

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

We are glad you are worshipping 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 Rachel Sieja from Good Shepherd in Ashland to speak with us about Environmental Justice. Be sure to give Rachel a warm welcome. Stay for coffee fellowship when we continue this environmental justice conversation. Thank you!

Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 26, 2023

During Lent we have enjoyed hearing from area pastors: Pastor Jason Clifton from Our Savior's in Solon Springs ministered to us regarding Mental Health Justice; Pastor Lawrence Lee from Bayfield Presbyterian Church helped us understand the Justice of Inclusion. Pastor Nancy explored LGBTQ Justice. Today 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: Alex Strachota

Welcome & Announcements

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: "As the Deer Runs" ELW # 331

1 As the deer runs to the river,
parched and weary from the chase,

we have come from hurt and hurry,
thirsting for your healing grace.

Refrain

Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

2 When your Israel crossed the desert
where no stream or spring was seen,
Moses struck the rock, and water
flowed for them, refreshing, clean. Refrain

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 (*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, our Creator, as we look into the skies we celebrate the wonders of the worlds that surround us. Help us see your presence in the evening sky, your spirit in the wind, your mercy in the falling rain. Teach us to hear the good news from the sky celebrating the glory of God in Earth. Rejoice with us as we behold the dawn revealing the mysteries of the skies above and Earth below. In the name of Christ who unites heaven and Earth. Amen.**

Children's Time

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:14-30

3 "Come and drink," Isaiah summoned,
"all who for God's mercy plead!
God's forgiveness, like a fountain,
flows to satisfy your need." Refrain

4 Christ, we come from desert places,
deepest thirst unsatisfied.
Lead us to the waters flowing
from the cross on which you died. Refrain

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to cultivate, to bring forth food from the earth

¹⁵ **and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine and bread to strengthen the human heart.**

¹⁶ The trees of the field are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ **In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.**

¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

¹⁹ **You have made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.**

²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.

²¹ **The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.**

²² When the sun rises, they withdraw and lie down in their dens.

²³ **People go out to their work and to their labor until the evening.**

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ **There is the sea, great and wide;
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.**

²⁶ There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷ **These all look to you to give them their food in due season;**

²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ **When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

SECOND READING: Leviticus 25:1-24

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *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

Reading: Matthew 6:25-31 (printed on back of bulletin)

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

SERMON: Pastor Rachel Sieja

Hymn of the day: "For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW # 824

1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heaven ring;
God reigns, let the earth be glad!

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 Creator be with you and all creation.
And also with you.

Open your hearts.
We open them to our Creator.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.
It is right to join creation in thanking God.

PREFACE *spoken*

It is right to give thanks, loving Creator. Your word is the impulse for all things to be, for space, stars and stardust to appear, for Earth to emerge from the deep, for life to be born of Earth and for humans to be born of Earth and the Spirit. You chose to be born a human being, to become a part of Earth, to suffer, die and rise from death, to redeem humankind, renew creation, and affirm all born of Earth and the Spirit. Therefore with angels and archangels, ancient voices in the forest, high voices from the sky, deep voices from the sea and the whole company of creation, we proclaim your presence among us:
Holy, holy, holy God of all life, earth and sea and sky and all things that exist are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen.

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

COMMUNION

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

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: This is My Father's World ELW #824

1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world;
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In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let the heaven ring;
God reigns, let the earth be glad!

DISMISSAL

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

Announcements

Pastor Rachel will continue the conversation started today in her sermon. How do we as people of faith contribute to the life of our planet and beyond? Join Rachel in the tiled room with coffee and treats. Mike Miller and Mary Trettin will facilitate the discussion. All welcome!

Many thanks to Karen Novachek and Sandy Olson 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. Conversation will continue even though Pastor will be at Northern Lights and The Oaks from 2:00-3:30 pm

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

Choir rehearsal on most Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. All voices 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 April 4.

***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 April 5.

Easter Cantata, Good Friday, April 7 at 1 pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Iron River WI - A Journey of Hope, a cantata inspired by spirituals and arranged by Joseph M Martin. The 30 voice chorus draws from Iron River, Ashland, Oulu, Port Wing, Herbster and Cornucopia. Howard Lehman directs, Patty Lehman accompanies. Kathy Broadwell, Barb and Paul Moldenhauer will be featured instrumentalists. The group has been rehearsing weekly since Feb. 1 and is excited to be singing together after a long Covid 19 hiatus.

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 April 15. Contact Jana Lindh at 651-308-7472 if any questions. New people are always welcome.

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 basement of the church. 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).

Wed. April 19 Messiah hosts pizza lunch for 9-12th graders from 12:40-1:10. We need volunteers to make desserts, serve & clean-up. Call church to help at 715-373-5378!

Thank you to all who donated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Messiah Lutheran Church. We received over \$800 from you!

We grieve the loss of Messiah's long-time member Rosie Bodin. We also celebrate her long life of 94 years. A service will be held in the summer. Cards can be sent to her daughter: Beta Bodin, 78795 Bodin Rd, Washburn, WI 54891

Today's Worship Leaders

Ministers and Stewards: Everyone
Guest Preacher: Rev. Rachel Sieja

Pastor: Nancy Hanson

Choir Director: Tom Yost Song Leader: Hans Veenendaal
Altar Guild: Linda Leis
Parish Assistant: Tracy Martinez Pianist: Alex Strachota
Ushers: Mary Westlund and Alvin Westlund
Zoom Assistant: Jana Lindh Ass't. Liturgist: Michelle Lampson

New people always welcome!

***Ukulele practice** on Saturday, April 1, 9:30 am

Thank you for your faithful attendance.

March 19, 56 in-house, 12 on Zoom.

Thank you for your faithful giving.

March 19 offering: \$1,583

Needed per week: \$1,800

Prayers for Healing

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

Requested by

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

Prayers for Comfort in grief

Lionel Dicharry
Dick Bellile
Sue Grube
Baby Hoyt Heggedahl
Tyre Nichols
Robert Steel
Rosie Bodin

Requested by

Tom & Jessica Mitchell
Pastor
Pastor
Cindi Belanger
Tracy Martinez
Pastor
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

-Wilma Lamken is at The Oaks

Today's Readings:

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

26 Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." **27** So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them male and female he created them. **28** God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." **29** God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. **31** God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Leviticus 5:1-24

The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, **2** "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: When you enter the land that I am giving you, the land shall observe a Sabbath for the Lord. **3** Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in their yield, **4** but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. **5** You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. **6** You may eat what the land yields during its Sabbath—you, your male and female slaves, your hired and your bound laborers who live with you, **7** for your livestock also, and for the wild animals in your land all its yield shall be for food. **8** "You shall count off seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. **9** Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the Day of Atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. **10** And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family. **11** That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee for you: you shall not sow or reap the aftergrowth or harvest the unpruned vines. **12** For it is a Jubilee; it shall be holy to you: you shall eat only what the field itself produces. **13** "In this year of Jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property. **14** When you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not cheat one another. **15** When you buy from your neighbor, you shall pay only for the number of years until the Jubilee; the seller shall charge you only for the remaining crop years. **16** If the years are more, you shall increase the price, and if the years are fewer, you shall diminish the price, for it is a certain number of harvests that are being sold to you. **17** You shall not cheat one another, but you shall fear your God, for I am the Lord your God. **18** "You shall observe my statutes and faithfully keep my ordinances, so that you may live on the land securely. **19** The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live on it securely. **20** Should you ask, 'What shall we eat in the seventh year, if we may not sow or gather in our crop?' **21** I will order my blessing for you in the sixth year, so that it will yield a crop for three years. **22** When you sow in the eighth year, you will be eating from the old crop; until the ninth year, when its produce comes in, you shall eat the old. **23** The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. **24** Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land.