

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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ZOOM ID # 91560559730 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 info. to an usher or the Minister. **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."*

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.  
**Amen.**

Let us bow down before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

Hymn: "All Are Welcome" ELW # 641

Verse 1

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live.

A place where saints and children  
tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace.

Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Verse 2

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true.

Where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace.

Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Verse 3

Let us build a house where love is found,  
in water, wine and wheat.  
A banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Verse 4

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone.

To heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger bear  
the image of God's face.

Let us bring an end to fear and danger;

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

Verse 5

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard.  
And loved and treasured, taught and  
claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace.  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter;

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place

Let us pray: **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgement, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.**

Children's Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup> Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup> I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup> Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.  
<sup>20</sup> And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord.  
<sup>21</sup> I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Psalm 26:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.  
<sup>2</sup> **Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind.**  
<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in faithfulness to you.  
<sup>4</sup> **I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites;**  
<sup>5</sup> I hate the company of evildoers and will not sit with the wicked.  
<sup>6</sup> **I wash my hands in innocence  
and go around your altar, O Lord,**  
<sup>7</sup> singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.  
<sup>8</sup> **O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21 (printed on back of the bulletin)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28 (printed on back of the bulletin)

Sermon: The Great Challenge

Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW # 843

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.

Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

Prayers of Intercession

Passing the Peace while sitting

Offertory and Offering Hymn: "We Are an Offering" ELW # 692	
We lift our voices	All that we are
We lift our hands	All that we hope to be
We lift our lives up to You	We give to You
We are an offering	We give to You
Lord use our voices	
Lord use our hands	We lift our voices
Lord use our lives they are Yours	We lift our hands
We are an offering	We lift our lives up to You
	We are an offering
All that we have	We are an offering

Offering Prayer: **God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Holy Communion

Blessing: The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: "Drawn to the Light" ELW # 593

1 In a world where people walk in darkness  
 Let us turn our faces to the light,  
 to the light of God revealed in Jesus,  
 to the Daystar scattering our night.  
 For the light is stronger than the darkness  
 And the day will overcome the night.  
 Though the shadows linger all around us,  
 Let us turn our faces to the light.

For the light is stronger than the darkness  
 And the day will overcome the night.  
 Though the shadows linger all around us,  
 Let us turn our faces to the light.

2 In a world where suff'ring of the helpless  
 Casts a shadow all along the way,  
 Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness  
 And proclaim the dawning of the day.

3 Let us light a candle in the darkness,  
 In the face of death, a sign of life.  
 As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,  
 As a sign of peace in place of strife.  
 For the light is stronger than the darkness  
 And the day will over come the night.  
 Though the shadows linger all around us,  
 Let us turn our faces to the light.

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Announcements**

The bulletins today are in loving memory of Sandy Root.

**Coffee fellowship today will be hosted by The Bells.** Please join us downstairs for coffee, treats, and fellowship!

**Heaven's Helping Hands meets today after church in the tile area.** We would like to discuss possibly resuming the Thanksgiving Dinner. Our last dinner at church was in 2019, pre-Covid. In 2020 we did takeout dinners to ~30 members living alone. What will it be in 2023?

**A new Tuesday bible study will be starting at the church on September 26 at 1:30,** delving into the book of Romans. This study will be led by our new SAM, Kristin Boland and will meet weekly until Advent begins. All are welcome!

**Loving Hands Quilters will start up again on Wednesday, September 27 at 9:00 am in the church basement.** Please join us!

**Weekly Prayer Practice at the church will begin on Thursday, September 28 at 6:30 pm** and continue through November. All ages and abilities are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**The Justice Seekers will be meeting on Oct. 5, 1:30, in the Messiah lower level.** You are invited to join the group to help set the direction for the work and our role to "do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with God." We will have an opportunity to learn more about the Indigenous People and Cultures after church on Oct. 15. And we will celebrate Messiah's eight year commitment to Reconciling in Christ during November, details to come. For more info. contact Mary Trettin (651-308-0486) or Alex Strachota (715-813-0708)

**Mark your calendars for our upcoming fall Service Sundays: October 8, November 12, and December 3.** Projects will follow Sunday morning service. Details on the projects coming soon!

**Today's Worship Leaders**

Ministers and Stewards: Everyone

SAM: Kristin Boland

Pastor: Don Nicksolson

Altar Guild: Kelly Beirl and Gloria Danula

Parish Assistant: Tracy Martinez                      Council President: Tom Mitchell

Ushers: Sally Randell, Mary Westlund

Choir Director: Tom Yost, Pianist: Owen Polifka

Zoom Asst: Michelle Lampson

Asst. Liturgist: Cindi Orely

**Thanks for your faithful attendance.** Sept. 17, 71 in-house, 5 on Zoom

**Thank you for your generosity!** So far Messiah's Stained Glass Window Fund has received \$80,770.00 toward our goal of \$100,000.

**Prayers for Healing**

Floyd Moen

Clarissa Olson

Dan Harvey

Harold Lehman

Bob and Geri Thomsen

Jolene and Tom Doyle

Don Swedberg

Lorraine Young

Anonymous

Dena

Karen Bayliss

**Requested by**

Bev Dehn

Lorraine Young

Pastor Nancy

Jared Myers

Julie Vadnais

Diane Tetzner

Cheryl Follis

Cheryl Follis

Gail Ballinger

Linda Schoch

Darlene Anderson

**Prayers for Comfort in grief**

Karen Gorman  
Charlie Guski

**Requested by**

Cheryl Follis  
The Family

**Prayers**

- Comfort and love to all affected by violence
  - Comfort and help for those affected the devastating fires in Maui
  - Peaceful resolution regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine
  - Lorraine Young is at Northern Lights
  - Verne Pratt is at Court Manor in Ashland
  - Wilma Lamken and Lois Osterberg are at The Oaks
- Please call the church office if you are able to bring Lois to church!