

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for December 9, 2020

Messiah Events & News

On the web...

go to messiahlutheranmqt.org for more information about our congregation and “like” us on Facebook to receive updates and information there.

Messiah Lutheran Church seeks to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion.

We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant and eternal life.

We may not always be as welcoming as we should be, but this is our intention—all are welcome!



Giving Tuesday Fundraising Results

Last week we raised nearly \$19,000 for our Community Assistance Fund (that's nearly \$3,000 more than last year)! Thank you!

This fund helps support community members, from across the region, who are in need - anything from rent assistance, to medical costs, to food or a cell phone. Our amazing team of volunteer social workers meets with them (over the phone right now) and helps triage their needs. These funds will help us continue to offer this support in our community. If you have not had the opportunity to donate to this fund and would like to do so, you still can! Checks can be mailed to our office (please note "community fund" in the memo), donations can be made on our website, or you can donate on Facebook. Every little bit helps! Again, THANK YOU!

Radio Sponsors Needed for Christmas Eve Worship

This year we will have two worship services at 5:00 and 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24th that will be livestreamed on:

Facebook ([facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt](https://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)), YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgn0rsWCy7RptrD2uadk56Q>) & Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt>). They will also be broadcast on Sunny 101.9 FM.

Cost of the radio broadcast is \$110 for the full service and \$55 for half. Please call the church office at 225-1119 if you are interested in sponsoring the radio broadcast.

Check Out Messiah's New Website:

<https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/>

Our Publicity Team and pastors have been working on this for a few months and are delighted to share it!

There will likely be a few hiccups as we move into it fully, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you can't find something, if a link doesn't work, or if you have other questions. One exciting feature is that you can now watch the live stream directly on our website!

2020 Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for Christmas, please contact the office by Wednesday, December 16th. Suggested cost is \$20.

The Longest Night - Monday Dec. 21st at 7:00 pm

For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so around this time we offer a quiet,

meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Whether or not you find this season to be difficult, we invite you to join us online, Monday, December 21st at 7:00 pm for a time of music, scripture, silent reflection, and healing prayer. The service will be available on Vimeo (vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt) and Facebook (Facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt).

Room at the Inn Fundraiser

Messiah's church council has extended a challenge pledge to Room at the Inn as they renovate the Warming Center to become a permanent shelter space. As a congregation we are committed to caring for those in need (Matthew 25), and as such have offered up to \$20,000 in a matching donation to any new donations for the Room at the Inn project. We are delighted to be in the position to be able to do so and that such a vital ministry in our midst is moving toward permanent shelter space. **Send your check directly to RATI, 347 Rock St., Marquette, with the memo referencing "Messiah match."** If you would like to learn more about this giving opportunity for our community, please contact Pastor Andrew.

ELCA Good Gifts - That Make a Difference

New this year - and very appropriate! Soap and Sanitation Supplies - \$25.00 PPE Supplies - \$25.00 The usual favorites of Chicks (\$10.00), Honey Bees (\$20) Pig (\$30), Goat (\$50) and all the others are still available. In this unusual time, we are unable to have an in person ELCA Good Gifts promotion, but many of us still want to order these gifts that "Make A Difference" for Christmas. Catalogs are available on the shelf near the Fair Trade display - and will also be available on December 1 during our Giving Tuesday event. We can also go online to order directly from the ELCA at: goodgifts.elca.org. Thank you for your support of this important ministry of our church.

ELCA Advocacy Action Alert—Rights for Asylum Seekers

There are 23 families that have been detained in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) family detention facilities for many months. Now they face fast-tracking for deportation during the holidays, their asylum cases having been unjustly denied. Immigration officials have the authority to stop the deportations, to allow a fair hearing, and to release them to sponsors. **Let ICE know you support due process rights for asylum seekers and believe in safety and security for migrating families!**

Twenty-eight children, ages two to 18, are faced with fast-tracked deportation against the backdrop of rising holiday celebrations. They are part of 23 families that have been detained by

ICE at the South Texas Family Residential Center and the Berks County Residential Center in Pennsylvania for well over a year.

Because these families were subjected to a flawed asylum process, they have been unjustly denied lawful access to the asylum system. After expiration on Nov. 20 of a stay of deportation that allowed families to remain united, families fear deportation to their home countries and the violence they initially fled. Thankfully, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued them a temporary stay of removal, giving the court more time to consider the underlying case, *M.D.C. v Wolf*, which challenges certain directives applied to the families' credible fear claims.

This ongoing litigation could decide the fate of the 23 families, but time is running out to ensure they have fair hearing.

The Advent season is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. We remember that the holy family's own peace was shattered when they were forced to flee the persecution of King Herod to keep the baby Jesus safe. Like them, many migrants still travel from far-off places to seek refuge. Delivering these families from conditions of insecurity and danger is a way to incarnate Jesus' call to love and welcome our neighbor.

Urge ICE to release these families to their sponsors and to allow them a fair hearing of their cases.

[Tell ICE: Don't Deport Families During the Holidays.](#)

Virtual Worship

If you would like to worship with us from your home, we want to let you know some ways you can listen in and/or watch if you have a computer and internet access.

The 8:45 am worship will always be broadcast on the radio at Sunny 101.9 FM and streamed at the following sites: Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt>

and Facebook - www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt We will have Holden Evening Prayer on the same sites noted above and on the radio on December 9 and 16. If you would like to view the Holden Evening Prayer bulletin during the service, please go to the following link: bit.ly/holdeneveningprayer

Advent 2020

Our Advent theme for this year is "Those Who Dream." A devotional book/journal can be found in the church office.

Look for additional Advent devotionals, which will be emailed and posted on Facebook weekly, written by Messiah's members who also happen to be retired pastors. If you do not get email or

use Facebook, you can give us a call and we will gladly mail them to you!

On Wednesdays in Advent we will stream and broadcast Holden Evening Prayer on 101.9 FM , on Vimeo, and on our Facebook page (facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt) at 6:30 pm on December 9th, and 16th.

The meditative prayer that was to happen in the sanctuary on Wednesdays from 3-5 pm has unfortunately been canceled due to rising cases and an abundance of caution to limit gatherings in indoor spaces.

Giving Envelopes

Your envelopes are ready for pick up. Stop by to grab them from the narthex any time during our normal office hours, when the main door is unlocked. Or call the office if you need special accommodations. If you don't currently have envelopes and would like them; or have envelopes and don't want them for 2021, just let Nancy Hoover know. She will accommodate what works best for you. Even if you give electronically, you may still receive envelopes for special donations.

Upcoming Events at U.P. Wild

As the TV6 news reporter said to the live early AM audience, "U.P. Wild is booked this month!" and yes indeed, we have a lot planned. We have our virtual and in person strolls through historic Park Cemetery with voices from our community reflecting on "How to Live Well"; which might surprise us to hear what they say!

VIRTUAL PARK STROLL / FRI. DECEMBER 11 / 7:00 PM /

Link: [YOUTUBE LIVE](#)

Sip some tea and take a virtual nature walk through Park Cemetery located in Marquette, Michigan. An historic and protected area for over 100 years, the trees bear that witness as some of the largest left within the city limits. We will respectively walk through the narrow streets, saying hello to the ducks, and reflecting on what it means to live well along the way.

PARK CEMETERY STROLL / SAT. DECEMBER 12 / 1:00 PM / **In Person**

A sanctuary of tranquility inside the city limits of Marquette, Park Cemetery is a favorite place to take a stroll among locals. Many know the ducks & ponds but less known are the hiking trails and community garden inside. We will explore it all on a 1 hour nature walk which includes meditative stops to offer a reflection, share a story, and offer prayers for our ancestors. Safety guidelines will also be followed so we ask everyone to register & numbers will be limited- by emailing lanni@upwild.org for exact meeting location.

MEET & GREET! / SAT. DECEMBER 19 / 2:00 PM

Click here for [ZOOM LINK OR EMAIL LANNI@UPWILD.ORG](#)

This is not an ugly sweater party (unless you want it to be!) but still a chance to mingle with one another. If you have watched an online service, attended in person, or are simply curious about who we are- this is a chance for us to "meet" each other via Zoom. It's important to continue to build relationships and create community during these times of isolation so instead of offering a service this week, we would like to focus on getting to know each other more. SOOOO put your favorite Christmas/Holiday decoration in the background, bake some gingerbread cookies (and tell us how good they are...), bring a peppermint tea or spiced coconut latte and meet other like-minded people.

* Zoom Link should work at time of Event if problems send email

EVENING CENTERING PRAYER: HOLIDAY SPIRIT / DECEMBER 23 / 8PM

FACEBOOK LIVE + ZOOM LINK OR EMAIL LANNI@UPWILD.ORG

A time of stillness holding true to the Holiday Spirit. Our culture has created a time of busyness and chaos surrounding what was and still is, a very sacred time of year. We will center ourselves into Christmas through nature videos set to the music of Hildegard de Bingen and Bach (and other special guests) while taking time for prayer and reflection.

CENTERING INTO 2021 / JANUARY 2 / 10AM

FACEBOOK LIVE + ZOOM LINK OR EMAIL LANNI@UPWILD.ORG

We will center ourselves into the New Year by setting our intentions and rooting ourselves in an ancient tradition of Christian centering prayer. Please bring a special stone from your watershed area + index cards/markers.

UP WILD CHURCH IS: *A spiritual home for the seekers of beauty, wonder, & awe; where the 'church goers' supplement their journey and the 'misfits' finally feel connected within the congregation of paper birch trees & squawking geese via the Mystery which creates all things... Welcome!*

We have had a lot of new people join us this month & vibrant regulars joining us at weekly services. We invite you to join us and add your voice in an upcoming service. See you in person or online! ~ Lanni, Curator of U.P. Wild

Stewardship Story

One of my most treasured memories of childhood holidays was coming to Grandma and Grandpa's church. There was a service on Thanksgiving morning that preceded the football games and our family dinner. Christmas Eve was a time when we got to stay up and go to the late worship service, and then race home to get into bed so that Santa would not pass us by. Each year, most of us look forward to our special routines and customs that mean so much. Yet, this year it is apparent that our holiday traditions will be interrupted.

But, as we mourn the suspension of our special family activities, let's look back to the first Christmas. Mary and Joseph were travelers without a place to go, and Mary's time to deliver

her baby had come. They made do with a shelter that they shared with the animals. The most significant birth in human history took place in the humblest setting. I am sure that Joseph and Mary were hoping for something else, but they were blessed regardless of the setting. There is an example for us in their acceptance of the circumstances. As unpredictable as 2020 has been, it is unlikely that any of us will find ourselves in a situation like Mary and Joseph. Yet, the incredible gift that God gave is still available for us. There is a blessing for us, regardless of who we spend the holidays with or where we are. Let us remind those who are missing from our gathering of the blessing and joy to God offers to all of us. May we focus on giving thanks for all we have been given, even as we look forward to reuniting with friends and family in future years.

Erik Bergh, Stewardship Team member

Registration Now Open for Synod Lifelong Faith Formation Winter Classes

Registration is now open for the winter schedule of Lifelong Faith Formation, a program of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The classes provide fun and interesting opportunities for people to connect with each other online, via Zoom, during these challenging times. The following classes begin in January:

Introduction to Biblical Greek II

Reflections on Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, While We are Apart

The Doctrine of Discovery: From Myth to Reality

Bias in Our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America

Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

The Gospel of John

For more information, visit our website or contact Deacon-Elect Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

Pipe Organ Fundraiser

Plans are in the works for an online virtual fundraiser to raise money for recent rebuilding work on Messiah's pipe organ. Our organist Kathy Strazzinski and her husband Ron took advantage of the first few months of the shutdown last spring to design beautiful wall art, and racks for jewelry or keys using parts from the old organ console. They would like to offer these items for auction.

We know there are many other creative folks out there who might like to contribute their gifts to this project. We have quilters, painters and musicians galore! Would you like to donate a painting? Present a special singing telegram or short musical performance once it is safe to do so? (We could even help you record something to include in our auction.) Perhaps you would

like to offer a weekend at your camp or be the chef for a dinner party.

Please contact the church office by January 11 if you would like to offer something for this auction, or if you have any additional questions.

Christmas 2020

As we look towards the Advent season and the birth of Jesus we know that this will be a difficult time for many of you as this year you might not be gathering with family or traveling as usual. We hope that our celebrations online and on the radio will fill you with comfort, joy, and hope as they usually do when we are in person.

This year we will have two worship services at 5:00 and 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24th that will be livestreamed on: Facebook ([facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt](https://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)), YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgn0rsWCy7RptrD2uadk56Q>) & Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt>). They will also be broadcast on Sunny 101.9 FM.

The 5:00 pm service will be more contemporary with our worship band, the full story of Jesus birth read and a short homily geared towards children and families preached. At 8:00 you will find a service of traditional carols and lessons with a variety of music. At both services you will hear favorite Christmas carols, experience a festive spirit and the joyful hope of our Savior's birth. Come watch with your candle as we dim the lights at the end of the service and sing "Silent Night, Holy Night." We know it is hard not to be together, but we trust that the Holy Spirit joins us as one.

The Synod is also preparing a worship service that will premiere on our local stations. It will air on Christmas Eve on WLUC from 4-5 pm ET and FOX-UP from 7-8 pm ET and on Christmas Day on WLUC from 12-1 pm ET and FOX-UP from 9-10 am ET. Look for Pastor Andrew, who is one of the preachers!

Bulletin for At-Home Worship - Online or Radio

Please contact the church office if you would like a worship bulletin mailed to your home weekly for each weekend's worship. Thank you.

Finance / Year-End 2020

Last day to give for 2020? For your information, donations legally need to be separated by the year, based on when we receive them! If you plan to mail them in or drop them off, the last date & time the office will be open to accept cash/check donations for 2020, is 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on Wed, 12/30/20.

Year to-Date Donations

Are you unsure about your donations to date? Or unsure what you pledged for 2020? If you need clarification to finalize your donations in December, please call the office to leave a message for Nancy Hoover, Financial Secretary. Or email her at [Messiah.NancyH@gmail.com](mailto: Messiah.NancyH@gmail.com). Likewise, if you have questions or would like help to complete your donation pledge for 2021, please contact Nancy Hoover.

Special Events

12/9 Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm

12/16 Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm

12/21 Longest Night Worship at 7:00 pm

12/24 Christmas Eve online Worship at 5:00 & 8:00 pm

12/24 & 12/25 Church office closed

12/31 & 1/1/21 Church office closed

1/20 January Book Study-"Stations of the Heart" 7:00 pm via Zoom

Gifts for Great Lakes Recovery Center Children

The Rachel Circle is collecting gifts for the children at Great Lakes Recovery Center, now until Wednesday, December 16th. There will be a box in the narthex, please drop your donations in this box.

In their facility, they are currently housing up to 30 adults and up to 30 children. The children range in age from 6 months old - 17 years old. Some possible gift items they offer are: puzzles, books, socks, slippers, T-shirts (in many sizes), long-sleeve T-shirts (in many sizes), sweatshirts, jackets, boots, mittens, scarves & hats. Their need for warm socks is real for all residents in their facility.

Great Lakes Recovery often gives residents a voucher for St. Vincent de Paul, but St. Vincents may be closed due to COVID-19. Some residents may not be able to go and get an extra T-shirt/sweatshirt to wear.

GLRC is also in need of blankets and comforters for the beds at their location for their guests. These need to be TWIN size.

You are also welcome to make a financial donation if you would prefer. Thank you, in advance, for your help to make a memorable Christmas for these kids. We appreciate your generosity!

Rachel Circle

Prayer Requests

While we are apart from one another, it is still important that we hold one another in prayer. We have posted a prayer request form on our Messiah Family and Friends Facebook page, and those who are not on Facebook or do not have computer access can call the church office with their prayer requests.

We value being a community of prayer for one another during this difficult time and always.

Messiah Birthdays December 9 through 23

Wednesday 9 Tom Froiland, Grant Soltwisch

Thursday 10 No birthdays

Friday 11 No birthdays

Saturday 12 Jeremy Beerman, Tristan Luoma, Linda Wainio

Sunday 13 Charlotte Beauchaine, Joslyn Hewitt

Monday 14 Pam Jackovich, Chloe Jackson

Tuesday 15 Ceil Aikala, I-C Chien, Marie Moisio

Wednesday 16 Jenny Broadway, Judy Donckers, Linda Ruohoniemi, Bill Summersett

Thursday 17 Caroline Reynolds, Anne Weaver

Friday 18 Bob Apple, Peggy Beerman, Evan Busick, Lisa Coombs-Gerou, Sharon Fluette, David Johnson, Kris Zorza

Saturday 19 No birthdays

Sunday 20 Jamie Beauchamp

Monday 21 Graham Tollefson

Tuesday 22 No birthdays

Wednesday 23 Winifred Anderson, Jeremy Bower

In the Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pastor Andrew Plocher and Pastor Molly Eversoll want to call you while you are there during this time of COVID-19. If you can't notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

In Our Prayers

Ron & Jane Brow and family upon the passing of their son Ben, Erin, Bob & Kate Sromalski & family upon the passing of Bob's brother Frank, Rose Collins, Tina & her roommate, Carol, Ted Koehler, Matthew Williamson, Mike Tomasoski, Mark Aho, Ron Hill, Lee McClelland, III residents/patients & care workers at the Jacobetti VA facility & other nursing homes in our area,

Betsy Cooper, inmates & staff at Marquette Branch Prison, Susan & Sommer, Dennis Riutta, Bob & Deb Vidlund, Bill Van Effen, Roger B, Linda Ruohoniemi, Barry, Jim Shirtz, Shannon, Cheryl, Ryan, Helen Steinhoff, Billi Jo, Pat Maki, Dan, Herb & Sandy Grenke, Wayne Hanmer, Judy Donckers, Ann Marin, Karen Johnson, Jill Krah, Ben, Michael Orhanen, Kristina Asta, Jim, Alli & Johann Elsenbroek, Alison Cory, John, Sierra, Sandy, Charlene Avery, Liz Kro

Note: You may call the church office or talk to one of the pastors, if you would like a person named in the congregation's prayers. Please obtain permission from the person to list his/her name in the bulletin. In order to keep the list up to date and manageable in size, we will list each person for a short time, after which the name will be removed. If at that point, you would like to continue listing the person, please call the church office or speak to one of the pastors.

Pastor on Call:

Pastor Andrew is on call December 9, 13-16.

Pastor Molly is on call December 10-12.

Messiah Newsletters

Messiah newsletters, weekly announcements and the weekly E-news are all available at www.messiahlutheranmgt.org. The online Messenger (monthly newsletter) includes all the stories and information but saves the paper!

Scripture Reading This Week – Third Sunday in Advent

First Reading..... *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

Gospel Reading..... *Luke 1:46-55*

Announcements and Classified Ads

Do you have an announcement?

Send announcements and ads to Inga Banitt (inga@messiahlutheranmgt.org). Send concert or performance information, yard sale announcements, party invitations, requests for babysitters, yard maintenance, rooms for rent and items for sale. We will run announcements for two weeks. E-newsletter deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

Messiah Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church
305 W. Magnetic St.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-225-1119
906-225-5025 (fax)
Email: office@messiahlutheranmqt.org
Website: <https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/>

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor:
Andrew Plocher
906-373-6036

Associate Pastor:
Molly Eversoll
312-576-7353

Support Staff

Parish Administrator:
Jennifer Dodge
906-235-4921

Administrative Assistant:
Inga Banitt
906-362-1545

Messiah Custodian:
Kevin McGrath
906-226-2097

Parish Accountant:
Mike Hill
906-228-2544

Financial Secretary:

Nancy Hoover

612-419-3000

Music Staff

Music Director:

David Dagenais

906-869-1441

Bell Choir Director:

Judy Quirk

906-228-6729

Organist:

Kathy Strazzinski

906-869-7871

Pianist:

Lynne Lanczy

906-235-4431