

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 18, 2026
21st Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Ben Cherland
Bishop Ben Quanbeck Preaching and Presiding

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church

Please take a moment to fill out a square on the Messiah Connects form located on the clip board at the end of your row so that we may make a connection with you.

GATHERING

PRELUDE - *Come, Christians Join to Sing*

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

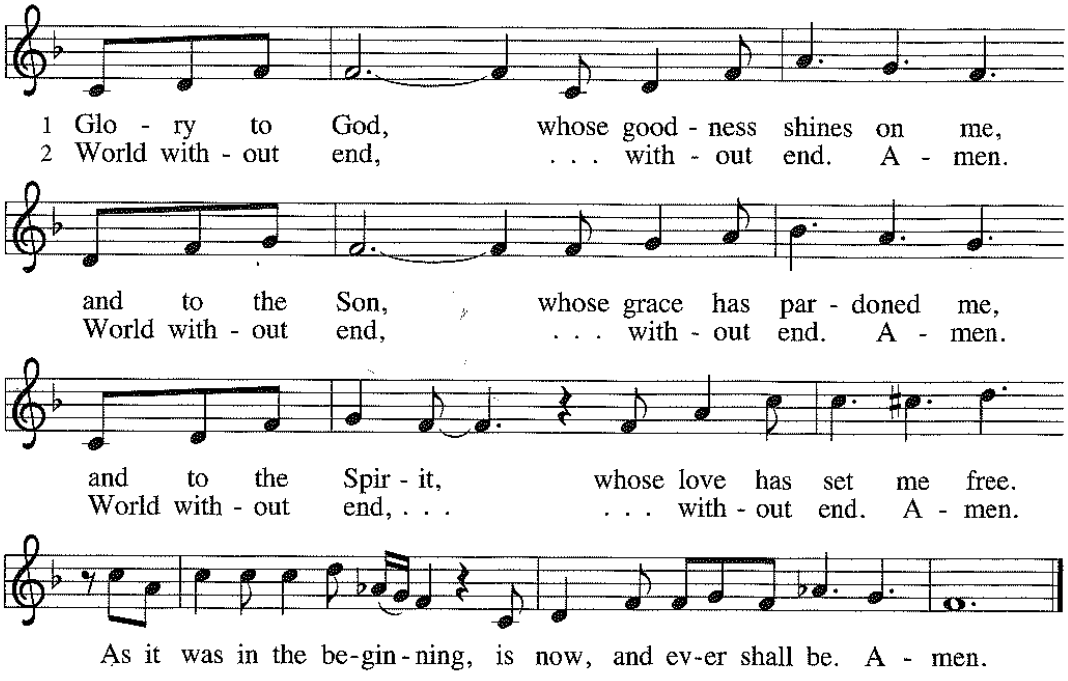
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *ELW 825 You Servants of God*

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.

GLORY TO GOD WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES



Text: Paul M. Vasile, b. 1976, based on the Gloria Patri
Music: Paul M. Vasile
Text and music © Paul M. Vasile, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GLORY TO GOD
Irregular

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM *ACS 1082 O God, You Search Me*

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

[1] Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
[2] I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
[3] I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
[4] For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
[5] I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
[6] so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
[7] I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-13
Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
2 Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
3 Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.
5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
6 Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.
9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."
11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.
13 You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

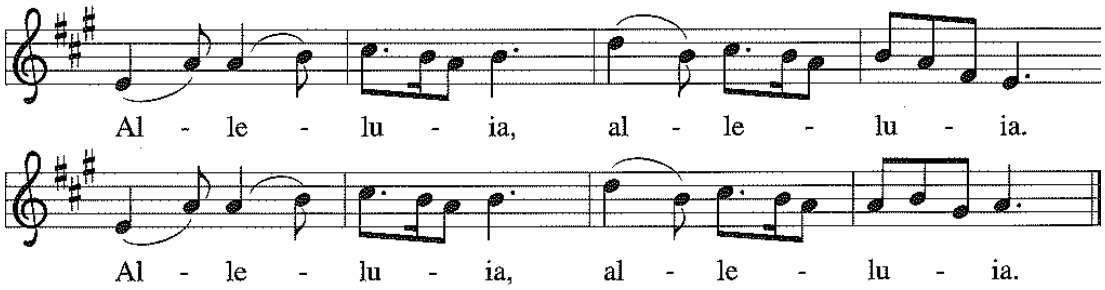
Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of
love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers
and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the
gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and
with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among
you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of
persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you
became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word
of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in
every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak
about it. 9 For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and
how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God 10 and to wait for
his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from
the coming wrath.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please Stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent
their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that
you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show
deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then,
what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of
their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me
the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them,
"Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said
to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things
that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and
went away.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.
HYMN OF THE DAY *ELW 765 Lord of All Hopefulness*

APOSTLES' 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
With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need and all of God's creation.

*Lord, in your mercy**, hear our prayer.***

Knowing that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING
ELW 531 The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
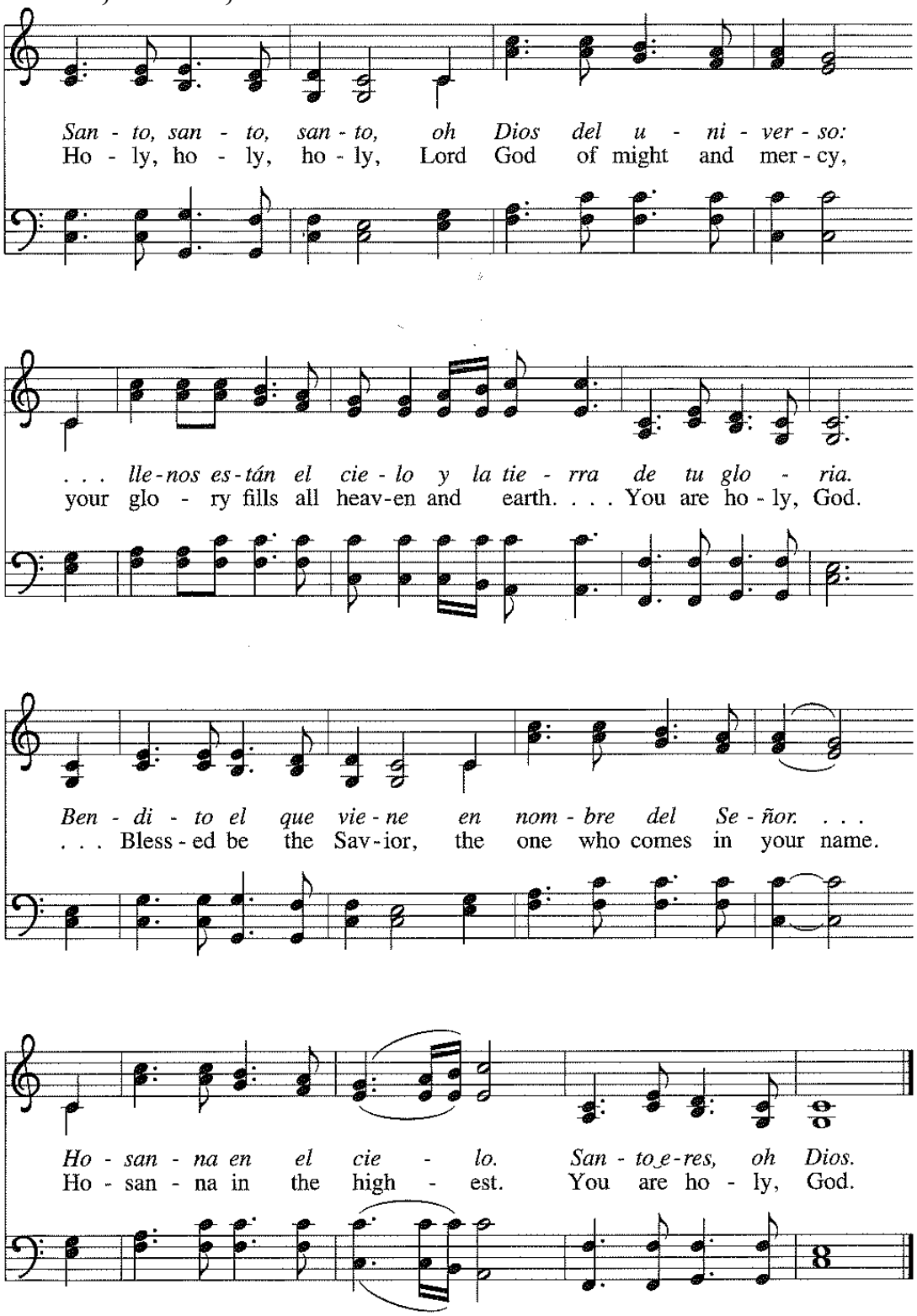
OFFERING PRAYER
Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 (*Pastor)*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version
Music: Argentine traditional
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

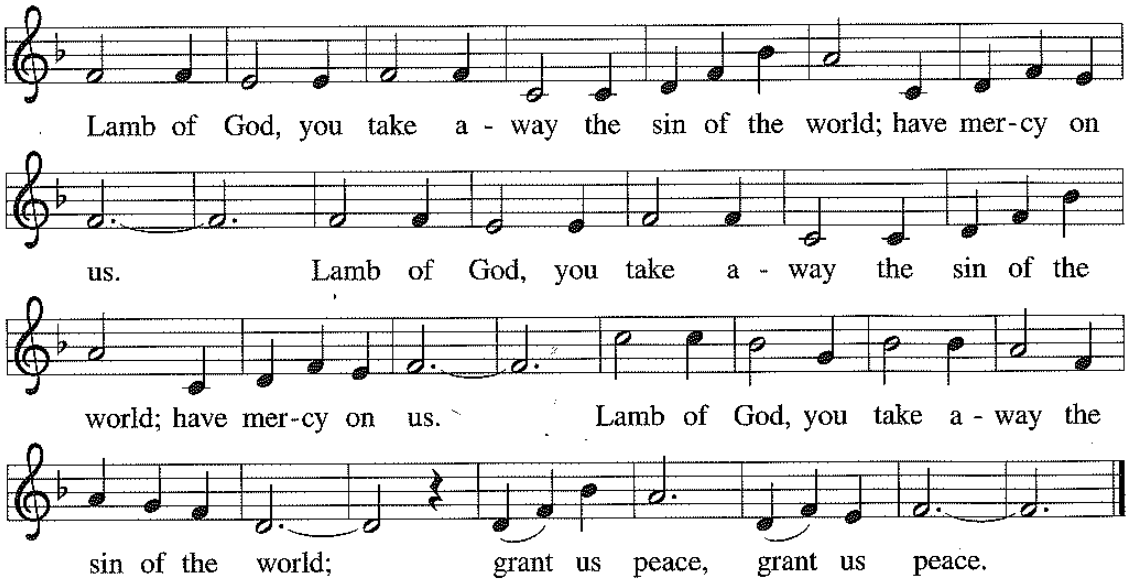
ARGENTINE SANTO
Irregular

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

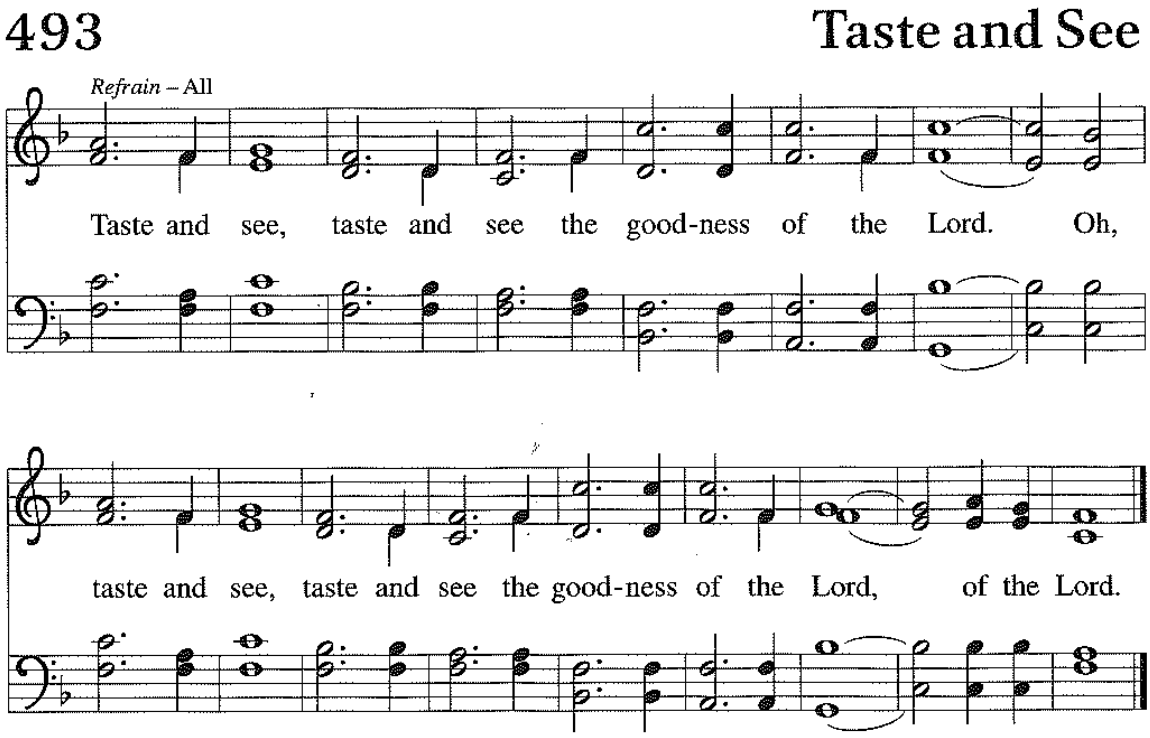
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION



Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

COMMUNION HYMN
Congregation sings refrain, cantor sings verses



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

Please Stand as you are able

BLESSING
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *ELW 632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past*
vs 1 and 2 (all), vs 3 (men), vs 4 (choir), vs 5 (women), vs 6 (all)

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Special Offering for October is DSVS

As we navigate through our Stewardship Drive for 2027, please prayerfully consider your giving plan and return your card next week.

Next Sunday is Reformation Sunday. In commemoration, many wear red to honor the fiery presence and renewal of the Holy Spirit, the courage of the reformers, and the ongoing renewal of the church.
Adding to its commemoration will be our handbell ringers, using our recently acquired set of Schulmerich Handbells, proclaiming A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.

Please write your prayer requests in the prayer request book in the gathering area. We ask that you re-submit requests at the first of each month if they are still desired or contact the church office at 406-446-2430 or email requests to redlodgemessiah@gmail.com
with specific information and permission from the person you are adding.

The people of Messiah are praying for
Renee Boyer, Hannah Gonzales, Herb Hunt, Vicatoria Kittle, Dolly Koski, Rick and Sandy Koski, Jim Kyner, Mary Lair, Bob Pollock, Carlos Ramalho, Nick Roselius, Sadie Sceva, David Smiley, Guynema Terry, and
The unspoken prayer requests of our congregation.

Messiah Lutheran Church
912 Lower Continental Dr, P.O. Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068
redlodgemessiah@gmail.com, 406-446-2430
Administrative Assistant Hours
Monday – Thursday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

In an effort to make Messiah comfortable and welcoming for everyone, we ask that you refrain from using strong personal scents or perfumes. Thank you.

As a community of Christ's followers, we seek to grow, making a difference in the lives of others.
Live by faith . Share Christ's Love . Be a Voice for Hope

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