



# The Messenger

Messiah Lutheran Church

228 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, NJ 07436

May and June 2026

---

---

## Our Mission

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

## In this issue

What's Happening at Messiah pg. 2

Church Council Highlights pg. 2

Worship pg. 3

From the Office pg. 3

Transition Updates pg. 4

Thrivent Financial pg. 5

Fellowship pg. 5

Budget pg. 6

Calendars pg. 7&8

## Messiah Staff:

Pastor, Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund

Vice Pastor, Rev. Kimberly Schmidt  
Cooper (St. Timothy, Wayne)

Music Director, Bob Luderer

Office Administrator, Ashley Henion

Council Members: Valerie Nicolosi,  
Victoria Boyce, Alex Boyce, Nick  
DeRoda, Nancy Krause, Eleanore  
Orman, Michele Weintraub, Tom White

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-12pm  
201-337-4900 | [Messiahoaklandnj.org](http://Messiahoaklandnj.org)  
[info@messiahoaklandnj.org](mailto:info@messiahoaklandnj.org)  
Facebook and Instagram  
[@MessiahOaklandNJ](https://www.facebook.com/MessiahOaklandNJ)

Sunday Worship at 10:00 am et.  
on-site, on Zoom and YouTube

## From the Pastor

*Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth, baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia! Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray; the nights of tears give way to joyous day. As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia!*

*– Go to the World! ACS 991*

This song serves as a beautiful reminder of the ministry we are all called to. We are each indeed called to be servants of God, to go into the world to struggle, bless, and pray individually and together. Over the last five years we struggled with the death of members and membership changes, we wrestled with leadership changes and a building that is in constant need of repairs. We blessed new members, new ministries, and lots of items collected for seafarers, food pantry guests, unhoused persons, and more. We prayed together for the world, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the New Jersey Synod, and for all those whom we love who have had health issues, personal concerns, and major life events.

This song will conclude my final worship service with you all on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, just as it concluded my ordination service on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. My ordination was made possible because you called me, a fresh seminary graduate with energy and a desire for ministry, to be your pastor. Over our years together we walked through life events, our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation, vow renewals, baptisms, births, funerals, and more. Though it is time for me to leave you, every single one of you will always hold a place in my heart. It is because of you and this congregation, that I am the pastor I am; and I am forever grateful.

This ministry was started by you and will continue through each of you. It was a joy to walk with you these last five years; the lessons and love you've shared with me will never be forgotten.

Peace,  
Pastor Courtney

## Church Council Highlights

### March 2026 Meeting

- ✝ Pastor reported a full month of pastoral care, including funerals for Joan Brown and Robert “Bob” Weigand, and shared the joyful news of a double baptism on April 26<sup>th</sup> for Lenny and Cassie Nicolosi.
- ✝ We are blessed by a strong generosity towards our most recent Benevolences of the Month which the Council agreed to provide matching funds for. In order to remain generous and financially responsible, the Council will match up to \$250 towards the BOM.
- ✝ The Personnel Committee is preparing to advertise for a new organist, as Bob will retire after 20 years of service. Stay tuned for more information and how you can support our search for a new organist.
- ✝ Council approved obtaining a BJ’s membership for church use so office and fellowship supplies can be purchased tax-exempt and in bulk, helping stretch our dollars further.
- ✝ We are again offering the Impact Award, a scholarship for local high school seniors. This year we hope to award two scholarships, expanding our reach and presence in the wider community and supporting the next generation of changemakers.

### April 2026 Meeting

- ✝ Pastor Courtney accepted a call to serve a congregation in Brooklyn. Her final Sunday is May 17. Her resignation letter was emailed to the congregation and announced in worship.
- ✝ Synod support/transition: Rev. Dean Brown will preach and lead worship on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- ✝ Call for volunteers: lay preachers, worship leaders, and fellowship help needed during the transition and over the summer.
- ✝ Summer plans: stay tuned for opportunities to gather this summer for food, fun, and fellowship.
- ✝ Benevolence & Outreach: Pastor will make a discretionary donation to support Rev. Linda Macktaby through Ponds Reformed for relief efforts in Lebanon.
- ✝ Impact Award: nomination info sent to local high schools; deadline to apply is May 15.

### 2026 Council Officers

Many thanks to those serving on the council and in leadership positions for the coming year. If you have questions about council or want to get involved, please speak to any of us!

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Valerie Nicolosi, President       | Victoria Boyce |
| Michele Weintraub, Vice President | Tom White      |
| Nancy Krause, Secretary           | Eleanore Orman |
| Alex Boyce, Treasurer             | Nick DeRoda    |

## What’s Happening at Messiah

- Youth Communion Bread Baking  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am
- Property Work Day  
May 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup>
- Executive Committee  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> after worship
- Community Table at Ponds  
May 4<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Bible Study at 12:00 pm  
May 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>  
June 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>
- Book Discussion at 7:00 pm on Zoom  
May 11<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Coloring and Conversation at 12:00 pm  
May 14<sup>th</sup>
- Pastor Courtney’s Final Worship  
& First Holy Communion Sunday  
May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Council Meeting at 7:30 pm on Zoom  
May 19<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Bob Luderer’s Final Worship  
May 24<sup>th</sup>
- Sundaes on Sunday  
June 28<sup>th</sup> after worship
- Pride Event at Elks  
June 28<sup>th</sup> 1:00-5:00pm
- Office Closed  
Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day  
Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> Juneteenth

## Worship

Every Sunday at 10:00 am et. on-site, on Zoom & YouTube

### **Ascension Sunday:** May 17<sup>th</sup>

On Ascension Sunday we celebrate when the risen Christ ascended into heaven and his followers were assured that the Spirit would empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. Join us to give thanks and celebrate the ministry of Pastor Courtney, look for an email with more information soon.

### **Pentecost Sunday:** May 24<sup>th</sup>

On Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. Join us in celebrating Bob's retirement as our Organist and Music Director after 21 years. More information about celebrations to come. Rev. Dean Brown from the New Jersey Synod will be with us to preach and lead worship. **Don't forget to wear red!**

### **Holy Trinity Sunday:** May 31<sup>st</sup>

On Holy Trinity Sunday we celebrate the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit. While the word *trinity* is not in the scriptures, we give thanks for the mystery of the threefold face of God: Parent, Child, and Holy Spirit.

### **Global Mission Sunday:** June 7<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a festive worship service celebrating global mission and the ways we are connected to our siblings in Christ around the world! **Our missionary Rev. Kristen Engstrom will be with us from Madagascar to preach and lead worship!**

### **Graduate Sunday:** June 28<sup>th</sup>

Join us to recognize those who have graduated from schools and programs over the last year. Please submit names to the office to be included in the bulletin.

### **Worship Your Way Station**

To be more inclusive and accessible to the different needs of those who attend worship, we have created a "Worship Your Way Station" at the back of the sanctuary next to the camera and prayer wall. You will find coloring pages, fidgets, and other items to help you focus on worship and center on your relationship with God. Feel free to borrow items for worship and return them when you are done!

If you identify an item that would be helpful for us to add to the table, please let Sue Boyce know. This could be anything from an assistive listening device to a specific type of fidget. We want to provide what is most helpful for you to make worship meaningful.

## From the Office

### **Nametags!**

At the request of some members, we now have nametags for you to wear on Sunday morning. You'll see the photo wall in the entrance has now been updated to include a spot for names and photos of all our members. Please check the wall to see if you like the photo we have of you. If you don't like it, or if you don't have a photo, please either print or send us a 4x6 photo to print for you and hang up. Your nametags are in a basket but can be clipped to your photo or name spot on the wall.

If you don't have a nametag and want one or if you want us to use a different name, please let the office know and we can take care of that. You are welcome to decorate your nametag however you see fit. Put your pronouns on, let your kids or grandkids color it, include the ministries you are part of. This is intended to help us get to know one another better and be more welcoming of visitors!

### **Church Keys**

We are working on creating a list of church keys. Please contact the office to let Ashley know if you have any church keys. If you have a key you'd like to return or if you need a key, please talk to Ashley in the office.

### **Worship Assistants Needed!**

Please consider if you might be interested in helping with worship by serving as a Lay Leader, Lay Preacher, reader or Communion Assistant. Training is available if you need. Please talk to Ashley or sign up on the serving schedule.

## Music Director Position Available!

We are seeking a quarter-time (6-12 hours) Music Director to provide music, leadership, and oversight for worship and the music ministries of our church.

### Requirements:

- Proficiency in organ and/or piano accompaniment, other musical instruments including vocals is welcome
- Familiarity with, or willingness to learn, Christian liturgy, hymnody, and the church year
- Strong work ethic, love of music, and joyful spirit
- Music degree or equivalent training experience preferred

The Music Director position was posted on April 14<sup>th</sup> through a variety of means. Please continue to share the job position on social media and with any possible candidates or connections you have.

## Transition Updates

We have a lot of transitions coming in the next few months, here are a variety of ways you can help:

**Come to Church!** During this time, it's extra important to keep in touch with the community and take care of one another. A great way to do that is to keep coming to worship and programming events.

**Lay Preachers + Lay Leaders:** In addition to the normal worship assistants, consider if you might be able to serve as a Lay Leader or Lay Preacher to either lead worship or share a message. If you are, please talk to Nancy Krause or Valerie Nicolosi.

**Music:** We are covered for music throughout the month of June and have a few leads on supply organists and pianists. Please continue to support the job search for a Music Director by sharing the position description. If you need the full document, see the church website or email the office.

**Call Committee:** We will be putting together a call committee to help in the search for our next pastor. If you are interested in learning more or being involved, please talk to Valerie Nicolosi.

**Participate:** Part of the work of calling a pastor requires us to think about our own ministry and what we are looking for in our next leader. Please look for opportunities to join in reflection and discernment as we figure out what is next. We need as many voices as possible to be part of this process.

**Vice Pastor:** During this transition time, Rev. Kimberly Schmidt Cooper of St. Timothy in Wayne will be our Vice Pastor. For all life events or emergencies, please get her contact info from the church voicemail, church office, or Valerie Nicolosi.

## Benevolences of the Month

### May: Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center

Cross Roads is a welcoming, ecumenical retreat center and camp of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark and the New Jersey Synod of the ELCA. They are accredited by the American Camp Association. Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a welcoming and inclusive community providing life-changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy. Cross Roads strives to facilitate renewal, healing, inspiration, and transformation for the body, mind, and spirit while helping individuals deepen their connection to themselves, others, the world we live in, and God. Children encounter God in nature, in worship, and in relationships during youth camp. Faith formation is strengthened through camp activities, songs, and worship while creating opportunities for lasting friendships and connections.

### Opening Day at Cross Roads

May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm  
Head over to camp for a workday to get ready for summer! Lunch is provided.

### June: The Trevor Project

Through legislation, litigation, and public education, the Trevor Project advocates for policies that help prevent suicide among LGBTQ+ young people. This includes advancing policy reforms at the federal, state, and local level to address factors that place them at a significantly higher risk of suicide.

### Oakland Pride Festival

June 28<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5 pm  
Oakland Elks Lodge  
Join us for a family fun event celebrating love and being yourself!

## Fellowship

### Easter Breakfast Recap

Our Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> was very well attended with approximately 60-70 people! Coffee hour extended after the service and the children enjoyed the egg hunt in the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who made the event possible.

### Book Club

Join us for a lively discussion on Zoom at 7 pm. Please check your local libraries to borrow the books or purchase the books for your home bookshelf. If you have any suggestions for books or questions at all, speak with Valerie Nicolosi.

May 11<sup>th</sup>: *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell

June 8<sup>th</sup>: *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid

### Coffee Hour With Our Missionary – June 7<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a special coffee hour on June 7<sup>th</sup> to welcome our missionary. A sign up with more information on how you can help is forthcoming.

### Sundaes on Sunday – June 28<sup>th</sup>

Join us in worship to celebrate our graduates and stick around afterwards for ice cream sundaes! Look for a sign-up sheet soon!

## Faith Formation

### Noontime Bible Study

Join the Thursday Adult Bible Study group on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m. either on-site or on Zoom. We will be returning to the book **A is for Alabaster**. If you need a copy, check the church library or let Joan, or Eleanore know.

May 7<sup>th</sup>: L is for Lament

May 21<sup>st</sup>: W is for Whirlwind

June 4<sup>th</sup>: A is for Abigail

### Coloring and Conversation

Join us on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm for a special gathering to reflect on the many transitions we are experiencing. We will use elements of Bible Study, as well as Art and Theology in our conversation and coloring. No experience necessary, just a desire to gather, reflect, and pray together. If you would like to participate but are unable to attend, please talk to Pastor Courtney or utilize the abbreviated materials on the last page.

### First Communion

All are welcome to participate in First Holy Communion on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Children will receive instruction during Sunday School and worship. Please talk to Pastor Courtney if you have questions.

## Thrivent Financial

### Thrivent Action Teams

Thank you to the Axtell Family, Boyce Family, Rubner Family, Ludke Family, and Susanne Herbst for applying for Thrivent Cards to help with programming this year. So far, we have used \$2,250 in Thrivent Cards to supplement and support Ministry at Messiah. Keep using those Thrivent Cards to supplement ministry projects!

### Ponds Food Pantry

The Mission of Ponds Food Pantry: "To use food as a gateway to strengthen families with dignity for all". Ponds Food Pantry is blessed to have the consistent support of Messiah Lutheran Church as it helps many local neighbors facing food insecurity. In March of 2025, there were 113 visits to the pantry, and in March of 2026, there were 323 visits. Thank you for your weekly food and toiletry donations as well as the extra monetary and food donations offered during Lent.

The kitchen at Ponds is in its final stages, and we look forward to hiring a chef and reopening it within the next few months. We ask for your prayers as we await a response to a grant proposal which would help sustain the pantry.

Community Table Dinner: May 4<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm

-Michele Weintraub and follow the pantry @ponds\_pantry\_communitytable

### Ray Cordell Concert

to benefit Ponds Food Pantry  
Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 7 to 9 pm

Enjoy a magical evening of music featuring international recording artist and singer Ray Cordell, aka "Ray from the UK". He will perform popular jazz, light rock and rock-n-roll from the 70s to today with hits like "Rocket Man" and "Chasing Cars." Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased using the QR code on the poster at church / in the Messenger.



## Budget Report

### From the Treasurer

The year was not off to a great start with our January income being significantly lower than budgeted. Please consider the ways you are able to give by bringing your offering to church, mailing in your contribution or giving online through Tithely.

Over the past 3 years there has been a downward trend in giving. We started 2026 with a deficit of \$12,000 which is the worst start to a year we've had in many, many years.

If not for the interest from the investment account, we would be in serious trouble, but we cannot count on that forever. I would caution everyone against thinking that since we got all this money from the Perzin house, we can decrease our normal giving. We need continuous income, not a one-time influx of cash. The Perzin gift is a way for us to do large costly projects that we would not be able to otherwise; we should not be depending on it for our day-to-day expenses since it will eventually run out.

Regards,  
Alex Boyce

| <b>March 2026 Finance Report</b> |                     |                 |                     |                   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                                  | <b>Monthly</b>      |                 | <b>Year to Date</b> |                   |
|                                  | Budget              | Actual          | Budget              | Actual            |
| Income                           | \$18,679.41         | \$28,189.95     | \$55,588.31         | \$60,936.73       |
| Expenses                         | \$19,736.06         | \$22,712.54     | \$58,781.39         | \$59,709.51       |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>(\$1,056.65)</b> | <b>5,477.41</b> | <b>(\$3,193.08)</b> | <b>\$1,227.22</b> |

### Don't forget to pick up your 2026 offering envelopes!

If you don't currently receive envelopes and would like to, please talk to Eleanore Orman or Ashley in the office.

Included in the box are the following envelopes:

- Weekly Ministry at Messiah
- Weekly Mission Support
- Weekly Property Maintenance
- Monthly Missionary Support
- Monthly Benevolence of the Month
- Holidays (Holy Days) and Seasons
- Special Purposes

**Automatic Giving can be set up through your bank, retirement account, and Tithely.** Visit our website for more information about Tithely.

## Baptism Anniversary Corner

We don't always take time to remember, reflect, or celebrate the anniversary of our baptism so we are going to start including them in our newsletter. The promises made at baptism are a lifelong commitment to helping one another grow in the Christian faith and life – not just those baptized, but all those who are part of Christian community. Take time this day, week, or month to say a prayer or give thanks for your baptism.

\*Over the years many baptism dates have not been recorded or were lost in records. If your baptism date is wrong in the newsletter, it's wrong in our records! Please let us know and we will update it. If you don't know your date, we will celebrate you on either January 1<sup>st</sup> or June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### May Baptism Anniversaries

21- Barbara H.    22- Kayla O.  
22- Kristina O.    24- Kristin R.

### June Baptism Anniversaries

1- Kim N.            1- Gail A.  
1- Karen B.        1- JoAnn B  
1- Kristin B.       1-Nick D.  
1-Cynthia D.      1- Katie D.  
1- Helen E.        1- Mark E.  
1- Karen M.        1- Lee V.  
1- Vesna V.        1- Paulette H.  
1- Steven K.       1- Nancy K.  
1- Christian K.    1- Evan K.  
1- Joseph K.       1- Alicia K  
1- Karley K        1- Noelle C.  
1- Siobhan L.      1- Andrew L.  
1- Valerie N.       1- Len N.  
1- Lisa O.           1- Mike O.  
1- Grace S.        1- Elizabeth T.  
1- Terry V.         1- Andrew V.  
1- Michele W.     1- Christopher W  
1- Tom W.          6- Nathan B.  
6- Emily Z.        10- Tara H.  
11-Declan L.      12-Charles W.  
14- John Z.        17- Eleanore O.  
21- Carter B.

### Welcome Children of God

Cassia Alaine + Leonard Ethan  
Baptized April 26, 2026

### Congratulations

Brian Kerin + Kenia Ramirez  
Wedding May 9, 2026

*May*



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|---|---|-----------|---|--------|---|
| Apr 26<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Sunday of Easter<br><input type="checkbox"/> Niccolosi Baptism<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship<br><input type="checkbox"/> 11:15am His Helping Hands B...   | 27<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm Community Table: Ponds Reformed Church, 341 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland NJ 07436  | 28<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting  | 29        | 30<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice   | May 1  | 2<br><input type="checkbox"/> Oakland Town Wide Garage Sale<br><input type="checkbox"/> Property Work Day<br><input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Youth Activity |
| 3<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fifth Sunday of Easter<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship<br><input type="checkbox"/> 11:15am Executive Meeting  | 4<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm Community Table: Ponds Reformed Church, 341 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland NJ 07436   | 5<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting   | 6         | 7<br><input type="checkbox"/> 12:00pm Bible Study<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice  | 8      | 9<br><input type="checkbox"/> 3:30pm Kern & Ramirez Wedding   |
| 10<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Sunday of Easter<br><input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Choir Practice<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship   | 11<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:00pm Book Club on Zoom   | 12<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting  | 13        | 14<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ascension of Our Lord<br><input type="checkbox"/> 12:00pm Coloring and Conversation<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice | 15     | 16<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cross Roads Opening Day  |
| 17<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seventh Sunday of Easter<br><input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Choir Practice<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship<br><input type="checkbox"/> 11:15am Farewell Celebration... | 18  | 19<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Council Meeting on Zoom | 20        | 21<br><input type="checkbox"/> 12:00pm Bible Study<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice   | 22     | 23<br><input type="checkbox"/> Vigil of Pentecost<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building and Grounds Use  |
| 24<br><input type="checkbox"/> Day of Pentecost<br><input type="checkbox"/> 9:00am Choir Practice<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship<br><input type="checkbox"/> 11:15am Farewell Celebration...         | 25<br><input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Day Office Closed   | 26<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting  | 27        | 28<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice   | 29     | 30<br><input type="checkbox"/> Synod Assembly<br><input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Concert at Ponds  |
| 31<br><input type="checkbox"/> The Holy Trinity (1st Sunday after Pentecost)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Visit of Mary to Elizabeth<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10:00am Worship                                   | Jun 1<br><input type="checkbox"/> Visit of Mary to Elizabeth (transferred)<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:00pm Community Table: Ponds Reformed Church, 341 Ramapo Valley Road, Oaklan... | 2<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6:30pm AA Meeting   | 3         | 4<br><input type="checkbox"/> 12:00pm Bible Study<br><input type="checkbox"/> 7:30pm Band Practice  | 5      | 6<br><input type="checkbox"/> Property Work Day   |

# June



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday    | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday                          |
|---|---|--|--------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <p>May 31</p> <p>The Holy Trinity (1st Sunday after Pentecost)</p> <p>Visit of Mary to Elizabeth</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>           | <p>Jun 1</p> <p>Visit of Mary to Elizabeth (transferred)</p> <p>6:00pm Community Table; Ponds Reformed Church, 341 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland NJ 07436</p> | <p>2</p> <p>6:30pm AA Meeting</p>  | <p>3</p>     | <p>4</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Band Practice</p>  | <p>5</p>  | <p>6</p> <p>Property Work Day</p> |
| <p>7</p> <p>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Missionary Visit: Pastor Kristen</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>                             | <p>8</p> <p>7:00pm Book Club on Zoom</p>  | <p>9</p> <p>6:30pm AA Meeting</p>  | <p>10</p>    | <p>11</p> <p>Indian Hills Awards Program</p> <p>7:30pm Band Practice</p>   | <p>12</p>   | <p>13</p>                         |
| <p>14</p> <p>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>  | <p>15</p>   | <p>16</p> <p>6:30pm AA Meeting</p> <p>7:30pm Council Meeting on Zoom</p> | <p>17</p>    | <p>18</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Band Practice</p>   | <p>19</p> <p>Juneteenth (USA)</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> | <p>20</p>                         |
| <p>21</p> <p>4th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p>  | <p>22</p>   | <p>23</p> <p>6:30pm AA Meeting</p>                                       | <p>24</p>    | <p>25</p> <p>Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530</p> <p>Last Day of School - Oakland</p> <p>7:30pm Band Practice</p> | <p>26</p>   | <p>27</p>                         |
| <p>28</p> <p>5th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>10:00am Worship</p> <p>11:15am Sundaes on Sunday</p> <p>1:00pm Pride Event at Elks</p> | <p>29</p>   | <p>30</p> <p>6:30pm AA Meeting</p>                                       | <p>Jul 1</p> | <p>2</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>7:30pm Band Practice</p>  | <p>3</p>  | <p>4</p> <p>Property Work Day</p> |

**Look:** look at the coloring page. What feelings does it bring up? What would the roots represent in your life? What do the wildflowers represent? Let your imagination guide you as you begin to color.

**Listen:** Meditate while coloring and listen to music. Here are some suggestions "Be Thou My Vision," "Turn Turn Turn" by Walk Off the Earth, "Wildflowers" by Tom Petty

**Learn:** like a tree growing quietly over time, you have been putting down roots through relationships, experiences, challenges, and learning. These roots have been strengthening and stabilizing you beneath the surface, even when you couldn't see them. As you begin this time of transition, what have you learned that you will carry with you? How will you continue to grow throughout this transition?

**Read and Reflect:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 and the following quote "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step" - Marian Wright Edelman

**Pray**



If I could, I'd write for you a rainbow  
And splash it with all the colors of God  
And hang it in the window of your being  
So that each new God's morning  
Your eyes would open first  
to Hope and Promise.  
If I could, I'd wipe away your tears  
And hold you close forever in shalom.  
But God never promised  
I could write a rainbow,  
Never promised I could suffer for you,  
Only promised I could love you.  
That I do.

Ann Weems "I'd Write For You a Rainbow"

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

228 Ramapo Valley Road  
Oakland, New Jersey 07436

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
10:00 am Worship Service

In-person, live-streamed and  
posted on YouTube

