

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# MESSENGER

[WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG](http://WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG)

## Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:45 AM

(with Nursery)

This service is broadcast  
on Sunray 101.9 FM

Sunday 10:30 AM

(with Nursery)

305 West Magnetic Marquette, MI 49855 Tel: (906) 225-1119 Fax: 225-5025

[www.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org) E-mail: [office@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmqt.org)

Member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# February 28, 2021

## Second Sunday in Lent

**Flowers:** To the Glory of God...

\* from Joyce Peterson

**Radio:** To the Glory of God...

\* from Joyce Peterson

### “Remember When” by Sarah Are

God never begins letters with the words,

“I hope this finds you well,”

For those words imply distance.

Instead, God begins God’s letters to you with the words,

“Remember when?”

Beloved child,

Remember when we dipped our toes into the water?

Remember when we dove right in?

Remember when the ice cream dripped down our hands

And the cicadas sang their song,

And the seasons changed,

And the days were long?

Remember when we fell in love and the world was new?

Remember when our heart was broken?

Remember the tears?

Remember the long nights?

Remember when we laughed again and the sound surprised us?

Remember when we marched in the street?

Remember when we cast our vote?

Remember when we believed in hope?

Remember when?

I do.

That’s what God’s letters say.

So on this day, and every day to come,

Remember: God is meeting you.

If you look back, you might remember when.

I have been so taken with some of the poetry that I’ve found in our Lenten devotionals from the Sanctified Art resources that we are using this year and this poem is no exception.

I have been trying to put my finger on what it is about Lent that draws me in each year and captures my attention. I realized that it was this, it was simply “remembering.” If you are like me, you have this tendency to get caught up in day-to-day distractions and, although we have had more time this year to focus, it is still easy to get caught up in the news or the pandemic or just all the stressors that we are facing.

I was feeling distracted and caught up before Ash Wednesday. But, when I heard the words of the liturgy, it brought me back. It helped me feel grounded and it reminded me of why we are called to remember God’s loving faithfulness again and again. I think this is the true blessing of Lent, it calls us to remember and to focus on God in a way that we don’t always do throughout the rest of the year.

This Lenten season I hope that you are intentional about finding what draws you in and captures you. Whether it’s the liturgy, or a poem, or a word from a friend, where are you called to remember how God is meeting you?

In Christ,

*Pastor Molly*

### 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 Sunday morning service.

If you have a computer & internet access you can find the worship bulletin on our website at [www.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org); at the top right of the ‘home’ page click on Worship, click on Sunday’s Bulletin, click the bulletin with Sunday’s date, either view there electronically or print at that point.

## Messiah Calendar

### Monday, March 1

9:00 am Men’s Bible Study (zoom)

### Tuesday, March 2

11:00 am Men’s Cursillo (zoom)

1:30 am Staff Meeting (zoom)

6:30 pm Publicity (zoom)

### Wednesday, March 3

6:30 pm Lenten Worship

### Thursday, March 4

5:00 pm TaiChi (zoom)

### Friday, March 5

*Pr. Andrew & Pr. Molly’s day off*

Nothing Scheduled

### Saturday, March 6

Nothing Scheduled

### Sunday, March 7

8:45 am Worship-online

## Special Events for March & April

**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-delayed start on radio)

**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 at 6:30 pm

**Apr. 2** Good Friday at 6:30 pm

**Apr. 3** Easter Vigil

**Apr. 4** Easter Sunday 7:00 am at McCarty's Cove, 8:45 am Virtual from Messiah's sanctuary & 10:30 am at Clark Lambros Beach

**Apr. 5** Church office closed

## Pipe Organ Auction Results

Thank you to all of those who participated in our first-ever online auction for the refurbishing of Messiah's pipe organ. Our donors contributed a wide variety of items and experiences making for a fun online catalog to browse through. And our bidders were so generous when they placed their bids. Thank you, thank you!

We were able to raise \$4,819 through our auction website and \$110 through a separate fundraiser on Facebook. We didn't quite meet our goal of \$6,000 but we came close.

An additional thank you to Laura Petrie & Lynne Hammerstrom who helped brainstorm ideas for auction donations.

## Mitten Tree

Throughout the winter, we will continue to offer a basket of donated yarn outside the church office for anyone who would like to knit hats, mittens, scarves, cowls or slippers for the Mitten Tree. Our neighbors in need will appreciate your work! The collection box is by the door to the sanctuary.

--- Kate Sromalski 226-6682

### On Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: March 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, 21-24, 28

Pr. Molly Eversoll: March 4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in the April Messenger is Monday, March 22, 2021.

### Messiah's Newsletter

February 28, 2021  
Volume 103, Issue 3

Articles for Weekly Announcements are due by 6:00 pm the Wednesday prior to printing

## Lenten 40-Day Racial Equity Challenge

This Lent, you are invited to participate in a synod-wide Racial Equity Challenge. If you didn't sign up for a small group, you can still participate! You can follow along with the daily activities (readings, podcasts, or videos) from wherever you are. The schedule is available on the Northern Great Lakes Synod website: <https://nglsynod.org/racial-equity-challenge/>

## Lenten Weeknight Worship

Mountain Vespers Worship will be held every Wednesday in Lent March 3 – 24 at 6:30 pm on the radio at 101.9 fm and Facebook live, Vimeo, and YouTube. Mountain Vespers is a short, sung evening prayer service like Holden Evening Prayer.

## Holy Week Schedule

- 03/31 No Wednesday Evening Vespers
- 04/01 Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 pm - live-streamed on Facebook (facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt) and Vimeo (vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt) and on the radio at 101.9 fm
- 04/02 Good Friday Worship at 6:30 pm – live-streamed on Facebook and Vimeo and on the radio at 101.9 fm
- 04/03 Easter Vigil Worship – ONLY live-streamed on Facebook and Vimeo
- 04/04 Easter Sunday Worship
  - o Sunrise worship at McCarty's Cove 7:00 am (in-person with social distance & mask wearing), worship may also be live streamed on Facebook
  - o Traditional Easter Worship 8:45 am - live-streamed on Facebook and Vimeo & on the radio at 101.9 fm
  - o Clark Lambros beach at 10:30 am (in-person with social distance & mask wearing)

## In The Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pastor Andrew Plocher & Pastor Molly Eversoll want to call you when you are there. If you can't notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

## 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 & internet access.

Our 8:45 am worship will always be broadcast on the radio at Sunny 101.9 FM & streamed at the following sites: Vimeo - [vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt](https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt) and Facebook - [www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt](https://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)

# Messiah's Birthdays

## March 2021

Monday 1 No birthdays  
Tuesday 2 Darlene Dreisbach, Johannes Dreisbach, Josh Elsenbroek, Cadyn Grim, Landon Hewitt, Dave Luoma  
Wednesday 3 Alesia Braund, Katy Ward  
Thursday 4 Alexis Armstrong, Gabe Armstrong, Aaron Cherry  
Friday 5 Lucas Boehlke, Angie LeDuc, Kathy Maynard, Nancy McCombie, Sara Moyle, Raelynn Wolf  
Saturday 6 Camden Fitzpatrick, Mark Forsberg, Kirsten Salmela  
Sunday 7 Josie White  
Monday 8 Jacob MacPhee, Zehydan Wash, Matt Wiese  
Tuesday 9 Kevin Johnson  
Wednesday 10 Truman Langlois  
Thursday 11 Julie Blemberg, Sarah Janda  
Friday 12 No birthdays  
Saturday 13 Fred Maynard  
Sunday 14 Darley Kemppainen  
Monday 15 Beth Krznarich, Kathy Strazzinski  
Tuesday 16 Jon Kniskern, Lori Nelson, Emma Peterson, Jacob Wolf  
Wednesday 17 Sara Parks, Patty Roose, Jim Shirtz  
Thursday 18 Steffani Baker, Sam Elder, Dave Gilbert, Kristen Gordon, Isaac Larson  
Friday 19 Keith Abraham, Josie Braund, Marybeth Marin  
Saturday 20 Leah Heron  
Sunday 21 Maddie Dykema  
Monday 22 Morgan Matthews, Brad Muscoe, Michael Sauer  
Tuesday 23 Bruce Gauthier, Darren Smith  
Wednesday 24 Dan Niemi  
Thursday 25 Kristine Fjeldheim, Herb Grenke, Allan Johnson, Drew Peterson

Friday 26 John Lindholm  
Saturday 27 Ryan Voskuhl  
Sunday 28 Richard Balding, Gerald Godec, Emily Paupore  
Monday 29 Jack Mendelin  
Tuesday 30 Jeff Dodge, Dennis Gustafson  
Wednesday 31 Janet Skytta, Amanda Swanson

## Passages

### In Sympathy to:

\* Jeff Dodge & family upon the passing of his younger brother Bryan on January 30, 2021.

\* Kristine Fjeldheim & family upon the passing of her husband Knut on February 11, 2021.

\* Family & friends of Les Scheuren & June Ackroyd upon the passing of June Ackroyd on February 18, 2021.

\* Family & friends of Dorothy Weigel who passed away on February 21, 2021.

### In Celebration of:

\* Jason, Sara, Delaney & Shane Parks on becoming members of Messiah on Sunday, February 14. Both of their kids, Delaney & Shane were baptized on this day too.

## 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. However, the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 budget have been published and is available on our church website. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, please contact the church office.

## Room at the Inn Challenge

In October of 2020, our Council issued a matching gift challenge to Room at the Inn, for up to \$20,000. Thanks to the generosity of many of you, and many others, that match has been met. Including our \$20,000 match, Room at the Inn has raised over \$43,000. Wow! Thank you for continuing to support this vital ministry and our congregation's support of its work!

## Faith in Action

-- Summary of news for LWR quilters and kit makers...

As most of the Ingatherings of quilts and kits were canceled this fall, many churches went the extra mile(s) to deliver items to Minnesota and Maryland warehouses. The shelves were completely bare but the need continued and grew during the year. Seven camps, including Fortune Lake, acted as collection points. Other congregations rented trucks for long haul trips.

There were 616,210 neighbors in need in 23 countries who received 264,585 quilts, 12,960 blankets, 174,055 school kits, 71,900 personal care kits, 12,300 fabric kits, 52,860 baby care kits and 40,750 face masks.

A photo of the pictures Rashkov and her 9 children drew saying "We are thanking God for your great work" is from Ukraine where 16,000 people received quilts. Personal Care Kits reached people devastated by Hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras. Face masks in every color and pattern went to Mali and Haiti. Another container of masks is on its way to Latin America and more will be shipped this year. As with the quilts and kits, masks are only sent when companions ask for them.

LWR is so grateful for how flexible and resourceful all of us have been.

Make plans and keep working. My mother said that each stitch was a prayer so pray, pray, pray. --- *Judy Quirk*

## Confirmation

Confirmation class is moving right along, despite the obstacle of being entirely online! During the month of February, it was terrific to have Pastor Andrew join our class via zoom and be a part of our discussion. It was a great conversation and it was delightful to hear the students share their ideas!

We were also able to witness the baptism of two of our students, Shane and Delaney Parks. It was a wonderful thing. I am so grateful for technology at this time, so that the students could be a part of it (albeit from a distance). In recent months, we had discussed baptism, so to have baptism during a service that the students were watching was helpful and sparked new thoughts.

The students of Messiah are a joy to work with! They are thoughtful and confident. It is fantastic to discuss ideas with all of them!

For the month of March, classes will be held on March 7 and 14. Because Easter is on the first Sunday of April, classes will be on the 11th and 18th.

--- *Jen Elsenbroek, Confirmation Leader*

## U.P. Wild

U.P. Wild will offer two opportunities to gather safely in community outdoors in March. Please contact mission developer Lanni Lantto at lanni@upwild.org or 906-251-0065 to be contacted for more information. We also offer online virtual wilderness walks visit our website: [www.upwild.org](http://www.upwild.org).



## 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

Thur, 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!*

## What Will it Take to End Hunger?

Head....Heart....Hands....Health

If you were involved in 4-H as I was, you will recognize the 4 H's which were the backbone of the program. For the sake of this discussion - I will add a 5th - HOPE.

The theme of this year's Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly - May 10-15 (virtual) is HOPE. Each year the congregations of our synod collect an offering for ELCA World Hunger - the mission outreach arm of our national church. This year, we will do the same and we encourage our congregation to take part in this annual appeal. You may recall that in the past we have had themes like, Pies, Quilts, Cows, etc. to keep the issue of world hunger before the congregation during Lent. This year, we HOPE the generous members of Messiah will support this appeal again - minus the clever themes!

Last year, our congregation contributed approximately \$3500 to the synod assembly World Hunger appeal. This year's offering will be taken on May 15, and we HOPE we can equal or exceed that amount in 2021. Please send your support to Messiah and earmark it for the Synod Assembly offering.

*Mary Davis and Mary Lou Blomquist, NGLS World Hunger Team*

## Messiah Council Highlights - February 2021

Messiah's Council acted to keep its current officers until the Annual Meeting selects new Council members later this year. Once that is accomplished, Council will hold its election of officers that will serve until February 2022. Current officers are President-Erik Bergh, Vice President-Grant Soltswich, Secretary-Jennifer Broadway and Congregation Treasurer-Douglas Morton.

Council is planning a visioning retreat in May. The tentative date is May 15.

Council accepted Sara and Jason Parks into membership by affirmation of faith, and Delaney and Shane Parks through Baptism. Welcome, officially, to the Parks Family!  
--Respectfully submitted, Erik Bergh

## Home Health Care Aide Needed

One of our members at Messiah is in need of a care aide. The aide can work up to 39 hours / month. This person needs help with laundry, washing dishes, and cleaning in her apartment along with some other daily care needs. The care aide would be paid through Northern Home Care Services. Please contact the church office at 225-1119 for more details.

## Stewardship

Messiah is thankful for your generosity! Last month, you helped raise over \$4,200 toward our Pipe Organ Fundraiser auction. The gift of music is an important one, especially in these weeks leading up to Easter. But donating to the organ fund is just one of the many ways you have given to the church. Many of you have given to improve our streaming technology, given to your neighbors in need, pledged to give in 2021, or have given your time. You have recorded music virtually, either at home or at the church, led classes and groups, or led studies. You have been readers and assistants for virtual worship. You have helped neighbors with errands. You have brought communion to homebound members. In short, you have been there. Thank you for all you do.

## Personal Care Kits

Ruth Circle will be collecting items for personal care kits in March & April for Lutheran World Relief. Donations can be placed in the labeled container in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcomed to purchase needed items.

### Items needed:

- Bath towel - dark color preferred
- Toothbrush - adult size in original wrapping
- Comb - large toothed preferred
- Metal nail clipper
- Bars of soap - bath size

Thank you, *Ruth Circle*

## In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Dennis Riutta; family & friends of Dorothy Weigel upon her passing; Roberta; Lee; Wil; family & friends of Les Scheuren & June Ackroyd upon June Ackroyd's passing; Karen Sarasin; Marion Wrate; Tobe Anderson; Jamie Baril; Jan Brown; Johnnie; 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; Karen Johnson; Jill Krah; Michael Orhanen; Kristina Asta; Jim, Alli & Johann Elsenbroek; Alison Cory; John; Sierra; Sandy; Charlene Avery; Liz Kro

*You may call the church office if you would like a person listed in the prayers. Please obtain permission from the person to list his/her name. In order to keep the list up to date and manageable in size, we will remove names from time to time. We also appreciate updates as to how people listed are progressing. Thank you!*

## **Congress Moves on a New Round of COVID-19 Relief**

Negotiations around policies and funding to address impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have resumed with President Biden and lawmakers. As constituents and people of faith, our voices can make a difference in the process to ensure that Congress focuses on the people and communities who have been hit hardest by the current crisis.

Now that our nation has over 500,000 deaths from COVID-19, the pandemic continues to reveal the discrimination and systemic racism in our society. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports “increasing evidence that some racial and ethnic minority groups are being disproportionately affected” and that long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put minoritized communities, including Black, Brown, Latino, Asian and Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native communities and people in poverty, at increased risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19. Women have been disproportionately displaced from the workplace. Many of us among these populations are front-line workers on whom our nation has depended throughout 2020 and now into 2021. Millions of immigrant workers remain excluded from federal relief, although many are considered “essential.”

We thank lawmakers for the measures already taken to help our nation through this pandemic, but Congress needs to act boldly and with urgency to minimize further suffering and lives lost. President Biden has proposed a comprehensive rescue package to address economic impacts of COVID-19. Lawmakers need to hear from faith-based advocates as negotiations unfold. Based upon ELCA federal priorities for advocacy action, here highlighted below are critical issues being discussed in conjunction with federal support.

Consider these critical issues and what is happening in your community and in your congregation's experience. Write a unique letter to your lawmaker about priorities for this next response package.

HUNGER RESPONSE: Congress should extend into the summer the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit to ensure households have enough resources to feed their families. Unemployment Insurance for many is set to expire in March and must be extended. The plan should aid families and low-income workers by increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

HEALTH CARE RESPONSE: Minoritized communities are experiencing a disproportionate health impact from the pandemic. Urge inclusion of meaningful and substantive public health funding and technical resources for the Indian Health Service (IHS) and to address other needs of all people in these communities, including accelerated and equitably distributed vaccinations.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE: Because of the scale of this global crisis, more resources are needed to address the needs of vulnerable communities around the world. To ensure effective global responses that will protect all of us here at home and around the world, we ask Congress to allocate \$20 billion for international assistance in the next COVID-19 relief bill.

MIGRATION RESPONSE: Congress should expand eligibility for emergency relief to immigrants and mixed-status families, address the spread of COVID-19 in federal immigration detention centers and prevent further fatal outbreaks in facilities with histories of lapses in care. Farmworkers should be eligible for paid sick leave or unemployment insurance in all states, going beyond the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The federal government must also ensure that all workers, regardless of their immigration status, are afforded free testing and access to treatment should they have COVID-19.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS, CHILDCARE and SCHOOL RESPONSE: Congress should provide direct assistance for childcare to enable more parents to return to work. Schools must be equipped and prepared to reopen as soon and as safely as possible. Essential workers are critical to the economic life of our country and deserve fair wages—not less than \$15 per hour.

HOUSING RESPONSE: Without meaningful action, the U.S. could face a new homelessness crisis stemming from mass evictions and. Early reports indicate minoritized communities could be most impacted. Congress could continue to provide meaningful support to homeless congregant shelters and housing aid to keep families in their homes and should extend an eviction moratorium ending March 31. Housing and faith-based providers encourage us to call on Congress to provide \$30 billion in emergency rental assistance and additional funding for emergency shelters.

## **The Hildegarde Johnson Music Scholarship**

The Hildegarde Johnson Scholarship team is accepting applications until February 28. The team will be reviewing applications in March, and selecting those who will be awarded funds. We will be contacting those who are awarded scholarships at that time, and will make a public announcement later.

The Hildegarde Johnson Music Scholarship is named for Messiah's longtime Director of Music. The original fund was instituted by the Senior Choir members. The Scholarship Fund still accepts donations, and is used every year to provide scholarships for Messiah's young musicians in support of lessons, camps, or other expenses.

## Texas Storm Relief

Dear friends, The last year has been full of changes and challenges for all of us. Now we are again witnessing a devastating disaster amid the ongoing pandemic. As neighbors in Christ, we have an opportunity to share God's hope, healing and renewal with each other.

Beginning Feb. 14, a polar vortex descended over the United States. Sub-freezing temperatures and heavy snow swept across the country, impacting millions of people. The harsh conditions severely impacted Southern states, such as Texas, which lack the infrastructure to handle the freezing temperatures and record-setting snow and ice. This has led to power, food and water shortages throughout the region. At its peak, 4.5 million homes and businesses in Texas were without power. With bursting pipes and broken water systems, around 10 million Texans are facing water disruptions. As temperatures rise, melting ice and snow is expected to cause more water damage.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. Congregations are already conducting relief efforts such as supplying water, food and generators to those in need and opening their doors to serve as shelters. Long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations.

Please give today. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those whose lives have been devastated by the severe storms in Texas. Gifts designated for "U.S. Severe Storms" will be used entirely (100%) for direct response.

Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by severe winter storms and subfreezing temperatures in Texas. Doing this we reflect Christ's light and hope to our neighbors in their time of need. For updates on this and other disasters, follow Lutheran Disaster Response 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.

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

\*April - laundry detergent, dish soap, bar soap

## Lectionary Readings - March 2021

### March 7 -- 3rd Sunday in Lent

Reading.....Exodus 20:1-17

Gospel.....John 2:13-22

### March 14 -- 4th Sunday in Lent

Reading.....Numbers 21:4-9

Gospel.....John 3:14-21

### March 21 -- 5th Sunday in Lent

Reading.....Jeremiah 31:31-34

Gospel.....John 12:20-33

### March 28 -- Palm Sunday

Reading.....Isaiah 50:4-9a

Gospel.....Mark 14:1--15:47

## Zoom Qi Gong for Health & Wellness

This class is held every Tuesday from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Contact: Diana Magnuson 906-362-9386/ magnusondiana@gmail.com

Each class member applies their own range of motion to the qigong exercises. We use body structure for balance, stress and pain relief in daily life; walking, turning, lifting, reaching & sitting. The gentle movements can also be used with prayer disciplines, using breathing as an essential component.

Members turn off video and mute while I lead. It's a welcome anonymity -no competition, rest as you wish. In the beginning and at the end, we review together.

There is no fee or charge for these classes but we invite you to support Messiah's ministry to local food programs either by dropping off non-perishable pantry items or by sending a check written out to Messiah Lutheran Church specifying local hunger in the memo line.

## Devotions Link

[www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org) is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.



## Global Mission Notes from the ELCA

Since I was in Sunday School I've been interested in just what the church is doing to spread and support Christ's message and the life of churches through out the world. Since a themed bulletin board in Messiah's atrium would not be seen by many this year, I decided to summarize the report for 2021.

In each area the ELCA model is to accompany/walk along side companions in more than 90 countries and do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities. This includes strengthening their Lutheran identity, training leaders, and exploring different ministry models.

In Latin America and the Caribbean the emphasis is to defend human rights and promote economic, gender and climate justice. They/we seek just and human treatment of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers through the work of our AMMPARO companions in the region.

The regional emphasis in the Middle East and North Africa is to actually accompany companions in their steadfast Christian witness, service and faith, which are threatened by regional turmoil. We also advocate with them for nonviolent paths to more peaceful and just societies and respond to humanitarian needs.

Asia/Pacific congregations meet challenges of religious plurality, address gender justice and tackle concerns over migration and human trafficking.

In Africa we strengthen mutual relationships and support programs of companion churches addressing conflict prevention, peace and reconciliation, evangelical outreach, faith formation, food security, sustainable livelihoods and health. In Ghana the Good News Theological Seminary leaders and Muslim community leaders aired radio programs to teach about virus transmission. Then they provided masks and modified buckets to motorcycle taxi drivers and market women. In Malawi farm field schools teach farmers to test and adopt sustainable agriculture methods to make the community food-self-sufficient.

28 mission personnel serve in East, West and Southern Africa in 2020. 49 synod companionships connect 48 ELCA synods and one ELC-Canada to Lutheran bodies in 23 countries. (I don't have a number of companion congregations- just synodical connections) Messiah helped support 3 missionaries in Tanzania in 2020.

The regional emphasis in Europe is to build capacity of minority Lutheran churches for evangelism, mission and development of lay and pastoral leadership. With these churches we work to develop organization that support and empower the most vulnerable populations in the region. 85%of ELCA World Hunger grants in Europe supporting work with Roam communities, refugees, asylum-seekers and children and families living in poverty. ELCA members also work with over a dozen Lutheran church bodies in former Eastern bloc countries.

The Evangelical church in Germany (EKD) and ELCA contributed toward the purchase of the vessel Sea-Watch 4 operated by United4rescue on behalf of 600 civic and church organization to rescue refugees on the Mediterranean. In August 2020, after delivering 353 refugees to Palermo, Italy, the ship was detained by Italian authorities but Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, EKD president and bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, continues to advocate for a humane response to the situation in the Mediterranean.

So what is the emphasis for global mission in North America? Well it is to equip ELCA members to engage with their local and global communities through mutual relationship and accompaniment. We collaborate with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada concerning missionaries, global events and companion synod relationships.

I gleaned this information from the ELCA Global Mission mailing but there is a great deal of additional news and information. Learn more at [ELCA.org/globalmission](http://ELCA.org/globalmission) --- *Judy Quirk*

## The Year of Discovery, Part Two: "Discovery" & our American Legal History

This is the second in a series of articles on the "Doctrine of Discovery," and the ELCA's decision to join with other Christians in repudiating the ongoing role this doctrine plays in the history of our nation.

The Papal Bull "Inter Caetera," issued by Pope Alexander VI on May 4, 1493, played a central role in the Spanish conquest of the New World. The document supported Spain's strategy to ensure its exclusive right to the lands discovered by Columbus the previous year. It established a demarcation line one hundred leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands and assigned Spain the exclusive right to acquire territorial possessions and to

trade in all lands west of that line. All others were forbidden to approach the lands west of the line without special license from the rulers of Spain. Other Europeans would claim this right was also theirs as sovereign nations in opposition to Spain. The single exception is the section of South America east of the line of demarcation, which became a part of Portugal's territory, and today is the country of Brazil.

The Bull stated that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be "discovered," claimed, and exploited by Christian rulers and declared that "the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and be everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself." This "Doctrine of Discovery" became the basis of all European claims in the Americas as well as the foundation for the United States' western expansion.

In the US Supreme Court in the 1823 case *Johnson v. McIntosh*, Chief Justice John Marshall's opinion in the unanimous decision held "that the principle

of discovery gave European nations an absolute right to New World lands." In essence, American Indians had only a right of occupancy, which could be abolished. The doctrine was cited in other cases as well. With *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*, it supported the concept that tribes were not independent states but "domestic dependent nations". The decisions in *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe* and *Duro v. Reina* used the doctrine to prohibit tribes from criminally prosecuting first non-Indians, then Indians who were not a member of the prosecuting tribe.

The doctrine has been cited by the US Supreme Court as recently as 2005, in *City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation of New York*: "Under the 'doctrine of discovery' fee title [ownership] to the lands occupied by Indians when the colonists arrived became vested in the sovereign—first the discovering European nation and later the original states and the United States."

I have found the work of Robert J. Miller to be very helpful in understanding the legal impact of this doctrine in the history of the United States. One of his best books is *Native America, Discovered and Conquered: Thomas Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, and Manifest Destiny*, Praeger, 2008. Miller points out that even to our present day, the lands that comprise Indian reservations are legally owned by the United States government, and the Native tribe is only the "beneficial occupier" of those lands.

Miller focuses on Thomas Jefferson and the Lewis and Clark expedition, because the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France in 1806 was based on this theory of Discovery. Even though the territory was occupied by 20 million native Americans, from the Mississippi to the Pacific, France claimed ownership of the land by right of discovery, and sold that claim to the United States government. The expedition of Lewis and Clark was named after that doctrine: the Corps of Discovery was intended by President Jefferson to establish the sovereignty of the United States over all of that land and all of its Native peoples. The subsequent history of treaties, violations, and Indian wars were all founded on the legal doctrine that by right of discovery, all the lands occupied by Indian tribes were actually owned by the United States.

Next month I will examine the decision of the ELCA at the churchwide assembly in 2016 to repudiate the theological Doctrine of Discovery, and efforts to restore justice and fairness to the relationship of the United States and its native peoples. - *Written by Pr. Steve Gauger of Calvary Lutheran in Rapid River, MI*

## From Bishop Finegan

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod, There is a scene from the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption* where the protagonist, Andy, is convicted of a crime he did not commit. He spends some 30 years in a dreadful prison until finally he escapes to begin a new life in a little oceanside village in Mexico. He sends a letter to his inmate friend, Red, and invites him to join him after Red is paroled from his own lifetime sentence for a regrettable crime he committed in his youth.

As we watch Red ride a bus towards Mexico, we hear his voice say, "I find I am so excited I can hardly keep a thought in my head. I hope I can make it across the border. I hope to see my friend and shake his hand. I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams. I hope."

Hope is a powerful force. It pulls us forward through the present as we reach for a different future. It was hope that made Andy's and Red's prison time more bearable. And it is hope for so much that pulls us forward from our present circumstances toward a future that promises:

- an end to the pandemic.
- gathering around tables with coffee-filled cups and bakery in hand.
- laughter and conversation once again filling fellowship halls, restaurants, and living rooms.
- voices raised in songs of praise, in harmony, with great gusto.
- ministry without masks.

I can hardly wait! I Corinthians 13:13 proclaims, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

The greatest of these IS love. But this year, in the year of our Lord 2021, our theme will focus on HOPE. Make no mistake, we need love and faith too. But right now, we really need HOPE.

As I write this, the inauguration looms large. Plans for armed and potentially violent demonstrations outside each state's capitol building are being reported, and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff has issued a public reminder to all military branches of their oath to defend the Constitution. It is more than a little unsettling that they felt such a reminder was necessary.

By the time you read this, whatever happens next week and before the end of January will be in the past. We all will have watched the news, heard the reports, and prayed over what right now has not happened yet.

And still, whatever is going to happen, does not change what we have always proclaimed to be true, that our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. What that means for our present circumstances has taken on more urgency. The more we feel the chaos and uncertainty of our present, the more we reach for that which is true and solid and constant.

I hope we find a way towards healing, in our congregations and in our nation. I hope as people of faith we have a witness that is authentic to the gospel message of Jesus. I hope our congregations and pastoral leaders can hold on a little longer. I hope. I hope.

"O God our help in ages past

Our hope for years to come

Our shelter from the stormy blast

And our eternal home."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

*Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan*

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