

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for March 31, 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!*



Holy Week Worship 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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No Church Office Hours Monday April 5

The church office will be closed on Monday April 5 in observance of the Easter holiday.

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.

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

Thank You, Knitters

The Mitten Tree yarn and collection box will be going into storage until next fall. Thank you to everyone who made warm winter wear. It was a great success and much appreciated.

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 have been 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 an 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

Michigan Expanding Access to Safe, Effective COVID-19 Vaccine to All Michiganders Ages 16 and Older on April 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 2021

Contact: Lynn Sutfin, 517-241-2112

LANSING, MICH. To continue progress toward state's goal of vaccinating 70% of Michiganders over age 16 and bringing a quicker end to the COVID-19 pandemic in Michigan, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) officials today announced the state is expanding vaccination eligibility for Michiganders ages 16 and older with disabilities or medical conditions that put them at high risk of negative COVID-19 outcome beginning Monday, March 22. The state is also announcing that beginning Monday, April 5, all Michiganders age 16 and up who were not previously eligible will be eligible to receive a vaccine.

With the expanded vaccine eligibility, providers are still encouraged to schedule appointments and allocate vaccinations to residents based on highest risk, including older residents, essential workers, and frontline workers. The most recent vaccine prioritization guidelines can be found on Michigan's COVID-19 website.

"The safe COVID-19 vaccine is the most effective way to protect you, your family and others from the virus," said Governor Whitmer. "It will help the country get back to normal and help the economy. Nearly one million Michiganders of all races have already been safely vaccinated. I urge all eligible Michiganders to get one of the three COVID-19 vaccines. It is essential to getting our country back to normal, so that we can all hug our families, get back to work, go to restaurants, send our kids to school, play sports and get together again. And as always: mask up, practice safe social distancing and avoid large indoor gatherings where COVID-19 can easily spread from person to person. We will eliminate this virus together."

"Over 2.7 million doses of the safe and effective COVID vaccines have been administered in Michigan, and we are well on our way to vaccinating 70% of Michiganders age 16 and up," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. "We are pleased to lay out our plan for when every Michigander age 16 and up will be able to get a vaccine. We will continue to focus our efforts on removing barriers to access for our most vulnerable to exposure and those at highest risk of severe illness due to COVID-19. These vaccines are the way we are going to end this pandemic and I urge Michiganders to make a plan to get your vaccine when you are eligible."

This is in addition to a recent announcement that MDHHS was moving forward with vaccination of Michiganders age 50 and older with medical conditions or disabilities and caregiver family members and guardians who care for children with special health care needs as of Monday, March 8. Also beginning Monday, March 22, vaccine eligibility is expanding to include all Michiganders 50 and older.

"This important step will allow individuals who are more vulnerable to COVID-19, including people with disabilities, to get the vaccine," said Annie Urasky, director of the Division on Deaf, Deaf Blind and Hard of Hearing within the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. "We thank the Governor and MDHHS for this life-saving expansion of eligibility and will work with them to communicate the news to Michiganders with disabilities."

"The Governor's action to expand eligibility has the potential to protect over a million Michiganders with disabilities. We couldn't be more appreciative," said Dessa Cosma, Executive Director of Detroit Disability Power. "This would not have been possible without the actions of dozens of disability rights organizations across the state and we are ready as a resource for accessible implementation and delivery."

"This is welcome news," said Michelle Roberts, Executive Director of Disability Rights Michigan. "Since the vaccine roll out in Michigan started, we have pushed for all people with disabilities to be higher up on the vaccine priority list. It really can be a matter of life or death."

“On behalf of The Arc Michigan, our many disability partners, our local chapters and people with disabilities across Michigan, I want to express our gratitude and thanks to Governor Whitmer and her administration for expanding vaccine access to Michiganders with disabilities, effective March 22, 2021,” said Sherri Boyd, Executive Director of The Arc Michigan.

All vaccine providers may begin vaccinating the new priority group of 16-49 with medical conditions or disabilities by Monday, March 22. MDHHS is accelerating vaccination of these individuals due to concern around disparity in life expectancy and in an effort to remove barriers to vaccine access. Based on the anticipated amount of vaccines becoming available to the state and President Biden’s directive that all adults should be eligible by May 1, Michigan has decided to move forward with allowing all Michiganders

who were not previously eligible to begin receiving vaccine on Monday, April 5. As providers are scheduling appointments, they should consider an individual’s risk of exposure due to their employment and their vulnerability to severe disease in determining how to schedule appointments. It is anticipated that it may still take several weeks beyond April 5 for everyone who wishes to receive a vaccine to have an appointment.

Medical conditions that place individuals at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19 are eligible for vaccination and include: cancer; chronic kidney disease; COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); Down syndrome; heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathies; immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant; obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²); severe obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²); pregnancy; sickle cell disease; smoking; and Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The following medical conditions might place an individual at an increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19, and are therefore also eligible for vaccination: asthma (moderate-to-severe); cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain); cystic fibrosis; hypertension or high blood pressure; immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant; immune deficiencies; HIV; use of corticosteroids or use of other immune weakening medicines; neurologic conditions, such as dementia; liver disease; overweight (BMI > 25 kg/m², but < 30 kg/m²); pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues); thalassemia (a type of blood disorder); and Type 1 diabetes mellitus.

Those eligible to receive a vaccine should:

- Check the website of the local health department or hospital to find out their process or for registration forms; or
- Check additional vaccination sites, such as local pharmacies like Meijer, Rite Aid or Cardinal Health (U.P. residents); or

• Residents who don't have access to the internet or who need assistance navigating the vaccine scheduling process can call the COVID-19 Hotline at 888-535-6136 (press 1), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or can call 2-1-1. It is important to note that, while supplies are increasing, there remains a limited amount of vaccine available, so there may be a waitlist for available appointments. As more vaccine becomes available, the state will continue to move more quickly through the priority groups. MDHHS follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for prioritization of distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. CDC recommendations are based on input from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the federal advisory committee made up of medical and public health experts who develop recommendations on the use of vaccines in the United States. Even with the increase of COVID-19 vaccinations, Khaldun urges everyone to continue to practice preventative measures such as properly wearing masks, social distancing and frequent handwashing to reduce the spread of the virus until the vast majority of people have been vaccinated. Michigan residents seeking more information about the COVID-19 vaccine can visit Michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine. Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly—May 10-15, 2021

****Messiah Delegate Needed****

Synod Assembly in 2021 will be online! Mark your calendars and join us for a week full of opportunities for engagement, discussion, worship, and information, all with the theme of Hope. 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/>

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

Where I've Seen God Today—from Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop

A good question to ask yourself is, "Where have I seen God today?" And if you haven't been intentionally asking yourself that question, perhaps the corollary would be, "Where have I seen God in the past week, or months?" I think that most of us understand this question not as a literal seeing of God but as a spiritual question. The assumption in this question is that God is "seeable" and "knowable" on some level. Sometimes God seems quite hidden and not seeable. But, perhaps, by even asking ourselves that question, we might grow in our faith and better "see" God.

So, "Where have I seen God lately?"

- I've seen God in people making phone calls to check in on neighbors and family members during this pandemic.
- I've seen God challenging us to think about hard issues of social justice around race and economic inequalities.
- I've seen God working through the many unnamed researchers who developed vaccines for COVID-19.

- I've seen God in pastors and lay leaders digging deep into their bag of resiliency and trying out new things in their congregations.
- I've seen God in people who had never heard of Zoom joining Bible and book studies through their church and Lifelong Faith Formation classes offered through our synod.
- I've seen God in the generosity of people supporting their local businesses, donating blood, and delivering meals.
- I've seen God surrounding those who grieve many losses including the death of loved ones in recent months.
- I've seen God challenging us to reevaluate what church truly is as more than a building.
- I've seen God in people gathering outside in a church parking lot in lawn chairs and social distancing to find joy in the presence of others.
- I've seen God in pastors and parishioners who gather for worship in parking lots even in bitter cold weather.
- I've seen people spending more time outdoors and appreciating the beauty of God's creation.

If I truly stop to think about it, I've seen God many times! Sometimes as a pastor, I would ask people before the start of a committee meeting, "Where have you seen God today or this week?" Some people without hesitation would speak up and name something. Others would be silent. I didn't push people to say something. Perhaps they had never considered that question. Perhaps they didn't want to say the wrong thing. Perhaps they didn't have words for how they "saw" God at work. I'm convinced that as individuals we benefit from asking ourselves that question about "God sightings." God is. And God can be known through Christ, our neighbor, and this created world. Thank you, Lord, for being present, even when we do not "see" you!

--Pastor Jim Duehring Assistant to the Bishop, DEM

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/messiahlutheranmgt>

and Facebook - www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmgt

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

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

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

Jon, for Sherry Johnson and the family and friends of Dennis Riutta upon his passing; 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

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 31, April 4-7.

Pastor Molly is on call April 1-3.

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 – Resurrection of Our Lord

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

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

Worship Volunteers

Sunday April 4 Easter Sunday

No reader needed

Sunday April 11

Ruth Robb

Sunday April 18

Fred Maynard

Sunday April 25

Darley Kemppainen

Sunday May 2

Larry Pagel

Sunday May 9

Mike Hill

Sunday May 16

One needed

Sunday May 23

One needed

Sunday May 30

Fred Maynard

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