

Holy Communion

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the Pets + October 4, 2026 + 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church!

Peace be with you in this time after Pentecost. It is good to be together.

We are a community committed to the fostering of faith for young participants. Children are encouraged to participate fully in worship and are encouraged to growth through Sunday School. Classes for all ages are available at 9:00am.

Discover more about the congregation at our website messiahlyndhurst.org or on social media at facebook.com/MLC44124.

Prayer Concerns can be shared via email (pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org) or phone (440-442-6941). Please indicate if you would like your request to be considered for inclusion in worship or with our Prayer Partners prayer chain ministry.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated weekly. Worshippers of all ages are welcome at Christ's Table. If Communion is new for you or a young one in your family, we invite you to have a conversation with Pastor Paul.

Serving in Worship Today:

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Paul Jones Moody
Assisting Minister	Jeff Krestel
Organist	Adam Dellinger
Choir Director	Vicki Lester
Altar Guild	Nancy Pittard
Reader(s)	Jeff Krestel
Ushers	Robert and Twyla Lucas

5200 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst, OH
440-442-6941
messiahlyndhurst.org

GATHERING

WELCOME

(Please rise)

GATHERING HYMN

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!

ELW #835

(verses 1, 2, 3, 6)



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



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

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

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

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the
inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your
merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.
Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

FIRST READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

PSALM

Psalm 80:7-15



- ⁷ Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.
- ⁸ **You have brought a vine ¹ out of Egypt;**
you cast out the nations and ¹ planted it.
- ⁹ You cleared the ¹ ground for it;
it took root and ¹ filled the land.
- ¹⁰ **The mountains were covered ¹ by its shadow**
and the towering cedar trees ¹ by its boughs.
- ¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils ¹ to the sea
and its branches ¹ to the river.
- ¹² **Why have you broken ¹ down its wall,**
so that all who pass by pluck ¹ off its grapes?
- ¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ¹ ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have ¹ grazed upon it.
- ¹⁴ **Turn now, O ¹ God of hosts,**
look ¹ down from heaven;
- ¹⁵ behold and ¹ tend this vine;
preserve what your right ¹ hand has planted.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please rise)



GOSPEL

John 1:1-5

The Holy Gospel According to Saint John:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Paul Jones Moody

(Please observe a moment of silence after the sermon)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW #836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

PET BLESSING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

(A brief silence)

God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones (*regions in crisis may be named*), and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith and all who lead at Messiah. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

(Here other intercessions may be offered)

God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

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

(Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, saying, "Peace be with you" or similar response.)

OFFERING

(Please rise)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our
neighbors, today and always.

Amen.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars;

beneath the sea;

within each cell;

with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water;

by night and day;

across the wilderness;

out of exile;

into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life;

near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner;

among the poor;

with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

(Please follow the usher's guidance, coming forward to receive Holy Communion.)

If you would like to be served in your pew, please let an usher know, and the team will come and serve you.

The Sacrament will be served in a continuous line. Please approach the server to receive bread. If you would like gluten-free bread, please let the server know. If you would like wine, pick up an empty cup from the tray. Your cup will be filled with wine from the pouring chalice. If you would like white grape juice, please find a prefilled cup in the tray. You may eat and drink as you are served, then please make your way back to be seated in your pew.)



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

Goodness is Stronger than Evil
ELW #721



Good -ness is stron-ger than e - vil; love is stron-ger than hate;



light is stron-ger than dark - ness; life is stron-ger than death; vic-t'ry is



ours, vic-t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic-t'ry is



ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

COMMUNION HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light

ELW #715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

(Please rise)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISSION PRAYER

As God has gathered us and filled our hearts with Word and Sacrament,
now God sends us forth to serve in mission. Let us pray:

Gracious God, through belief in Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us, empower us to share the word; care and support each other in God's community; worship as a family in Christ; and be Christ-like examples to those whose lives we touch.

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Let All Things Now Living

ELW #881

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours-es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

(Please observe a moment of silence before the postlude)

POSTLUDE

Messiah Staff Members

Choir Director: Vicki Lester

Office Administrator: Steven Liss

Organist: Adam Dellinger

Social Media & Website: Kristy Bohinc

Attributions

Portions from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Holy Communion Setting Four and sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. Offertory Response, ELW #184. Post Communion Canticle, ELW #207. Licenses: Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #44485. ONE LICENSE #736747-A. Scripture from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. Cover Image: Louis-Philippe Poitras c/o unsplash.com.

Prayers

Prayer Team & Partners: Our Prayer Team will pray with/for you. Please complete a blue Prayer Request Card, available in the sanctuary, which offers these options: (1) request a Pastoral follow-up, (2) include in the intercessory prayers to be read aloud in worship, (3) add to the ongoing list in the Bulletin, or (4) add to the Prayer Partner Email Chain.

PLEASE SEND NEW PRAYER REQUESTS TO: pastor@messiahlyndhurst.org

Please pray for our siblings in Christ: Holly Bhatt, Namit Bhatt, Christopher, Leah Dey, Michael Elwood, Emma, Tonyia Greanoff, William Jaros, Retta Kalcik, Drinda Kiner, Diane Kosovich, Grace Loudenstein, Craig Orosz, Lisa Perry, Jackie Pickering, Jonathan Quinn, Alex Vinesky, the family and friends of Cathy Jordan, the family and friends of Jim Richardson, and all who are in need of comfort and healing.

*(Prayer requests included in the bulletin will remain active for four weeks.
If you wish to have the prayer renewed, please resubmit it accordingly.)*

Announcements

Blessing of the Pets – Oct 4: Our 10 am worship service will be held in the courtyard (weather permitting) or in the fellowship hall as the backup with a Pet Blessing Holy Communion Service. Bring your pet or picture of your pet for a blessing. Pets should enter the courtyard through the fellowship hall. Social Ministry will be hosting a coffee hour afterwards.

Choir Update: October 11, 18, and 25 the choir will be performing three songs from Reformation the Musical written by Gary Sironen. Messiah performed this musical twice. "Reformation" is a musical based on the life of Martin Luther, a 16th century monk whose attempts at religious reform divide a nation, the church and the movement he never intended to create. Take and Eat is a beautiful ballad for communion. When the Lightning Strikes is a driving story about Martin Luther's talk with God about becoming a monk and the townsfolk wondering why he wants to be a monk. 95 Propositions is the song about the nailing of Martin's propositions to the door.

Collection for NE Ohio Coalition for the Homeless now thru – Oct 11: Hoodies/sweaters, tents, sleeping bags, gloves, hats, batteries, hygiene products, sunscreen, socks, boots, long underwear, blankets, backpacks, blankets, towels and hand washcloths, tissues and baby wipes, hand sanitizer, masks, bug spray, sunscreen, rain ponchos, hand warmers. NOTE: Donated items will be collected on the table near the back entrance of the church. The donations will be moved to a secure location following services for safekeeping.

Book Club – Oct 13: The book club meets on October 13 next month. The book is *Lucia, Lucia* by Adriana Trigiani.

Intergenerational Game Night – Oct 17: Looking for a fun, free evening with the whole family? Grab your favorite tabletop game, invite a neighbor, and join us on Saturday, 10/17 starting at 4:30 PM. Whether you love classic strategy games or quick card games, there's a table waiting for you! We will have some games and food; but feel free to bring more to share!



Reformation Day Potluck & Speaker – Oct 25: More details TBA.



Disagree Better – Nov 10: Constructive Conflict? *Is that even possible?* Pull up a chair with Braver Angels and learn how to Disagree Better – practical skills to bridge political divides and turn clash into conversation. Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 6:30pm, Messiah will be hosting a workshop by Braver Angels entitled “Skills for Disagreeing Better”. Braver Angels is a nationwide organization dedicated to bridging the divide between “reds” and “blues” politically.

- This is a FREE event and open to all; but registration is appreciated.
- Use the promo code BRAVER when registering.

Scan QR code for more info and to register via Eventbrite:

Pastor Paul’s Office Hours:

Wednesdays: 1:00 – 3:00pm

Church Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri: 12:00 – 4:00pm

Attendance and Offering for the week of Sept 27, 2026:

Attendance: 59 Offering: \$4,098

Special Acknowledgments

Email to messiahlutheranoffice@gmail.com by Wednesday at 3pm for publication on the following Sunday. We'll keep items in print for at least two weeks.

♥ None This Week.