

Isaiah 61:1-4

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Romans 5:1-5

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph's son?” ²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.