

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 7, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We continue to focus our attention on Jesus' resurrection. We see that Jesus is the stone that was rejected by the religious leaders. He was crucified and killed by them. Yet God raised Jesus from the dead, making Him the cornerstone, the foundational stone upon which all the other stones in the building are aligned and built. As we build upon the foundation and cornerstone of Jesus, we are conformed and aligned to Him.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" (LSB – 912)

Christ is our cornerstone,
With His true saints alone
On His great love
Of present grace

On Him alone we build;
The courts of heav'n are filled.
Our hopes we place
And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n
And may that grace, once giv'n,
Until that day
To endless rest

The grace which we implore,
Be with us evermore
When all the blest
Are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise
Our voices we will raise
And thus proclaim
Both loud and long,

These hallowed courts shall ring;
The Three in One to sing
In joyful song,
That glorious name.

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Christ is our cornerstone;

People: **on Him alone we build.**

Pastor: In Him we are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.

People: We are called to proclaim His excellencies to the world.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Christ is our cornerstone and has changed our identity to be His chosen people, we often build upon things other than Jesus. Such building crumbles to the ground, for unless we build on Christ, we labor in vain. Still, our heavenly Father is merciful, and He invites us to draw near to His throne in confidence to ask for forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: though we are Your chosen people, we have acted in accordance with the world rather than Your Word. We have proclaimed hatred and violence rather than Your excellencies. Forgive us, renew us, and restore us as Your newborn, chosen, priestly people, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Though Jesus Christ was rejected and killed, God raised Him from the dead, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. We are a newborn, chosen, priestly people.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT

Pastor: “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.” I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

People: Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Pastor: The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

People: All you have made will praise you, O Lord; your saints will extol you.

Pastor: My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.

People: Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Christ, have mercy,
People: Christ, have mercy.
Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

(Stephen remains faithful in the midst of death.)

1 Now at this time, as the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint developed on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. 2 So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. 3 Instead, brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 The announcement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. 6 And they brought these men before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them. 7 The word of God kept spreading; and the number of the disciples continued

to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. 9 But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen. 2 And Stephen said, "Listen to me, brothers, and fathers! 51 "You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. 52 Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, and you have now become betrayers and murderers of Him; 53 you who received the Law as ordained by angels, and yet did not keep it." 54 Now when they heard this, they were infuriated, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 But they shouted with loud voices, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one mind. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

(Built on Jesus, we are a chosen people.)

2 and like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. 4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, 5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, And the one who believes in Him will not be put to shame." 7 This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers, "A stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief cornerstone," 8 and, "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of

darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14 (*Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.*) (please stand)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be. 4 And you know the way where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” 8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you for so long a time, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own, but the Father, as He remains in Me, does His works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. 12 Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

HYMN: “Built on the Rock” (LSB 645)

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Crumbled have spires in ev’ry land;
Calling the young and old to rest,
Longing for rest everlasting.

Surely in temples made with hands
High above earth His temple stands,
Yet He who dwells in heav’n above
Making our bodies His temple.

We are God’s house of living stones,
He through baptismal grace us owns
Were we but two His name to tell,
With all His grace and His favor.

Here stands the font before our eyes,
The altar recalls Christ’s sacrifice
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
And evermore, our Redeemer.

Even when steeples are falling.
Bells still are chiming and calling,
But above all the souls distressed,

God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
All earthly temples excelling.
Chooses to live with us in love,

Built for His own habitation.
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Yet He would deign with us to dwell

Telling how God has received us.
And what His Supper here gives us.
Christ yesterday, today, the same,

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
Many in saving faith may come
“I know My own; My own know Me.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

That, when the church bells are ringing,
Where Christ His message is bringing:
You, not the world, My face shall see.

MESSAGE: “If You Know Me . . . ”

John 14:1-11

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen

OFFERING

(please be seated)

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ’s church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: “We Give Thee But Thine Own” (LSB 781 vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

(please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen**

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
You take the sin of the world away;
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (LSB 633)

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing
Who has washed us in the tide

Praise to our victorious King,
Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His body for the feast

Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured,
Israel’s hosts triumphant go

Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword;
Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
With sincerity and love

Paschal victim, paschal bread;
Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,
You have conquered in the fight,

Hell’s fierce pow’rs beneath You lie;
You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall,
You have opened paradise,

Now no more the grave enthrall;
And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
From sin’s pow’r, Lord, set us free,

This alone can sin destroy;
Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,
Spirit, guide through all our days:

Savior, by whose death we live,
Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN: “The Church’s One Foundation” (LSB 644)

The Church’s one foundation
She is His new creation
From heav’n He came and sought her
With His own blood He bought her,

Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
By water and the Word.
To be His holy bride;
And for her life He died.

Elect from ev’ry nation,
Her charter of salvation:
One holy name she blesses,
And to one hope she presses

Yet one o’er all the earth;
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
Partakes one holy food,
With ev’ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
By schisms rent asunder,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
And soon the night of weeping

The world sees her oppressed,
By heresies distressed,
Their cry goes up, “How long?”
Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation
She waits the consummation
Till with the vision glorious
And the great Church victorious

And tumult of her war
Of peace forevermore
Her longing eyes are blest,
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
And mystic sweet communion
O blessèd heav’nly chorus!
That we, like saints before us,

With God, the Three in One,
With those whose rest is won.
Lord, save us by Your grace
May see You face to face.

HYMN: “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (LSB 575)

My hope is built on nothing less
No merit of my own I claim

Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. *Refrain*

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

When darkness veils His lovely face,
In ev'ry high and stormy gale

I rest on His unchanging grace;
My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,

Support me in the raging flood;
He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,

Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

HYMN: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (LSB 411)

I want to walk as a child of the light.
God set the stars to give light to the world.

I want to follow Jesus.
The star of my life is Jesus. *Refrain*

*Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,

I want to look at Jesus.
And show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
When we have run with patience the race,

I want to be with Jesus.
We shall know the joy of Jesus.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for healing –

Les Turner - awaiting surgery May 10th

Debbie Stender – awaiting surgery May 10th

Judy Beauford - Ed Funk - Artie Dolt - Chip Dolt - Ed Mycock - Robert Saur

For Family and Friends –

Hal Eschenko's Family mourning the death of his mother, Rose

The Family of our member, Mel Paulson, who passed away April 25th

Sue Parker requests prayer for her sister Jeannie who has a recurrence of invasive squamous cell carcinoma in her throat.

Debra Beard's daughter-in-law Sarah who having complications from giving birth.

Laura Sanders requests prayer for daughter Naomi who is preparing to take school certification exams to teach music.

For Messiah Learning Teams and upcoming Town Hall Meeting

Prayers for all on our hearts with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done.

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message.

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

“Rejoice always,

pray without ceasing,

in everything give thanks;

for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” I Thess 5:16-18

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here!
Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

APRIL ALTAR FLOWERS

May 7 – Tony & Kathy Giardinelli – Wedding of David & Aline Giardinelli
May 14 – Kim & Maurine Maloy – in memory of Avery Maloy Bailey
May 21 - Mike & Melanie Gissi - celebrating 45 years of marriage
May 28 – Tony & Kathy Giardinelli – celebrating 45 years of marriage

We Believe, Teach and Confess - Today we continue Pastor's Course for Adult Instruction in the Lutheran Christian Faith. We welcome all who are considering joining Messiah as well as anyone seeking additional information on what we believe.

Sunday Lunch and Bible Study - This Sunday at noon, we will be showing the movie Sabina, which is about Sabina Wurmbbrand's time in a Nazi Concentration Camp. Sabina was the wife of Richard Wurmbbrand (founder of Voice the Martyrs) and converts to Christianity from hedonism. We hope that you can join us. A light lunch will be provided. Please register by Thursday.

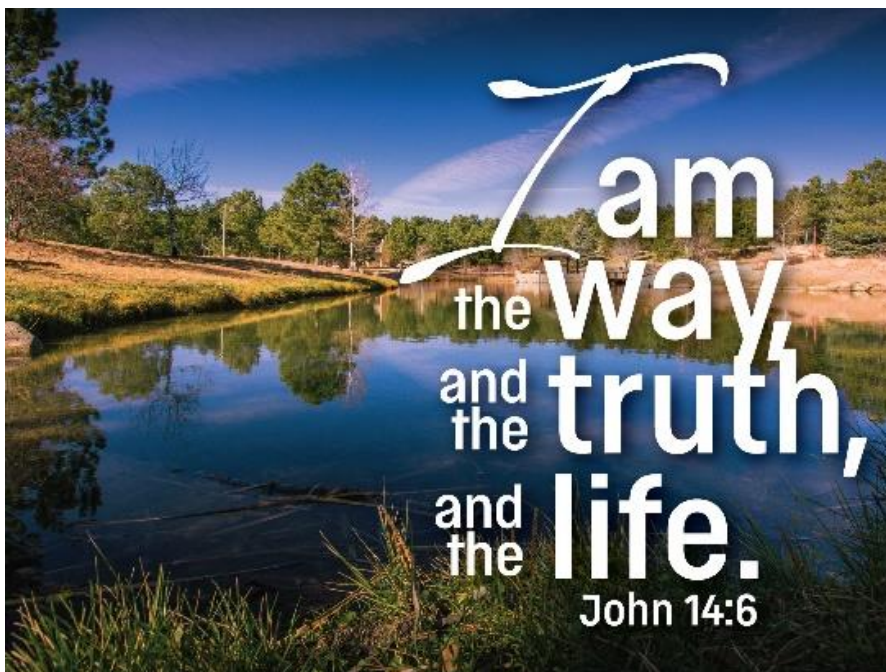
Contributions to the Church Refurbishment Several people have asked how they might contribute to the Church refurbishment. Another need will be updating the sound system that is not included in the refurbishment contract. Contributions can be earmarked as "Audio-Visual" and made to Messiah Lutheran Church. If anyone has questions, they can contact me. David Wendeborn 830-331-0870 David.Wendeborn@outlook.com

Wine Tasting Social Hosted by Messiah Fellowship Committee, Friday, May 19 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Vonda Fischer's Home - 6111 Point Comanche, San Antonio, TX 7825.

Town Hall Meeting – By this time you should have received and read the reports from the History-Culture, Partnerships and Leadership Groups. I'm sure there are going to be issues that you may not agree with and there will be issues important to you that you may find not addressed. For that reason, there will be a 'workshop' held on Saturday, May 20th starting at 9:00 AM. This is a particularly important part of the call process, and we want everyone to have an opportunity to give their input.

Our next Adult Game Day is the third Saturday, May 20th at 2pm! Bring your drinks and snacks and games if you like and join us! Friends are welcome!

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Vocation of Elder; The U.S. Constitution & Natural Law; C.F.W. Walther's Law & Gospel Theses; The Marks of the Church and more. You can listen at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – May 7, 2023

Elders:	Allen Leitko & Larry Risley
Coffee:	Sue Parker
Treats:	Vonda Petmecky
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Tony Giardinelli
Reader:	Artie Dolt
Ushers:	Allen Leitko – Anthony Sansone – Dennis Parker
Greeters:	Larry & Kathy Rottman

Serving us Next Sunday – May 14, 2023

Elders:	Allen Leitko & Larry Risley
Coffee:	Joyce & Janis Meier
Treats:	Sue Parker
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Tony Giardinelli
Reader:	Kathy Rottman
Ushers:	Allen Leitko – Anthony Sansone – Dennis Parker
Greeters:	Kathy Giardinelli

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 78 | Sunday School: 30
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study: 15

April 2023 Contributions

General Fund	\$46,424.15		Building Fund	\$3,090.00
Renovation Fund	\$359,850.00		Family Life Center	\$2,937.50