Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for January 6, 2021

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!

From Pastor Andrew and Pastor Molly

Family in Christ,

As we sit at the dawn of 2021, it's hard not to look back in wonder at the year we have come through. There are so many different feelings that have coursed through those days. They have

been exhausting, but also life giving. In the midst of all that has been hard this year, all that has been stressful and anxious, there have been times of joy and light. Indeed, the Christmas season is a reminder that light comes into the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. Thinking back on 2020, I wanted to share some of what has happened at Messiah over the last year. This isn't an all-inclusive list, but hits on some of the ways that light has come through during this challenging time.

- A group, including both pastors, went to New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico as part of a learning experience with Border Servant Corps. It was a powerful experience for those who went and we still look forward to sharing the experience with the rest of the congregation. It was educational, emotional, spiritual, and built relationships. In fact, Pr. Molly and I grew together in ways that have helped us navigate our congregation through the pandemic. I look forward to the sharing and to having a new group go in 2022.
- We tumbled headfirst into livestreaming. It wasn't always pretty (thanks for bearing with us!), but we have now moved to a level of professional cameras, audio, and streaming equipment that will help carry us into the future. In fact, it's helped us reach over 1000 people on a given Sunday! With the radio broadcast added, our worship continues to be a ministry to our community – locally and beyond!
- We worshiped in the park, on the beach, and in our homes. We saw each other from a distance and rejoiced in community. And, when we've been apart, we've been together with phone calls, cards, and connecting online. Thank you for continuing to be the church for one another!
- We all got to get creative! With a virtual Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, with story times and cards. Pr. Molly and I learned new stories and shared some favorites, too. And the creativity wasn't just for kids.
– We hosted book studies and Bible studies, started a podcast and, with the help of Messiah's publicity team, launched a new website (check it out! messiahlutheranmqt.org)!
- We did a 21-day Racial Equity Challenge together. We stretched, learned, and grew in so many ways, and know that we have more work to do as we seek to be a truly welcoming and inclusive community. Check out the article about the synod wide 40-day challenge in Lent. We hope you'll join us in it!
- We were generous! On Giving Tuesday we received more than $21,000 in donations to support the work of our Community Assistance Fund and in offering a matching donation of up to $20,000, our congregation has helped Room at the Inn raise over $40,000 for their shelter project. That's above and beyond helping assure a steady financial footing for our congregational budget during this challenging time. Thank you!

Lastly, we're grateful for your incredible faithfulness. That you have been present in Spirit, if not in body, and supporting this community as we all have adapted and stretched. You have been there for one another, through illnesses and celebrations, funerals and weddings. You have

been partners in prayer and in ministry for us and for one another. This is why we are hopeful as we begin 2021 – because of each and every one of you.
In the light of Christ,
Pr. Andrew & Pr. Molly

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. The link to join the Zoom discussion is as follows: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87887215318 (Meeting ID: 878 8721 5318). If you need any assistance with Zoom, please reach out to our church office.

Celebrate Epiphany with Fortune Lake

Greetings from Fortune Lake!
You are invited to worship with the Fortune Lake Association congregations as we celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 10, 2021!
Our Epiphany worship service will include scripture, prayers, engaging preaching (thank you Pr. Brenda Greenwald!), and camp-style worship songs. There will be contributions from campers, summer staff, and Fortune Lake friends and family from near and far. The recording will be available on our YouTube channel by Saturday, January 9th.
A highlight of this worship experience will be the virtual blending of 'This Little Light of Mine' videos from our camp family. If you or others from your congregation would like to participate, please email fortunelakedigital@gmail.com for details.
Join us as we close out the celebration of our 90th year of ministry through our Epiphany worship. May we all be grateful to God and continue "Lighting the Way" for generations to come.

Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner

Check Out Messiah's New Website:

https://www.messiahlutheranmgt.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!

2021 Annual Meeting & Report

Due to the pandemic, our Council has decided to reschedule our annual meeting for a future date in June or July. While a remote (Zoom) meeting was discussed at length, the Council believes that any congregational meeting should allow all members to participate. The 2020 Annual Report will still be compiled by the end of January and will be shared in early February. Council will approve a preliminary 2021 budget at their January meeting that will also be shared with the 2020 report. Formal approval of that budget and the election of Council & committee members will take place at the rescheduled meeting. Ordinarily, Council would approve the budget at the January meeting and the congregation would vote on it at the annual meeting (in late January/early February). This year, the Council will approve the budget in January, but it will not be voted on by the congregation until the summer. There are no major changes to the budget anticipated and a narrative description of the budget will accompany it and the 2020 annual report. The Council/church will operate with the preliminary budget and Council and committee members will serve extended terms (they have voluntarily agreed to do so!) until the rescheduled meeting. If you have questions about these decisions, please don’t hesitate to contact Pr. Andrew or Erik Bergh (Council President).

Giving Tuesday

On December 1st Messiah celebrated Giving Tuesday by raising funds for our Community Assistance Fund. Through your incredible generosity we raised **over $21,000**. Even in a challenging year, you raised more than we did last year. In fact - it was the most successful Giving Tuesday we have held (without a Thrivent match)! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

These funds will help our congregation continue to support those in need in our community, going above and beyond what many social service agencies can do. It is due to your generous giving that we are able to do this and touch the lives of hundreds of our neighbors.
A special thanks to Thrivent Financial Action Team for paying for our meals-to-go that day and for our staff and volunteers who helped out!

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! 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.

Lenten 40-Day Racial Equity Challenge

This Lent, you are invited to participate in a synod-wide Racial Equity Challenge. You may remember our 21-day challenge from May & June, and now Pr. Molly and Pr. Andrew are working with the synod to broaden the participation, include indigenous resources, and deepen the conversation.
Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is a personal commitment to devote time every day during Lent to engage in provided resources about the history and impact of racism, and the ways that bias, prejudice, privilege, and oppression show up in our everyday lives. Each day of the challenge will be a new opportunity to consider different voices and perspectives—a time to read, watch, listen, and learn. It is a time for self-examination and honesty. It is a time to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, to be remade as vessels for God's love and reconciliation.
We hope that you will consider joining others across our Synod in guided conversations. The Challenge will begin February 18th and run for the week preceding Holy Week. Each participant will access the Challenge material online and be encouraged, but not required, to join a small group that will meet weekly for conversation via ZOOM. More information about registration will be made available by the synod. Please check their website (nglsynod.org) for further information. We will also try to share updates about registration on our Facebook page and in the February newsletter.

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

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.

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.

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.

Council Highlights – December

***** Council approved the recommendation of the Re-Opening Task Force to remain in Phase 1 at this time. We will continue worship via radio and social media at this time. The Task Force will be monitoring developments.

* Council reviewed the pastors evaluations with them. Goals for 2021 will be discussed & finalized at the January council meeting.

* Council approved use of Messiah's facility for the Synod Assembly in May—it is being planned as a virtual event.

* New members were received: Richard Toyra, Jaime Aho, and Kim & Dale Alanko.

Passages

In Sympathy to:

* Ron & Jane Brow & family upon the passing of their son Ben on December 8, 2020. A private family service was held at Messiah on Sunday, December 27, 2020 *(streamed on Messiah's Vimeo site & Facebook page).*

* Phil & Nancy Hoover upon the passing of Nancy's brother-in-law Bernie Fischbach who passed away on 12/22/2020.

Congratuations to:

* Jaime Aho who became a member of Messiah on December 17th. She has been worshipping with us now for a while and has decided to make it official. We are happy to have her among us. Please welcome Jaime!
* Dale & Kim Alanko who also recently joined our church family. Dale & Kim live in Marquette and have been actively viewing our online worship services during the pandemic. They come to us from Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming. Please welcome Dale & Kim when you see them!
* Richard Toyra who recently joined our church family. He became a member on December 17. Richard lives in Marquette, has been a long time visitor and has been involved in our Men's Ministry for a few years now. Richard comes from Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Arizona where he had vacationed during winter months. Please welcome him when y**ou see him.**

Messiah Birthdays

Wednesday 6 Kathy Godec
Thursday 7 Elizabeth Carr, Kira (Luoma) December
Friday 8 Anne Engman
Saturday 9 No birthdays
Sunday 10 Dave Blomquist, Sherry Johnson, Luke Stevens, Danielle VanDreel, Tom Wagner
Monday 11 Kathy Soltwisch
Tuesday 12 No birthdays
Wednesday 13 William Beauchaine, Bob Cambensy, Marie Sarkela, Kaitlin Sellers
Thursday 14 Paige Gilbert
Friday 15 Ginny Olson, Anne Rydholm
Saturday 16 Bev Evans, Kristian Jackson
Sunday 17 Janice Anderson, Inga Banitt
Monday 18 No birthdays
Tuesday 19 Lucy Contois, Mae Desonia, Bill Maki

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.

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

Jess Laxo & her grandma, Betty, Margo Fischbach & family upon the passing of her husband Bernie, Alice, Erin Andrews, Candace, Tina & her roommate, Carol, Ted Koehler, Matthew Williamson, Mark Aho, Ron Hill, ill residents/patients & care workers at the Jacobetti VA facility & other nursing homes in our area, inmates & staff at Marquette Branch Prison, Susan & Sommer, Dennis Riutta, Bob & Deb Vidlund, Bill Van Effen, Roger B, Linda Ruohoniemi, Barry, Jim Shirtz, 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 vacation through January 9. He will be on call January 10-13.
Pastor Molly is on call January 6-9.

Messiah Newsletters

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

Scripture Reading This Week – Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading.....*Genesis 1:1-5*
Gospel Reading.....*Mark 1:4-11*

Worship Volunteers

Sunday January 10
Kathy Godec

Sunday January 17
Gayle Van Osdol

Sunday January 24
Darley Kemppainen

Sunday January 31
One needed

Sunday February 7
Larry Pagel

Sunday February 14
Ruth Robb

Announcements and Classified Ads

Do you have an announcement?
Send announcements and ads to Inga Banitt (inga@messiahlutheranmqt.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