

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for February 17, 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!*



Lenten Worship Opportunities

Ash Wednesday: TODAY February 17th 6:30 pm on the radio at 101.9 FM and Facebook live, Vimeo, and YouTube - Ash Wednesday will be a traditional service with the imposition of ashes.

Mountain Vespers Worship: every Wednesday in Lent, Feb. 24 – Mar. 24 at 6:30 pm on the radio at 101.9 FM and Facebook live, Vimeo, and YouTube ****NOTE ON 02/24 IT WILL BE ON THE RADIO AT 103.3** – Mountain Vespers is a short, sung evening prayer service. Please look to the upcoming March Messenger for more information about Holy Week services, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday

Ashes for Ash Wednesday—Please Note!

In the packets of ashes we have been distributing there is a small card that says NOT to mix the ash with water because there could be burning. They suggest you mix the ashes with olive oil.

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.

Grief Group

Saturdays, February 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.

2021 Annual Meeting and 2020 Report

The 2020 annual report can be viewed on Messiah's website at

<https://www.messiahlutheranmgt.org/about/annual-reports--36>

and paper copies are available on the welcome table by the church office. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, please call the office at 225-1119.

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.

Messiah's Council has approved a preliminary 2021 budget that is included in the report along with a narrative summary. 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. 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).

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.

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

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.

The Year of Discovery Part One: The Americas Before Columbus

You have already heard that 2020-21 has been designated a “Year of Discover” for our Northern Great Lakes Synod. The goal is to learn more about our native American neighbors, the original inhabitants of the American continents, and to recognize the impact of the European “Doctrine of Discover” on their history, and on the history of the United States of America.

I’ve found that a great starting point for this effort is a book by Charles Mann titled 1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus, published in 2012 by Alfred A. Knopf. Mann’s goal is to describe the new understanding of civilization in the Americas before the coming of the Europeans, and the ways in which those civilizations were destroyed by disease, warfare, and the introduction of livestock from the old world. His book unravels the myth of a continent “empty of mankind and its works” that has prevailed in American history for 500 years. He calls this myth “Holmberg’s Mistake,” named for Allan R. Holmberg, who promoted the idea that primitive stone-age natives were sprinkled across the Americas for several milenia, waiting for Europeans to arrive and bring them culture and civilization. It is a myth that stretch-es back to the early days of the American republic, and was propagated by a series of American historians. This historical distortion also goes back to the Doctrine of Discovery, which began with a papal bull issued in 1493. “In 1493, after Christopher Columbus’ fateful voyage, Pope Alexander VI issued the bull Inter Caetera which granted Ferdinand and Isabella “full and free power, authority, and jurisdiction of every kind,” over almost all of the Americas, save for a portion of modern-day Brazil and a few island outposts.” This pronouncement from the papacy became the basis for international law, and for the definition of legal sovereignty in North & South America, Australia, and New Zealand. In U.S. history, it was used as the basis for what is called the Marshall Trilogy, three Supreme Court rulings that define the relationship of the Native American nations to the United States and individual Americans.

Here are some of the interesting take-aways from Charles Mann’s 1491:

1. The Americas were thickly populated before Columbus: in 1491, somewhere between 90 & 110 million people lived on the two American continents. This is more than the total population of Europe at that point in his-tory. Cities in the Americas, including Aztecs, Incas and the city of Cahokia in present day Illinois, were larger than London.
2. The American Indians engaged in a sophisticated agricultural society, which meant most of them lived in settled communities. Crops included squash, beans, peppers, tobacco, and the amazing crop maize (no one knows how it was domesticated from the wild teosinte) and in South America, potatoes and manioc. Maize is really the key to understanding the native American civilizations.
3. The Americas lacked large domesticated animals like the horse and oxen, and Indians never developed the wheel for use as a tool in agriculture or transportation (wheels were

only used as children's toys). Large European animals put the native Americans at an immediate disadvantage, and the rapid expansion of imported pigs *which became wild boars) disrupted much of the village-based agriculture systems.

4. Finally, there is evidence that indigenous Americans have been in the New World for a much longer time than had been previously thought, perhaps since 30,000 B.C. That isolation from Europe and Asia meant that diseases brought by the first Europeans had a devastating effect, wiping out 80-90% of the inhabitants of North America by the year 1600. Smallpox was the worst of the diseases, but measles, influenza, plague, typhoid, and diphtheria all wreaked their havoc. When the English began to settle North America, they found a continent of empty settlements, regrown forests, and a population less than 1/10 of what it had been 100 years earlier.

5. As a result, those early English immigrants to New England and the rest of the eastern seaboard would say that it seemed like "God had miraculously cleared the continent" for their settlement. And the Doctrine of Discovery gave them the legal & theological justification for taking the land and displacing the small remaining population. Many of them were converted by missionaries to Christianity, those who refused were driven out or killed. The pope's decision settling a dispute between Spain & Portugal became the legal foundation for British and then United States relations with the native peoples of North America.

Written by Pastor Steve Gauger of Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid River, MI

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.

*February - toilet paper (packages of 4 or 6 rolls)

*March - shampoo (male/female) & conditioner (female)

Synod Assembly—May 10-15, 2021

Mark your calendars and join us for a week full of opportunities for engagement, discussion, worship, and information, all with the theme of Hope.

Here is a tentative overview of what to expect:

Mon, May 10 - Pre-recorded Opening Worship
Tues, May 11 - Workshops for the whole Synod
Wed, May 12 - Workshops for the whole Synod
Thurs, May 13 - Workshops for the whole Synod/Installation service livestream
Fri, May 14 - Social gathering online
Sat, May 15 - Business meeting (required for voting members)
Voting members will be required to complete orientation sessions online prior to Synod Assembly week. Stay tuned for more detailed information!

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

Messiah Birthdays in February

Wednesday 17 Diana Magnuson, Will Morrison, Pr. Andrew Plocher, Grace Wurster
Thursday 18 Betsy Cooper
Friday 19 Victoria Wiese
Saturday 20 Sandy Grenke
Sunday 21 No birthdays
Monday 22 Dave Dagenais, Lando Gummerus, Christine Thomas-Echelbarger
Tuesday 23 Alex Lucas, Joyce Peterson, Ethan Wiese

Wednesday 24 Peggy Dewitt, Lucille Swanson
Thursday 25 No birthdays
Friday 26 Simon Claybaker
Saturday 27 Sharon Farrell
Sunday 28 No birthdays
[Monday 29] Greg Bartlett

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.

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

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.messiahlutheranmqt.org Click on worship at the top of the page and then on Sunday's bulletin.

Special Events for February, March & April

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

GivePlus Text: 844-973-3658

Our GivePlus Text number is 844-973-3658. To register, type "Give + Text" the 1st time and you'll receive a message with a link. After registering your card, click on "process", then turn on your location and search for Messiah. This option uses only merchant services (debit/credit cards), in whole dollar amounts with a \$3 minimum. Enter "\$" and amount with one of the following keywords: general, property, organ or Assist (for the Community Assistance Fund). You'll receive a text verification and email receipt. Normal text messaging fees from your cell phone carrier may apply.

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

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

Karen Sarasin; Marion Wrate; Tobe Anderson; Jamie Baril; Jan Brown; Johnnie; Rev. Leslie Niemi; Linda Rossberg; Josh; Samantha; Ray Hasenhauer; 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; Bob & Deb Vidlund; Bill Van Effen; 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.

Pastor on Call:

Pastor Andrew is on call February 17, 21-24.

Pastor Molly is on call February 18-20.

Messiah Newsletters

Messiah newsletters 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 – First Sunday of Lent

First Reading..... *Genesis 9:8-17*

Gospel Reading.....*Mark 1:9-15*

Worship Volunteers

Sunday February 21

No reader needed

Sunday February 28

Darley Kemppainen

Sunday March 7

Larry Pagel

Sunday March 14

Ruth Robb

Sunday March 21

Fred Maynard

Announcements and Classified Ads

Do you have an announcement?

Send announcements and ads to Inga Banitt (inga@messiahlutheranmq.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