

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.



The Resurrection of Our Lord

April 5, 2026

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436

www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900

@MessiahOaklandNJ

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

The congregation is invited to worship in any way that is comfortable and meaningful such as standing, sitting, kneeling, coloring, etc. You may join in worship by speaking the responses in bold type.

SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you. **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever. **Amen.**

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

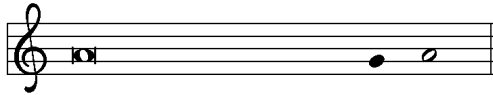
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Risen Christ, you meet us with spices and oils in our arms, ready to accept that death has finally won. Instead, we find that you have conquered death, with new life for us all! Send us from the tomb with good news. Anoint us with courage as we step into the new life you have won for us on this Easter Sunday. **Amen.**

KYRIE

ELW pg.147-148



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



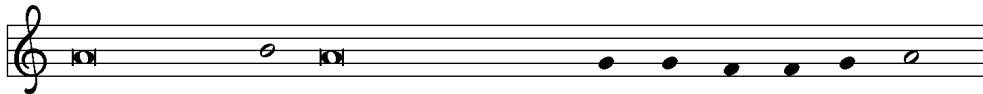
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW pg.149-150

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 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.

Refrain



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



2 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 - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



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.

FIRST READING: A Reading from Acts 10:34-43

¹³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 will be read responsively

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God’s mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare, “God’s mercy endures forever.”**

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!**

¹⁶ The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.**

¹⁸ The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;**

I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ “This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

²¹ **I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ **By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING: A Reading from Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth,³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

ELW pg. 151



THE GOSPEL: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 28:1-10

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Strife is O're, the Battle Done* **ELW #366**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound-ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

God, in your grace, tend to our prayers.

PEACE

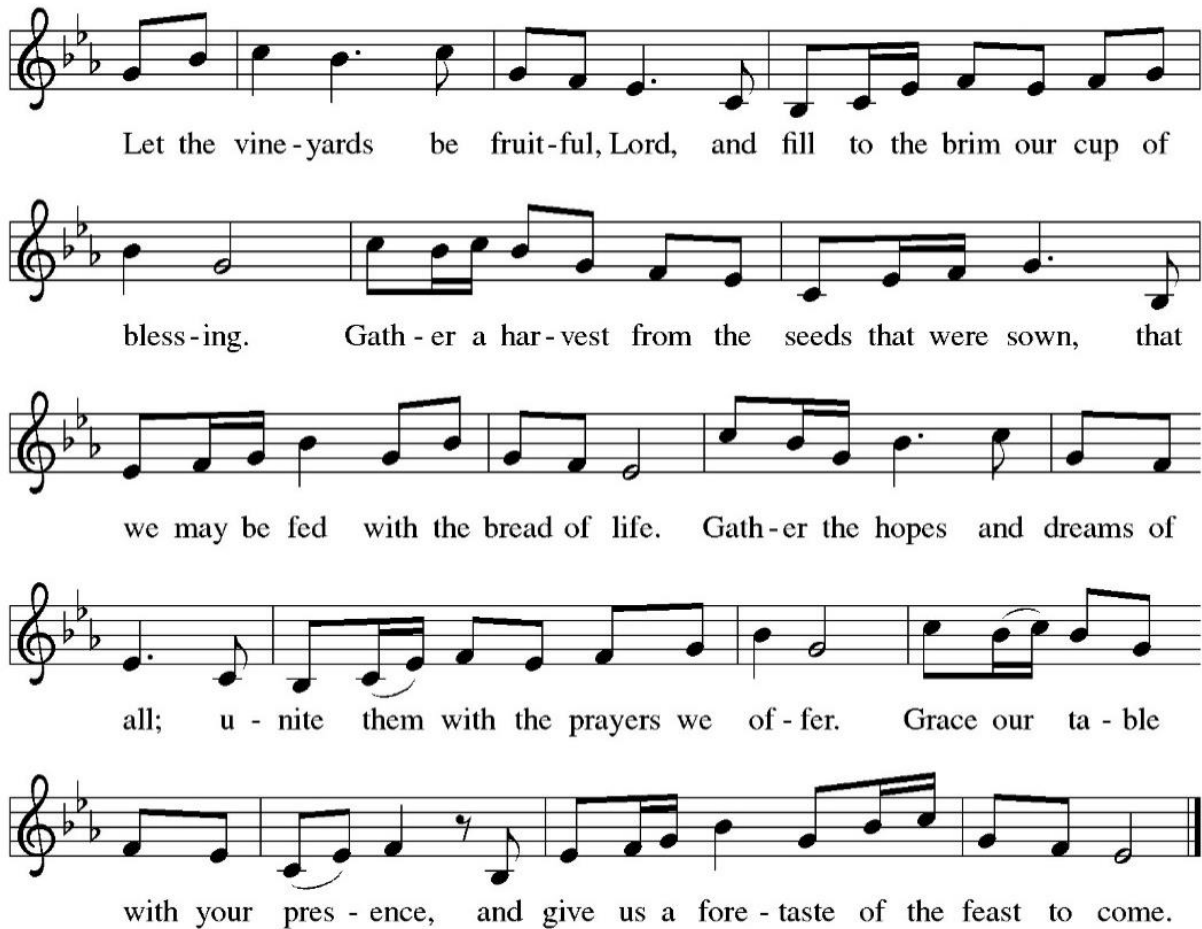
The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, such as a handshake, hug, or peace sign and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary, sent to the church office, or given online by using the QR code to the right.





Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER AND PIGGY BANK BLESSING

Piggy Banks today are blessed and donated to God's Global Barnyard. Donations can be given through the offering plate or online marked "God's Global Barnyard."

We give thanks for the ways you offer your time, talents, and treasures for the work of the church. Let us bless our offerings and these Piggy Banks for God's Global Barnyard.

God of all creation, we give you thanks for the abundance of blessings in our lives; you give us all that we have and all that we need. Thank you for butterflies and daffodils, for music and pastries, for the time we share together here today. We give thanks for these piggy banks, overflowing with donations to help your children around the world.

May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love poured out for those in need. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

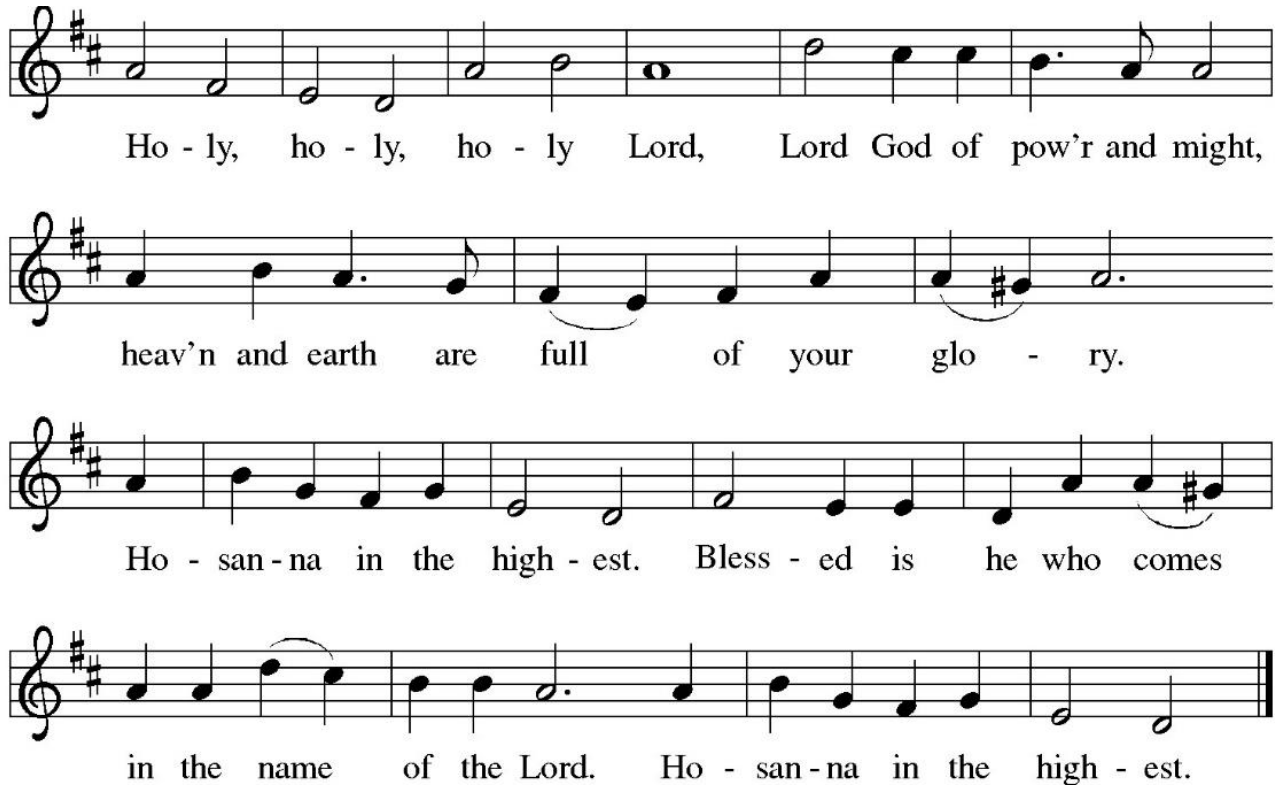
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

COMMUNION RESPONSE

Holy Holy Holy

ELW pg.153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

COMMUNION

We invite you to commune in whatever way is comfortable to you either from your seat using the prepackaged elements or by coming forward to the altar rail. To commune at the altar rail, please proceed down the diagonal aisles and pick up a cup from the silver plates. You will be given a wafer and then offered wine (first chalice) or grape juice (second chalice). For those communing online, please join us using whatever bread/crackers and wine/grape juice you have at home. All are welcome at God's table.

The body and blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God

ELW pg.154



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

Woman Weeping in the Garden

ACS #935



1 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, who has
 2 Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den, af - ter
 3 Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den, Je - sus
 4 Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den, weep for
 5 Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den, find the



pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en Je - sus'
 men have come and gone, af - ter an - gels give their
 takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - d'ner calls you,
 joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes - si - ah,
 oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en as he



bod - y, Je - sus Christ the cru - ci - fied?
 wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
 "Mar - y!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
 ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
 prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

BLESSING

Beloved, receive now this blessing:

Life and life abundant is yours, today.

As you leave this place, embrace the transformation you have found here.

Like water changed to wine, we can share delight beyond measure.

Like new wineskins for new wine, we can stretch and change, new vessels for God's goodness.

Like the wine and oil of the Samaritan on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho,

we can offer blessing, even as we seek healing.

God blesses you with abundance.

Christ blesses you with grace.

The Spirit blesses you with love overflowing.

Trust this blessing as you go, and pour yourself out to a world in need. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* ELW #367



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God.**
Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT AND FELLOWSHIP!

UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Second Sunday of Easter, April 12, 2026 | 10:00am Worship Service

APRIL BENEVOLENCE OF THE MONTH

His Helping Hands

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

MONDAY: Office Closed for Easter Sabbath
6:00pm Community Dinner at Ponds
TUESDAY: 6:30 pm AA Meeting
THURSDAY: 7:30 pm Band practice
SUNDAY: 10:00 am Worship

TODAY'S MINISTERS

PASTOR: Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bob Luderer
LAY READER: Nancy Krause
USHER: Don Brown
GREETER: Lee Haymon
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jerri Angermueller & Nancy Krause
ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn Rubner & Kristen Rios
VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce
COUNTERS: Eleanore Orman & Joan Ludke
COORDINATING COUNCILOR: Valerie Nicolosi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us tomorrow, April 6th, at Ponds Reformed for Community Table Dinner from 6-8pm!

His Helping Hands Collection: During the month of April we are collecting items to make summer hygiene kits for His Helping Hands. Join us April 19th to hear from Joe, the CEO and Founder! Then, join us on April 26th to assemble the hygiene kits after worship!

Book Club on Zoom at 7:00 pm:

April 13th: "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters

Community Thrift Ship of Midland Park: Spring is coming and so is Messiah's yearly volunteering project for the Community Thrift Shop of Midland Park. A sign up sheet is in the narthex for shifts on Tuesday, April 28th and Thursday, April 30th (morning shift is 10-12 and afternoon shift is 1-3). Please reach out to Marilyn for more information!

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you to all who helped beautify our nave with the gift of Easter flowers. Plants may be taken after the worship service this morning and the children are invited to take one of the small hyacinth plants.

Given By:

Don Brown	In memory of Joan Brown
Nancy Krause	In memory of Loved Ones
Marilyn & Ron Rubner	In memory of Loved Ones
Grace Slingerland	In memory of Loved Ones
Smith Westerlund	In memory of Loved Ones & In gratitude for new life
Haymon Family	In memory of Loved Ones
Ludke Family	In memory of Loved Ones
Brigitte Albrecht	In honor of Loved Ones
Boyce Family	In honor of Fjorn Fuduli,
Boyce Family	In honor of Washofer Paretns
Boyce Family	In honor of Donald Boyce
Boyce Family	In Blessings Received & Memory of Loved Ones
Valerie & Len Nicolosi	In memory of Loved Ones
Susanne Herbst	In memory of Loved Ones
Angermueller Family	Loved family
Kim Niland	In Memory of Mom and Dad
O'Neil Family	In memory of Loved Ones
Rios Family	In memory of Loved Ones
Lindstrom Family	In memory of Loved Ones
Terry Vollmin	In memory of Loved Ones



Please keep in prayer the following people in our Messiah family:

Bob, Helen, Jonny & Natalie, Kim, Len, Mike, and Sue.

And the following friends and family:

All affected by seasonal illnesses

All those in the armed forces, especially those connected to our congregation, Evan and Joseph

Jeff

David

Kurt

Peter & Joyce

Mark and Keith, Susanne's friends

Gayle, friend of Joan & Eleanore

June, Lee's mother

Miro, Vesna's father

Erika, Kristen's sister

Thomas, friend of Tony & Edie

John, Joan, Herb, Todd, Gus,

Peggy, Jim, Kathy, and Carol,

Ron and Marilyn's friends

Kim, friend of Sue

Marilyn & Vincent, Lisa's parents

Ron & June, Karen's parents

Melinda & Paul, Eleanore's sister & nephew

Jennifer, friend of Sue & Eleanore

Nancy, friend of Kim

Peggy & Christine, Alex's aunts

Karol & Barbara, Eleanore's friends

Alexa and Hank friends of Nancy

Peter, Terri's father

Julie, family friend of Nancy

Paula, friend of Nancy

Janice, food pantry volunteer

Kieth, Karen & Clyde, Valerie's brother and friends

Please let us know if you have changes we should make to our prayer list