

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG

Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:45 AM

(with Nursery)

This service is broadcast
on Sunny 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 E-mail: office@messiahlutheranmqt.org

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



March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

Flowers: To the Glory of God...

* from Bill Maki

Radio: To the Glory of God...

* from our Messiah family

From Pastor Andrew

Siblings in Christ,

As we approach Holy Week this year, I find myself reflecting on Holy Saturday. For many of us, it is just the day before the festivities celebrating Jesus' resurrection. It may even be a day that, in past years, we hid Easter eggs and held social gatherings. But in some Christian traditions, it is a day to witness the long and slow movement from death to life. It is a day in-between.

In the Gospels, Holy Saturday's witness is seen in the stumbling steps of Mary. Like so many of us this past year, her body is weighed down with grief. Her eyes filled with tears, she cannot see clearly. Morning still looks like night. She cannot find his body. Instead she stands alone, arriving at the tomb with the smell of his burial perfume still on her clothes.

That is a space that we've each inhabited this past year. We've grieved the loss of normalcy, the isolation and distance, the ambiguity and uncertainty. It is a type of space that we often hurry to try and fill or to move on from. As the theologian Richard Rohr writes, "It is when you have left the tried and true, but have not yet been able to replace it with anything else. It is when you are finally out of the way. It is when you are between your old comfort zone and any possible new answer. If you are not trained in how to entrust and wait, you will run...anything to flee this terrible cloud of unknowing."

It is in that place, in the silence of that in-between day, that love remains: that love remained. This love was and is a promise that in the uncertainty there was something left.

The miracle of Holy Saturday is that God is there. Somehow, in the midst of the pits of despair, our glorious and mysterious God is present. Even when there are no recognizable signs of redemption, God's love is present. God sits with us, knowing our pain and suffering and isolation and grief far deeper than we can ever comprehend. God sits with us in the space of the pandemic, the loss and isolation, the grief and anxiety. God sits with us in the uncertainty and the frustration. God's love knows our waiting. It knows our yearning.

If Easter faith is worth anything, it claims that love survives. Love survives, without all of its adornments. The miracle of Easter resurrection, coupled with that vision of Holy Saturday, is that witnesses run to the tombs—not because they know. They run because they refuse to be disconnected. They know that love survives.

We know this too. It is what has held us this past year and what holds us as we look toward the future. God’s love holds us strongly so that we can let go of, or hold loosely, any surety of plans.

In Christ,

Pr. Andrew

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; at the top right of the ‘home’ page click on Worship, click on Sunday’s Bulletin, click the bulletin with Sunday’s date, and either view there electronically or print.

Messiah Calendar

Monday, March 29

9:00 am Men’s Bible Study (zoom)

Tuesday, March 30

11:00 am Men’s Cursillo (zoom)

1:30 pm Staff Meeting (zoom)

Wednesday, March 31

Nothing Scheduled

Thursday, April 1

5:00 pm TaiChi (zoom)

6:30 pm Maundy Thurs. Worship

Friday, April 2

6:30 pm Good Friday Worship

Saturday, April 3

6:30 pm Easter Vigil Worship

Sunday, April 4

7:00 am Easter Sunrise Worship
at McCarty’s Cove

8:45 am Worship-online

10:30 am Easter Worship at Lam-
bros Beach

*(Bring your own chair or blanket
to each beach service)*

Special Events for April & May

Apr. 1 Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm

Apr. 2 Good Friday at 6:30 pm

Apr. 3 Easter Vigil at 6:30 pm

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

May 9 Mother's Day

May 10-15 Synod Assembly

Confirmation

While in many ways this has been the longest year ever, looking back it seems like just yesterday when we made the heart-wrenching decision to hold confirmation classes virtually. There is no question that holding class in person would have been preferable, but I am grateful that we were able to utilize technology to mitigate the spread. We have had some wonderful classes online as well, with terrific attendance and participation.

April's classes will be held on April 11 and April 18. Pastor Molly will be joining our class as we discuss what makes Christianity unique and special. I am thrilled to announce that our last class in May will be held at Presque Isle! After a picnic, we can hike around the island and bask in God's magnificent creation!

--Jen Elsenbroek

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.

On Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: April 4-7, 11-14, 18-21, 25-28

Pr. Molly Eversoll: April 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-30

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in the May Messenger is Monday, April 26, 2021.

Messiah's Newsletter

March 28, 2021

Volume 103, Issue 4

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

Pastors' Book Study: Braiding Sweetgrass

In April our pastors' book study returns with Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013, 390 pages). Pick up the book in the church office (\$17) and then join us on Thursday, May 5th, 7 pm, for a discussion on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83504951043>).

The subtitle of the book is "Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants." As a botanist and professor of Environmental Biology, Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. She brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world.

The book is a New York Times best seller, and people are finding this work to be grounding, calming, and quietly revolutionary. We hope you'll join us for the conversation!

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)

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 and Facebook - www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt

Messiah's Birthdays

April 2021

- Thursday 1 Karl Kaukola
- Friday 2 Robert Hewitt
- Saturday 3 No birthdays
- Sunday 4 Ethan Sellers, Bev Zorza
- Monday 5 Barb Bergstrom, Brent Skaw, Trenton Wash
- Tuesday 6 Steve Nelson
- Wednesday 7 Connor Carr, Denise Eady, Theo Geschwindt, Helen Korpi, Les Rolig, Debby St. Onge
- Thursday 8 Janna Benedict, Bob Marlor, Susan Shaver
- Friday 9 Andrew Banitt, Nancy Okony, Logan Ostermeyer
- Saturday 10 Dorothy Janda, Jennifer LaTourneau, Doug Morton
- Sunday 11 Alexandria Braund, Sydney Braund, Audrey Genschaw, Jack Johnstone
- Monday 12 Michael Busick, Kim Salmela
- Tuesday 13 Trevor Bartlett, Isabelle Beaudoin, Karla Hardy, Bode Skaw
- Wednesday 14 Roger Contois, Gail Edgar, Don Hillegas, Dave Lundquist, James Mattson
- Thursday 15 Liz Beyne, Linnea Mensching, Brett Peterson, Cheryl Shirtz
- Friday 16 Julie Aho, Hannah Bleckiner
- Saturday 17 Luke Berman
- Sunday 18 Greg Carrier, Jakob Peterson
- Monday 19 Mike Hill, Ray Hirvonen, Nancy Lyons, Morgan Messana
- Tuesday 20 Gina Fortin, Mark Paulsen, Jacob Paupore, Grant Rydholm, Deb Vanlerberghe, Veronica Wiese
- Wednesday 21 Sonia Geschwindt, Maria Rodriguez
- Thursday 22 Cathy Seblonka, Jane Taube
- Friday 23 Wyatt Crimmins, Sarah Fosco, Carl Hammerstrom, Laura Kagy
- Saturday 24 No birthdays

Sunday 25	Dave DeLarye, Isaac Olson, Rebecca Ulland
Monday 26	Doug Gordon, Lindsay Johnstone, Karen Larson
Tuesday 27	Jackson Kagy
Wednesday 28	Mitchell Gilbert, Chrys Hendrick, Gary Nicholas
Thursday 29	Jason Parks
Friday 30	No birthdays

Thank You Messiah

Thank you for your support and prayers during this difficult time. We appreciate the kindness of all members of the quilters and church members. Thank you for your fervent prayers for mom. We miss her dearly.

--- The family of Dorothy Weigel

Pastor Molly's Desk--Free To a Good Home!

If you are in need of a desk, please contact the church office. Pastor Molly's desk is a sturdy 32"x50" desk with drawers. The only requirement is that you make arrangements for its removal.

Appreciation for Messiah's Community Assistance Program

This is an email from a mom who needed help with her & her husband's overdue power bill. Their power had been off for three days and they had their kids stay at a family member's house or a friend's house while the power was off...their heat is run by electricity too. Rebecca wanted you to know that she is so appreciative to all of YOU who have contributed to Messiah's community assistance fund!

"Power is on, kids are home, and dinner is cooking! I will sleep much better tonight:) We are going to have a good dinner and call it movie night with my kiddos... and that to me is priceless :)

I cannot thank you enough, along with Michigan Masonic Pathways, and St. Vincent. It is so appreciated and does not go unnoticed and will be remembered when we are back on our feet.

I will be home plucking away at things tomorrow so feel free to contact me for anything either by phone or email!

Have a great night :) Rebecca"

HOPE Accomplishes the Impossible

HOPE is the theme for our Synod Assembly this year and is our theme for the World Hunger offering we HOPE to receive from the congregations in our synod. This is an annual fund drive to support ELCA World Hunger - the mission outreach arm of our church, and it represents a major effort on the part of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

Messiah has traditionally supported ELCA World Hunger with a focus during Lent. This year we are HOPING that Hunger needs are part of your Lenten journey again. Giving up something? Honoring someone with a contribution? A gift for Mom on Mother's Day? Sharing COVID Relief Funds? The options are endless.

Please mark your gift for ELCA World Hunger and send to Messiah by May 9th to be included in this year's offering at our "virtual synod assembly".

- - - Mary Lou Blomquist

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.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Pat, Jon, Dennis Riutta; Larry; Roberta; Lee; Wil; Marion Wrate; Tobe Anderson; Jamie Baril; Jan Brown; Johnnie; Linda Rossberg; 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; 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!

Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly - May 10-15

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!

Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly-- Messiah Delegate Needed

Synod Assembly in 2021 will be online! Now, the whole synod will be able to participate in workshops and Synod-wide worship and orientation for voting members. If you are interested in participating as a voting member, Messiah is looking for one more person. Please contact the church office if you are interested. For more information about assembly, please check the NLGS website:

<https://nglsynod.org/assembly/>

Join Us for U.P. Wild's Earth Day Event

Saturday, April 24 3PM at Presque Isle Park

All are welcome!

+ Bring a plant (either a bulb or a full grown) and/or come ready to adopt a plant! By caring for one seed of the Earth we begin the process of caring for our common home.

+ Bring a poem, song lyric, favorite verse or short reflection to share in circle- we ask everyone to consider participating open mic style.

+ Bring your own mug as we will have hot tea available

+ Celebrate and meet new people

+ Invite friends and bring family

+ Donations are received in gratitude

Self exploration and hiking around the Island is encouraged afterwards. We will meet at the Gazebo near the breakwall. If you do plan to attend, kindly send an email to lanni@upwild.org for planning purposes.

**To view our calendar,
updated daily, please go to
MessiahLutheranmq.org**

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Stewardship Story

Genesis 1:26-28 reveals that God created man, male and female, in his own image - "... and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth". The Hebrew word for dominion means "to take responsibility for", in other words, to care for and protect. In Genesis 2 man is put into the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. The Hebrew word for "keep" means to preserve for future generations. The creation story gives us the responsibility to take care of, protect and preserve the Earth and all living things, plant and animal.

April 22, 2021 is the 51st Earth Day. The first Earth Day was in 1970, largely due to the efforts of Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson. It was effective in raising awareness of environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. It followed Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* and the 1969 fire on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. It ushered in a decade of important environmental legislation passed with bipartisan support. This included the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The Environmental Protection Agency was established in December, 1970.

Fifty-one years later the message of Earth Day is more important than ever. We are called to be good stewards of our planet and to preserve it for future generations. A steward is not an owner but a manager with the responsibility to manage wisely. In the words of John James Audubon, "A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children".

We have been gifted with beautiful surroundings here in the U.P. The stewardship team encourages our Messiah community to celebrate our environment and support the Earth Day movement

--*Messiah Stewardship Team*

Personal Care Kits

Ruth Circle will be collecting items for personal care kits in 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*

ELCA Advocacy Alert

Ask your Senators/Representatives to modernize and humanize our nation's immigration system by creating an earned pathway to citizenship.

"I am hopeful that this administration will work toward a more comprehensive immigration reform with dignity for all, including Dreamers. It will not be an easy task, and we will probably encounter many setbacks, but we have to continue to luchar (fight)," said Alicia Dominguez, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient from Delaware, of the new opportunities before Congress to enact more just immigration laws and realize a path to citizenship.

Immigrants are vital members of our communities, and yet it's been more than 30 years since Congress passed legislation to reform our country's immigration system and adjust the status of undocumented individuals. Establishing a clean roadmap to earn citizenship would strengthen our nation for years to come and fulfill a moral responsibility to protect family unity and community wholeness. Congress is at a pivotal moment to address the situation of millions marginalized by our nation's immigration laws. Our communities deserve permanent solutions that provide a roadmap to citizenship for all immigrants who call the U.S. their home.

There are around 11 million individuals without legal status in the U.S., the majority of whom have lived in this country for over a decade. In the absence of a viable path to citizenship, many have been forced to a life in the shadows where they are vulnerable to economic exploitation and diminished opportunities to thrive. Some individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) have fared marginally better by unlocking opportunities to work and study lawfully, however their fate is tied up in courts (*USA v. Texas*, and *Ramos v. Nielsen*). The need to chart a new course through legislation has never been more apparent.

Congressional legislative action is needed to revamp our immigration laws and provide a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented people without passing down any harmful repercussions on immigrant communities. With President Biden calling on Congress to enact a sweeping immigration reform, and with multiple proposals under consideration, Congress has an unmistakable opportunity to pass lasting legislative solutions this year.

Immigrants worship, work and raise families in our communities and ELCA congregations, mutually enriching one another's lives and the social fabric of this nation in innumerable ways. Our immigration laws should honor the God-given dignity of every person, protect family unity, and promote the flourishing of our communities.

“The newcomers in our church from around the world remind us that all of us in the Church of Jesus Christ are sojourners, ‘for here we have no lasting city, but we are looking for the city that is to come’ (Hebrews 13: 14). As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us” (ELCA social message on “Immigration”).

Urge your members of Congress to support a pathway to earn citizenship for all immigrants! Take action through the ELCA Action Center today.

Liz Beyne Honored By NGLS World Hunger Team

Messiah’s Liz Beyne will be the recipient of the “Bread Basket Award” given each year at the Synod Assembly to someone who has exemplified service in the area of hunger. Liz has faithfully gone to the Warming Center very early in the morning for many years to prepare & serve breakfast to guests of Room At The Inn. She also dishes out doses of caring, compassion and welcome to those she serves. The Synod Assembly will be virtual this year, May 10-15, and members of the congregation are encouraged to join in for all sessions. Watch for the schedule in the Synod Newsletter.

Congratulations Liz!

Building and Grounds Team

Covid 19 vaccinations are now going strong in the community and we are looking toward the day when Messiah can finally re-open. In anticipation of gathering for services, meetings and social events, we would like the church to look fresh - rather than as if we turned off the lights, locked the doors, and walked away for over a year - which, of course, is exactly what we did. It’s been cleaned and maintained over these months, but there are some issues. The B&G team met virtually in early March to discuss areas of the church in need of attention. A small cadre toured the building, discussing and taking notes along the way. They have made some recommendations for presenting to the Council for consideration, and presumably we’ll have enough time to take care of these areas before “the big day.”

--Cindy Kotila

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.

*April - laundry detergent, dish soap, bar soap

*May - diapers (size 1-5), baby wet wipes

Lectionary Readings - April 2021

April 4 -- Resurrection of Our Lord

Reading.....Acts 10:34-43

Gospel.....Mark 16:1-8

April 11 -- 2nd Sunday of Easter

Reading.....Acts 4:32-35

Gospel.....John 20:19-31

April 18 -- 3rd Sunday of Easter

Reading.....Acts 3:12-19

Gospel.....Luke 24:36b-48

April 25 -- 4th Sunday of Easter

Reading.....Acts 4:5-12

Gospel.....John 10:11-18

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 is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.

The Year of Discovery, Part Three: “Discovery” and the 21st Century

Many of us have been amazed to learn that a papal declaration from 1493 might be the foundation for the United States’ policies and legal structures for the more than 500 recognized Native American tribes in our country. What is perhaps even more surprising is that the United States’ legal rulings, starting with Chief Justice Marshall’s 1823 *Johnson vs. McIntosh*, have been used as legal precedent in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand when those nations made decisions about their indigenous peoples. In every case, the legal power of sovereignty is somehow based on the religious principle of bringing “Civilization and Christianity” to savage peoples. The fact that none of these countries would be considered Roman Catholic, the way Spain and Portugal definitely were in 1493, makes this eagerness to enlist the Doctrine as legal precedent applying all the way down to the present day all the more incredible.

And yet here we are, in the year 2020, trying to understand why our Lutheran Church, along with the Episcopal, Presbyterian, UCC, Methodist, and Unitarian churches, have recognized that it is wise and necessary for the Church to repudiate this “improper mixing of the power of the Gospel with the power of the sword” and to repent for all the ways in which the Church has been complicit in a wide range of hurtful policies toward Native tribes and native individuals. Pastor Melinda VanderSys, Our Redeemer, Newberry, reminded us at the Walking Together event in October that “it is never too late to right a wrong, never too late to ask for forgiveness.” On March 21, 2020, our Synod Council passed the resolution included in this month’s newsletter, inviting our synod to join with 17 other ELCA synods in a “Year of Discovery” to explore our relationship to the Native Americans whose land we live on in 2020.

If you read or listen to the news from across the United States, you will recognize that this issue continues to be a regular feature of our national life. Here is just a short list of newsworthy stories I have encountered in the last year:

1. The Supreme Court decision of July 9, 2020, that the eastern half of Oklahoma actually belongs to the five native tribes who were moved there in the 1800’s, with this opinion from Justice Neil Gorsuch: “On the far end of the Trail of Tears was a promise. Forced to leave their ancestral lands in Georgia and Alabama, the Creek Nation received assurances that their new lands in the West would be secure forever.”
2. The decision to shut down the Dakota Access pipeline in March 2020, because the Standing Rock Sioux tribes were never afforded a real environmental impact study.
3. The continued stand-off between the United States and the Black Hills Sioux tribes, with the tribes asking for their

land back, and the U.S. government tending a reparation payment of more than one billion dollars, as compensation for broken treaties.

4. The mining controversies on the reservation of the Navajo Nation, in which the United States awards the mineral rights under the Navajo land to non-Indian mining corporations.

5. And closer to home, conflicts continue over fishing and hunting rights that were guaranteed to native tribes in Michigan and Wisconsin by treaty, given in perpetuity in exchange for native lands.

6. Finally, the example of the Menominee Nation of Wisconsin, whose reservation was “disestablished” by Congress in 1961, along with more than 100 other native tribes. The goal was the assimilation of the Menominee tribe and their land into the surrounding white culture of Wisconsin. In 1973 an act of Congress re-established the right of the Menominee Nation to their tribal lands and government.

Robert Miller, in his *Native America: Discovered and Conquered*, describes three fundamental principles of Indian Law in the United States. They flow naturally from the Doctrine of Discovery and reflect the Doctrine at work in modern day Indian law. Those principles are Plenary Power, the Trust Doctrine, and Diminished Tribal Sovereignty.

1. Plenary Power means that Congress has exceptional power over Indian affairs. Discovery has meant that “the United States government held dominion over the Indian Nations, because they lost their sovereign, diplomatic, property, and commercial rights immediately upon discovery.” Further, no federal law has ever been overturned because Congress exceeded its plenary power.

2. Trust Doctrine gives Congress the power to regulate Indian affairs because of the alleged helplessness of the Indian tribes. In recent cases, Indian Nations have sued the United States for a breach of this trust.

3. Diminished Tribal Sovereignty is based on the idea that indigenous peoples were savages and pagans, and thus inferior to civilized Christian Europeans. Upon first contact with Europeans or Americans, their sovereignty was automatically and immediately diminished. They were told that they now had a new “Father”, who could variously be the Pope, King George, or the President in Washington, D.C. All three of these principles are natural extensions of the Doctrine of Discovery.

- Written by Pr. Steve Gauger of Calvary Lutheran in Rapid River, MI

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 are available on our church website. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, please contact the church office.

March Council Highlights

The Messiah Council approved a revised plan from the COVID task force. This plan gave specific metrics for re-opening of the church for worship, including community vaccination status, viral transmission case rates and positive test percentages. Details will be sent via Pastoral letter. Once the benchmarks have been met, we will spend at least four weeks in this phase. Stage B of re-opening will require more progress in the community on these benchmarks, and once those are met we will re-introduce congregational singing and our Choirs! We long for this day to come, and the start of community vaccinations gives us hope!

The Council approved a plan to advertise for a Coordinator of Christian Education position and a Intern Coordinator of High School Youth. Job descriptions have been developed and applicants will be sought soon. Please keep these positions in your prayers. Interested persons should contact the Messiah Office for information about how to apply.

Messiah is still seeking a delegate to the Synod Assembly in May. This will take place virtually. Interested people should contact the Church Office.

--Erik Bergh, council president

A Letter from Bishop Katherine Finegan

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

My father was a historian. Often at the dinner table, he would alert us to some historical milestone of the day. He would announce with enthusiasm, "Five hundred years ago today..." such and such happened. Or "It's been exactly ten years and four days since..." Sometimes we would have to guess what obscure anniversary was being named, which was always impossible, unless it was our birthday.

So prepare yourself as now I am going to inflict the same reverie on you. It has been a year, one whole year, since the pandemic became real to our corner of the world. On March 15, 2020, Pastor Jim Duehring was at St. Paul's in Ironwood celebrating the installation of their new pastor, the Rev. Doug Norquist. And on that same day, practically that same hour, I was at Salem and Zion, Ironwood, celebrating the installation of their new pastor, the Rev. Nicole Hanson-Lynn. After that Sunday, practically overnight, pastors were transformed into video producers, we learned about FM transmitters, Zoom, making masks, and the status quo became anything but quo.

In this past year, what have we learned? What have we lost? What have we gained? God has been at work in this pandemic. I think of the scripture readings that have to do with pruning, with being refined like silver, with being molded like clay in the hands of the potter. I think of God's promise for new life, for renewal, to be active in us as the Spirit pushes and pulls us as the body of Christ, the Church, into a God-pleasing shape.

No doubt, we have felt the points of pressure, even pain. We can look back over this past year, which has felt much longer than 12 months, and compare then to now. We can look back and take note that this will be our second pandemic Easter, that we will still observe safety protocols and be silent of trumpets. We still have a way to go before we can declare the pandemic is over. But at this one-year mark, we can look back and see what we have gained.

We have learned how to be more connected in new ways.

Our Lifelong Faith Formation classes connected participants and teachers from the Copper Country to the Soo, from Ironwood to Menominee. The current Racial Equity Challenge is doing the same thing. Pastors and leaders slogged through decision fatigue to creatively meet the new challenges. Congregation Councils did the hard work of figuring out safety protocols and what metrics to apply to future decisions of in person worship. I saw congregations equipping parents to teach the faith with take home packets and at home worship. I saw online meetings, zoom coffee hour, email devotions, and hard copy sermons sent through the mail.

You all have been and continue to be AMAZING!!! What a year! What a difficult, trying, tiring, creative, faith deepening, discipleship challenging, grief provoking year of loss and gain. I know I am not the only one who has felt weary, impatient, and sad. But neither am I the only one who has found new appreciation for what makes us Church, the power of community, and how Christ becomes more palpable when we are together.

Looking at both the positives and negatives of this pandemic allows us to look forward with better questions about what our next steps will be. There is newness emerging and a hunger to dive deeply into the things we took for granted before. As we gather for worship again, as we reapply ourselves to ministries that have been neglected, as we are newly aware of what matters to us about the community of faith, I urge that we continue in prayerful discernment about future directions. I do not believe it is wise to rush back to fill every corner with the way we did things "before."

I hope, in this year of HOPE, that the same care and consideration that we invested in designing safety protocols will be applied as we consider what to carry forward and what to leave behind, and what to begin from scratch. I know that God is creating something new, and we are only just beginning to perceive it.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Messiah's Church Staff:**Pastoral Staff:**

Senior Pastor.....Andrew Plocher
 Associate Pastor.....Molly Eversoll

Support Staff:

Parish AdministratorJennifer Dodge
 Administrative AssistantInga Banitt
 Custodian.....Kevin McGrath
 Parish Accountant.....Mike Hill
 Financial Secretary.....Nancy Hoover

Music Staff:

Music Director.....Dave Dagenais
 Organist/Pianist.....Kathy Strazzinski
 PianistLynne Lanczy
 Bell Choir Director.....Judy Quirk

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