

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for December 16, 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!*



Radio Sponsors Needed for 8 pm 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/messiahlutheranmqt>).

com/channel/UCgn0rsWCy7RptrD2uadk56Q) & Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt>). They will also be broadcast on Sunny 101.9 FM.

We are still in need of a sponsor for the 8 pm service. 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!

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).

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.

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.

Messiah's 2021 Annual Report

Messiah's annual meeting will be delayed but the annual report will still be printed and distributed at the usual time during the last week of January. Please submit your reports to Inga (inga@messiahlutheranmqt.org) by Monday January 18. Thank you.

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 16. If you would like to view the Holden Evening Prayer bulletin during the service, please go to the following link:
bit.ly/holdeneveningprayer

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!

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

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

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

Qi Gong for Health & Wellness--Tuesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

This Zoom class, sponsored in collaboration with Messiah Lutheran Church, is based on a series of gentle exercises developed by Buddhist monks. These exercises involve varying degrees of range of motion that can be done in a chair or standing.

Our class moves body structure for balance, stress and pain relief that are applied to daily activities: walking, turning, lifting, reaching, sitting. These gentle movements can also be used with prayer disciplines and use breathing as an essential component.

After greetings, each person in our class turns off their Zoom video on the computer and mute. The members enjoy the anonymity with permission to pause, go slower, to learn without being self-conscious or competitive. Since I can't see you, my concerns are for safety. I give ongoing verbal, detailed instructions for each movement. Each exercise includes individuals finding their range of motion, improving body structure, balance & breathing instructions.

There is, of course, no fee or charge for these classes but we invite you to make a contribution to Messiah Lutheran Church food bank at any time as a sign of thanksgiving.

--Diana Magnuson, 906-362-9386

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.

A pastoral letter for Advent from Bishop Finegan

I wait for the LORD;

my soul waits for him;

In his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the LORD,

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

~Psalm 130

Dear people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

The very first summer I was in my first call, I led a group of teenage girls on a camping trip in the McCormick Wilderness. It was before the more recent trail improvements, so there were parts of the path that disappeared into swamp and we had to navigate the watery way by guessing which tufts of grass would keep us dry. Boots and socks were soaked before the trail reemerged from the reeds and rushes. Hopping from tuft to tuft, lifting packs over downed trees, crisscrossing over roots and around rocks - It was not an easy trail, but we did finally reach our lakeside destination some hours later having covered only a few miles.

The following day, we got it in our heads to “walk around the lake”. However, there wasn’t even a remnant of a trail to mark our path forward. Keeping the lake to our left, we bushwhacked our way through dense forest hoping for something worth seeing of lake, sky, and woods. But our progress was even slower than the previous day as it took substantially more effort, and we finally made it back to camp full of scrapes and bruises.

Before the pandemic, your pastoral leader walked with you along a well-traveled and wide path of congregational life blazed long ago by church tradition, expectations, and previous experience (the way things were always done). The way forward was not always easy, but at least there was a trail. Now we are, all of us, off the beaten path, whacking our way through a pandemic where every step takes effort. Forward motion requires a whole lot more - more energy, more thought, more decisions, more angst, more navigation - just a lot more. And unlike my ill-conceived hike around the lake, much of the effort is hidden. What you see on a Sunday morning, or as a weekly devotion on Facebook, represents hours of preparation and behind the scenes work. Your pastor, along with the Church, is blazing a new trail, although the

word “blazing” makes it sound easy. Think instead of your pastor, obscured by the underbrush, holding a knobby stick, trying to whack a way forward through dense foliage on uneven ground with no compass. What had been for the Church a pleasant journey on a well beaten path now requires huge effort that takes much longer to go a much shorter distance. Unfamiliar terrain and difficulty getting one’s bearings results in sweaty frustration, with scrapes and bruises along the way.

In this Advent season, as we wait for so much, please remember we are all feeling the weight of loss and the disorientation of an unfamiliar landscape, including your pastor. And your pastor is working harder than ever before even though that effort is relatively invisible, putting in more time for less return and a diminished sense of accomplishment with fewer voices offering encouragement and support. It is not an easy journey for anyone, but for leaders especially. Your council feels it. Your council president feels it. And so does your pastor.

As Covid cases increase and we wait for a vaccine - as Christmas draws closer and we brace ourselves for all that will be different – as emotions rise and we try to make sense of all that we feel - I encourage you to patiently and prayerfully embrace this time of Advent waiting. We wait, with anticipation, the completion of what is becoming.

Consider that the Church and our efforts in ministry are now “off road”. We choose more carefully where to put our energy since everything takes more work and more time. Online productions of worship and devotions, technology troubleshooting and zoom meetings, efforts to minister and stay connected consume more of your pastor’s attention and energy than you might imagine. We are blessed to wait and watch together, finding a space of quiet for ourselves and offering respite to those who feel exhausted by the effort it takes to forge a path forward.

We wait for the LORD more than watchmen for the morning....but in the meantime, we place our hope in the one who is already with us. Christ has come, is coming, will be here soon. We can wait.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

January Book Study: “Stations of the Heart” by Richard Lischer

This poignant love story of a father for his son is at once funny, heartbreaking, and hopeful. In it a young man teaches his entire family “a new way to die” with wit, candor, and, remarkable grace. Richard Lischer’s son, Adam, calls to tell his father, a professor of divinity at Duke University, that his cancer has returned. Despite the crushing magnitude of his diagnosis and the cruel course of the illness, Adam’s growing weakness evokes in him an unexpected strength. This is the story of one last summer and the young man who lived it as honestly and faithfully as possible. We meet Adam in many phases of his growing up, but always through the

narrow lens of his undying hope, when in the final season of his life he becomes his family's (and his father's) spiritual leader. Honest in its every dimension, Stations of the Heart is an unforgettable book about life and death and the terrible blessing of saying good-bye. We hope you'll join us to read and discuss this book, as it touches our own stories of grief and hope. Copies of this book are available in the church office for \$16. The conversation will be on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Further details will be available in the January newsletter and on Facebook.

The New Free Store Donations

The New Free Store needs your help. They are an inter-faith, non-profit group supporting people in the greater Marquette area who express a need for free clothing, linen, hygiene & cleaning supplies. Over 850 families are now registered to shop for free & that number continues to grow. When doing your weekly shopping, please remember the items noted below in the coming months. Thank you for your support! Feel free to leave these items in The New Free Store 'drop-box' in Messiah's narthex.

*December - laundry soap, dish soap, bars of soap

*January - toothbrushes (kids & adults), toothpaste, denture cleaner, dental floss

Christmas 2020

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

12/16 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

Thank You!

Dear Messiah Church Family, I can't tell you how nice it was to receive cards from my Circle Sisters and others of our Messiah church family. I do feel God's presence and his promise of eternal life. Please convey my thanks to all of Messiah members.

Love & God's Blessings to all,

Mary Lou Luke

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 16 through 31

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

Thursday 24 Benjamin Hendrick, Kurt Mensching, Carol Steinhaus

Friday 25 Nicole Grim, Carol Stevens

Saturday 26 Knut Fjeldheim

Sunday 27 No birthdays

Monday 28 Michael Broadway, Nicole Brownell, Liam Hewitt, Larry Pagel

Tuesday 29 Aliina Maki-Warne, Tim Weir

Wednesday 30 Virginia Bell, Carol O'Neill

Thursday 31 Lynn Apple, Gerald Cory, Tom Cory, Boden Swanson

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, Candace, Tina & her roommate, Carol, Alice, Ted Koehler, Matthew Williamson, Mike Tomasoski, Mark Aho, Ron Hill, 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, 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 16, 20-23.

Pastor Molly is on call December 17-19.

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 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

First Reading..... 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Gospel Reading..... Luke 1:26-45

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