

# Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Answering God's call to love

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**Messiah ENewsletter for February 3, 2021**

## Messiah Events & News

On the web...

go to [messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://messiahlutheranmqt.org) for more information about our congregation and “like” us on Facebook to receive updates and information there.

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*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!*



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### Pipe Organ Fundraiser

Our online auction to help in the cost of refurbishing Messiah's pipe organ is “live” starting today and continuing through February 13. We are so appreciative of everyone who donated items for this auction.

We realize that not everyone has computer access. If you would like to place a bid on an item, please call the church office at 225-1119 or call Inga at 362-1545. We will be happy to help you. A detailed list of items for auction is below (new items have been added since last week). For those of you who do have computer access, here is how you can access the website and place your bid:

--Type the following into your browser: [www.auctria.com/auction/MessiahPipeOrgan](http://www.auctria.com/auction/MessiahPipeOrgan)

--Click on register in the menu at the top

--Fill out the registration form. You will receive a confirmation email once you have successfully registered.

--Click on auction in the menu at the top. You will be able to view a catalog of items and place your bids.

If you are the winner of an item, please drop off your check or pay by credit card in the office. If you are mailing a check, please let us know in advance. All of our items except for the desserts will be available for pick up in the office.

If you are the winner of a dessert, please contact the baker to arrange a date and method of delivery.

Auction items include:

A variety of artwork including items made from the old organ console (you can check out the organ console items at church. They are on a table by the office.)

Fishing trip north of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

Charter tour of Lake Superior

Singing telegrams

North Pole Village Christmas decorations

Jewelry

Cross country ski lessons

A variety of desserts

Dinner at camp

Massage

Canning raspberry jam

And more!

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## **Grief Group**

**Saturdays, February 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 10:00 am**

Join us on Saturday mornings in February for a safe place to discuss our grief, to find support, and to learn together. Grief is not limited to experiencing a death of a friend or loved one. Grief is experienced with any type of loss, or life transition. As we wade through these feelings, we must also cope with the uncertain world outside. The COVID-19 pandemic has also created a new reality marked by grief and loss. You don't have to walk the journey alone. Gather with us online to share with others in order to understand our grief and to find support amidst these uncertain times.

Pr. Andrew will facilitate our conversation and we will meet online, on ZOOM. The link to join this meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86154664175>

If you need assistance with Zoom or would like to meet with Pr. Andrew one-on-one, please contact the church office.

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## **2021 Annual Meeting and 2020 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, Council believes that any congregational meeting should allow all members to participate. **The 2020 Annual Report has been compiled and will be shared electronically (via email and our website) on February 10.** If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, please contact the church office. Messiah's Council has approved a preliminary 2021 budget that will be included in the 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, Council approved 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).

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## **Again and Again—A Devotional for Lent**

Devotional books of art, reflections and poetry for the season of Lent are now available in the church office. Stop by Monday-Thursday 8:30 am to 3:30 pm to pick up your copy.

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## **Hildegarde Johnson Music Scholarship**

Applications are on the welcome table for anyone interested in applying for the 2021 Hildegarde Johnson Music Scholarship. The applications can be picked up at Messiah or they can be mailed to you, just call or email the church office. Once you have filled out the application, you can mail it back to Messiah or bring it to the church office. They will be collected through Sunday, February 28, 2021.

Hildegarde Johnson was a member of Messiah and was passionate about music. Members of the Worship & Music Team will evaluate the applications and inform recipients in March. Funds from this scholarship can be used for private music lessons, music camp, purchase of an instrument or music supplies, music books, or sheet music. Scholarship funds will be awarded to actively participating Messiah members who are in elementary, middle or high school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

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## **Stewardship**

February seems to conjure up images of the heart so this month Messiah's Stewardship Team celebrates and focuses on the heart! God's heart and your heart!

The loving heart of God who gave us his only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have life eternal.

Messiah's heart in ministry that has found new ways to deliver the Word of God through radio, our website, and social media, ministering and sharing Word of God far and wide. Platforms Messiah hopes to continue far beyond the pandemic shutdowns. We thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

The generous heart of our congregation members who continue to give of their time, talents, treasures, and resources. We thank you for your pledged and non-pledged gifts received from walls far beyond Messiah. Should you wish to pledge, you can still do so online at (<https://bit.ly/Messiah2021>), or by calling the church office.

Your hearts of compassion, who on Giving Tuesday gave generously resulting in the Community Assistance Fund receiving \$21,000.

Your hearts of kindness and concern benefiting The Room at The Inn matching funds totaling over \$40,000. We continue to be blessed with abundance from your hearts.

This February Messiah will host an Online Silent Auction as we continue our organ rehabilitation & upgrading project. As you listen from your heart to the beautiful sound of our organ over the radio or through social media, may your hearts be filled with joy and subtle overtones with another opportunity for giving.

As you live, give and walk by faith, may your hearts overflow knowing that the grace and mercy

we receive come from God's generous, loving, kind, and compassionate heart.

----Messiah's Stewardship Team

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### **Meal Train for the Grenkes**

Herb and Sandy Grenke have been receiving Meals on Wheels during the week, and in addition to that, we have set up a Meal Train for them to receive meals on Sundays. The link for their meal train schedule is [www.mealtrain.com/trains/mnm727](http://www.mealtrain.com/trains/mnm727)

Thank you to everyone who has provided meals for the Grenkes. Herb and Sandy are very thankful for your support and friendship.

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### **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](http://nglsynod.org)) for further information. We will also try to share updates about registration on our Facebook page and in the February newsletter.

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### **Messiah Council Highlights - January 2021**

Our Messiah Church Council met virtually on January 21. Highlights of Council action and discussion were:

#### 2020 Finances and 2021 Budget

The Council is deeply appreciative of the continued financial support of the congregation! We entered 2020 projecting a deficit & ended the year in strong financial shape with a surplus due

to the generosity of our members, friends and assorted gifts. During the year, we have been able to fund over \$20,000 in new equipment that broadens our streaming capabilities and improves the audio and video quality of our services. We are reaching more people through our radio and live streams—estimated at 1000 per week and more. We also were able to contribute a major gift to Room at The Inn, supporting their recent renovation project. Our 2021 Budget was approved by Council and awaits congregational approval at our next Annual Meeting. We will be adjourning our Annual Meeting until all have the option to attend in summer or fall. Until then, the Council will be operating under the boundaries established in Messiah's Constitution.

### Re-Opening Plan

Council approved allowing small groups of up to 10 to meet, providing the State guidelines allow. Currently, that is NOT the case, but Council will hear an update at the February 18 Council meeting.

### Pastoral Goals

Council received the Pastoral staff's goals for 2021. The goal areas were Worship, Outreach, Christian Education and Personal. The Pastors will keep us updated with progress towards these goals as we move through the year. Council is pleased that we have such wonderful pastors, and thanks them for their creativity and resourcefulness in 2020. Despite the pandemic and its effects, ministry lives at Messiah and the work of the Lord continues! Praise God!

Respectfully submitted—Erik Bergh, Council President

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## **Lutheran World Relief-Baby Care Kit Collection**

Last year through your help and generosity we were able to put together 46 baby care kits. LWR had asked that whatever anyone had and if able, could they send them. In November, they were taken to Fortune Lake and from there shipped to LWR. The need is always there. We will start our 2021 collection in February.

We have depleted our inventory completely and will be collecting these items:

- + lightweight cotton T-shirts (no onesies) sizes 12-24 months
- + long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) sizes 12-24 months
- + hand towels, dark colored
- + bath-size bars of Ivory soap equaling 8-9 oz, in original wrapping
- + receiving blankets (could be crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn up to 52 inches square)
- + jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood or include a baby cap
- + cloth diapers, flat-fold preferred
- + pair of socks
- + diaper pins or large safety pins

Monetary donations for baby care kits are also welcomed and may be dropped off or mailed to

the church office. Rachel Circle appreciates your contributions to this effort. We thank you in advance for your help. There is a collection bin by the office. - - Rachel Circle

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### **Messiah Birthdays February 3-17**

Wednesday 3 Betty Brunton, Laurel Kniskern

Thursday 4 Edith Cryderman

Friday 5 No birthdays

Saturday 6 No birthdays

Sunday 7 No birthdays

Monday 8 Phyl Aurich

Tuesday 9 Claire Bennett, Everett Davis, Marion DeLarye, Rudy Forsberg, Sara Stevens

Wednesday 10 Julia Crimmins, Lowell Larson Jr

Thursday 11 Ken Bullock

Friday 12 No birthdays

Saturday 13 John Sarkela

Sunday 14 Jennifer Pikka, Ed Puska

Monday 15 No birthdays

Tuesday 16 Jackie Gilbert, Jim Jackson, Vickie Paupore

Wednesday 17 Diana Magnuson, Will Morrison, Pr. Andrew Plocher, Grace Wurster

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### **Queen City Preachers Podcast**

Have you been listening to Pastor Andrew and Pastor Molly's weekly podcast? Queen City Preachers is their weekly Bible study and it can be found on Messiah's website <https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/pages/queen-city-preachers-podcast> or on Google Play or the Apple podcast app.

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### **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](http://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)

A link to the bulletin will be sent each Wednesday in the same email where we send a link to Messiah's E-Newsletter. The bulletin can also be found on Messiah's website

[www.messiahlutheranmgt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmgt.org) Click on worship at the top of the page and then on Sunday's bulletin.

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### **Special Events for February, March & April**

Feb. 3 Online fundraiser auction for pipe organ, to run through Feb. 13th

Feb. 6 Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom

Feb. 8 Communion servings can be picked up or delivered. Please call the church office for the number of servings you would like.

Feb. 10 2020 Annual Report available for pickup at Messiah

Feb. 13 Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom

Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)

Feb. 18 Start of the Lenten 40-Day Racial Equity Challenge

Feb. 20 Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom

Feb. 24 Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio - **different station 103.3**)

Feb. 27 Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom

Mar. 3 Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)

Mar. 10 Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)

Mar. 17 Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)

Mar. 24 Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)

Mar. 28 Palm Sunday

Apr. 1 Maundy Thursday

Apr. 2 Good Friday

Apr. 3 Easter Vigil

Apr. 4 Easter Sunday

Apr. 5 Church office closed

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### **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 support Messiah's ministry to local food programs either by dropping off pantry items at Messiah or by writing a check to Messiah Lutheran Church specifying local hunger in the memo.

--Diana Magnuson, 906-362-9386

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **In Our Prayers**

Jeff Dodge & family upon the passing of his brother Bryan; Tobe Anderson; Jamie Baril; Jan Brown; Johnnie; Rev. Leslie Niemi; Linda Rossberg; Josh; Samantha; Ray Hasenhauer; Jordan Negro; Gina; Scotti Oja & her family; John & Rose Collins; Loretta; Jess Laxo & her grandma Betty; Erin Andrews; Candace; Tina & her roommate; Ted Koehler; Carol; Matthew Williamson; Ron Hill; ill residents/patients & care workers at the Jacobetti VA facility & other nursing homes in our area; inmates & staff at Marquette Branch Prison; Dennis Riutta; Bob & Deb Vidlund; Bill Van Effen; Roger B; Linda Ruohoniemi; Jim Shirtz; Cheryl; Ryan; Helen Steinhoff; Billi Jo; Pat Maki; 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.*

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**Pastor on Call:**

Pastor Andrew is on call February 3, 7-10.

Pastor Molly is on call February 4-6 and on vacation February 7-16.

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**Messiah Newsletters**

Messiah newsletters and the weekly E-news are all available at [www.messiahlutheranmgt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmgt.org).

The online Messenger (monthly newsletter) includes all the stories and information but saves the paper!

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**Scripture Reading This Week – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**First Reading**.....*Isaiah 40:21-31*

**Gospel Reading**.....*Mark 1:29-39*

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**Worship Volunteers**

**Sunday February 7**

Larry Pagel

**Sunday February 14**

Ruth Robb

**Sunday February 21**

No reader needed

**Sunday February 28**

Darley Kemppainen

**Sunday March 7**

Larry Pagel

**Sunday March 14**

Ruth Robb

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## **Announcements and Classified Ads**

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### **Do you have an announcement?**

Send announcements and ads to Inga Banitt ([inga@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto: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.

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## **Messiah Contact Information**

Messiah Lutheran Church

305 W. Magnetic St.

Marquette, MI 49855

906-225-1119

906-225-5025 (fax)

Email: [office@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto: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