

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for March 10, 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

Mountain Vespers Worship: every Wednesday in Lent through March 24 at 6:30 pm on the radio at 101.9 FM and Facebook live, Vimeo, and YouTube. If you would like to follow along

with the service, the music for Mountain Vespers can be found by typing the following into your browser: www.bit.ly/mountainvespers

Easter Flowers

Would you like to sponsor a flower or lily arrangement for Easter? Please contact the church office or stop by to fill out a form. The suggested donation is \$20 per sponsorship and can be in memory or in honor of a loved one. All requests should be into the office by Wednesday, March 31st.

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 at 6:30 pm – 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)
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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

News from The Free Store

The New Free Store is 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

Here are some other ways you can support The Free Store:

1. If you are a Thrivent member with investments &/or insurance, you may have Thrivent Choice dollars that you could give to one of ten different organizations in Marquette County including: The New Free Store, YMCA, United Way, Queen's Heart, Habitat for Humanity, Marquette Community Foundation, Western Marquette County Health Foundation, Ishpeming Cancer Society, Lakestate Industries, SAIL and the Vista Theater. You can designate or allocate your Thrivent Choice dollars to any one of these non-profits that are registered with Thrivent, in our area. These funds would need to be allocated by or before March 31, 2021. Thank you!

2. The New Free Store is looking for a volunteer with some type of accounting or bookkeeping background to help them with a financial compilation. This is a type of an audit on their organization and it is a way to continue to be transparent to all those connected with them. The work involved in this financial compilation would not take more than one day and most likely would only take a half day. They would like to have this work done sometime between now and October of this year. If you are interested in helping The New Free Store with this volunteer duty, please contact Messiah's office at 225-1119.

3. The New Free Store building, which is located in Harvey, is on the market. They share the space with Lakestate Industries. The building is being sold through Northern Michigan Landbrokers. Depending on what the buyer decides, The New Free Store could continue on in

the same building and pay rent; or if they need to vacate the space, they are looking for anyone that might have a suggestion of space for them to use. If you know of any open space in Marquette that would be well suited for them, they would appreciate you sharing that with them. Thank you!

4. Lastly, The New Free Store would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to members & friends of Messiah who continue to help their operations, in many ways. They are thankful for Messiah members who volunteer with their organization; and they are grateful for all the items that are donated to them from Messiah members & friends who leave items in Messiah's narthex.

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.

Faith in Action—a 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*

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 throughout 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 alongside 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.

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](https://www.elca.org/globalmission)

--*Judy Quirk*

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

ELCA leaders Call on Congress to Pass U.S. Citizenship Act

CHICAGO (March 5, 2021) — The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has joined more than 500 ELCA rostered ministers and the CEOs of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and Lutheran Services in America (LSA) in calling on Congress to support the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021. In a March 4 letter, the leaders urge lawmakers to work collaboratively to advance legislation “around a long overdue solution that reflects our shared values as a nation.”

The ELCA, LIRS and LSA recognize the need for legislative action based upon their historic service to and accompaniment of communities with migrant and refugee populations. Lutherans respond to people who are caught in conflict and face persecution, and they advocate for compassionate, just and wise immigration policies, driven by God’s love for all people and a biblical commitment to welcome the stranger.

“Guided by our faith values and biblical teachings, we believe that immigration policies must prioritize and honor the God-given dignity of each person, especially those who live on the margins of society,” the letter states. “We regard the family as an indispensable social institution and stand firmly against policies that cause the separation of families. We are therefore pleased to see that the proposed legislation works to recognize these values.”

ELCA social teaching and actions insist on family reunification, upholding human dignity and rights, driving cooperative responses to the root causes of forced migration, and stressing inclusion and equity across federal immigration policy. Several provisions of the legislation advance these commitments.

Across an expanding network, welcoming congregations of the ELCA, for example, closely accompany migrants in the United States through ministry and advocacy. Lutherans across the country also participate in resettling refugees who have been admitted with the support of LIRS.

Reacting to a Supreme Court decision on the popular Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program last summer, the ELCA continued to press for permanent protection for Dreamers and just treatment for other undocumented communities. The U.S. Citizenship Act makes a promising contribution toward ensuring a just immigration system.

“Making progress on these long overdue immigration reforms is important to us as leaders who serve in church and society,” the letter states. “We ask God to guide our nation and grant the grace of a welcoming heart. To that end, we ask you to work collaboratively, with haste, to promote this comprehensive legislative solution through Congress and provide lasting solutions that will strengthen our nation for generations to come.”

[Read the letter.](#)

[ELCA leaders call on Congress to pass U.S. Citizenship Act - ELCA](#)

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.

Messiah Birthdays

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

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!

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

Dennis Riutta; Larry; Roberta; Lee; Wil; 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

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 March 10, 14-17.

Pastor Molly is on call March 11-13.

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 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

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

Worship Volunteers

Sunday March 14

Ruth Robb

Sunday March 21

Fred Maynard

Sunday March 28

Gayle Van Osdol

Sunday April 4 Easter Sunday

One needed

Sunday April 11

One needed

Sunday April 18

Fred Maynard

Sunday April 25

Darley Kemppainen

Announcements and Classified Ads

Marquette Alger Resolution Service Training

Marquette Alger Resolution Service is training mediators via Zoom for our local community mediation organization. We provide peaceful dispute resolution for all types of matters in Marquette and Alger counties. Many of the disputes we help with are parenting time, neighborhood disputes, general civil, child protection, guardianship of children and adults, relationships, and school related issues.

Our volunteers are an integral part of our community. Without them, our community dispute center would not exist. We provide mediation and community dispute resolution regardless of income level. This is an accessible program for everyone.

Dates: May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21

Trainers: Brian Pappas

Fee: \$100 (*this significantly reduced fee is possible due to local grants and applies to participants who agree to serve as volunteer mediators. Class size is limited.*)

Please e-mail director@marsmediation.org or call 906.226.8600 for more information.

Here is the link to learn more about the training and our program:

<https://marsmediation.org/mediator-training/>

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.

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