

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



June 27, 2021

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Flowers: To the Glory of God...

* from Frank Summersett

Radio: To the Glory of God...

* from Joyce Peterson

Letter from Pr. Molly

“Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.” (ELW, 532)

I saw this snippet of a hymn posted on the ELCA’s Facebook page. Do you recognize this hymn? It is Gather Us In. It is a hymn that I am sure you are familiar with, but a concept that has been foreign to us over the past 16 months. We have longed for the moment when we will be back together and now it is upon us, a new light is streaming; we have reached a point where we can be hopeful and being back together is imminent.

When we come together to worship, we need to remember that we are also bringing our fears and our dreamings. We may come with the anxiety and stress of the past year but also with the renewed hope of who we are as a community that is able to be together in the same space. We are holding these two things together. Holding fear and dreaming together means that we will need to offer one another a lot of grace and understanding. It might look like reminding others of your name or offering a kind word to someone to wear their mask or asking before you hug or touch someone. Let us offer each other the grace of patience, understanding, and love as we slowly transition to this renewed time.

We know that we are starting out slow, we will begin by wearing masks and not singing together, but this won’t last forever. Over the coming weeks and months we will get back to what, over a year and a half ago, felt very normal. So, during this time of transition, I hope that we all can remember to hold fast to what is most important: we will be together, we will worship, and we will be reminded of God’s presence among us.

Good and gracious God, “Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bones.”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Molly

We Have an App!

Messiah has our very own church app for iOS and Android! Go to <https://tithely.app.link/messiah-lutheran-mqt> to enter your phone number and be directed to downloading it.

A few things to note: 1) you do not need to create an account (just close the login window by clicking the X on the upper right-hand corner). You may create an account if you’d like to, but it is not necessary to access all the information on the app. 2) If you want to donate through the App that’s great! Please know that if you already have online giving setup, you might already have an account and should contact Nancy Hoover to be sure things go smoothly.

We hope that this app is a great one-stop way to see what’s going on at Messiah. Through the app you can see our social media posts (you don’t need a Facebook account to see them!), see worship services (even live ones!), check the calendar, or share prayers with our community. Thanks for giving it a try! If you have questions, please contact the church office and we’ll try our best to answer them.

Vacation Bible School – Compassion Camp

We will hold Vacation Bible School virtually again this year the week of June 28th. Last year we had great participation and even had families across the country get involved. Whether you have kids or are a kid at heart we hope that you will enjoy the videos, projects, movement, and music that will accompany VBS this year. Our theme is *Compassion Camp: Be Kind. Be Loved. Be You.*

Kids and families will explore what it means to have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. While it is geared toward both preschool-aged children and K-5th graders, it is extremely flexible, adaptable, and fun for the entire family, older siblings included. Videos from our volunteers will be released throughout the week of the 28th and resource packets will be mailed to families the week preceding VBS. The videos can be viewed on Messiah’s website: messiahlutheranmqt.org

In The Hospital

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

Messiah Calendar

Monday, June 28

Vacation Bible School (M-F this week)

9:00 am Men's Bible Study

7:00 pm AA

Tuesday, June 29

12:00 pm QiGong

1:00 pm Knotty Knitters

1:30 pm Staff Meeting

Wednesday, June 30

6:30 pm Worship at Presque Isle
Bandshell

Thursday, July 1

9:00 am Quilting

4:00 pm TaiChi (zoom)

Friday, July 2

Nothing Scheduled

Saturday, July 3

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, July 4

8:30 am Worship-inperson/online

10:30 am Worship-inperson/online

Special Events for July & August

July 1 Effective today, Messiah will open for in-person worship

July 3 Saturday worship at 5:00 pm begins

July 4 Sunday worship at 8:30 am & 10:30 am begins

July 10 Norway Grove arrives & stays for a week

July 17 First Communion Class from 10am-12pm

July 19 Carpet cleaning at Messiah

July 20 Carpet cleaning at Messiah

On Call

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

Pr. Molly Eversoll: July 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-31

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our August Messenger is Monday, July 26, 2021.

Messiah's Newsletter

June 27, 2021

Volume 103, Issue 7

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

First Communion Class - Saturday, 7/17, 10am-12pm

We would like to invite you and your child to participate in our First Communion class. First Communion is an important milestone in your child's faith life, and the class provides an opportunity to teach your child about the sacrament of Holy Communion and what it means to our community of faith. We invite parents to determine if their child is ready for this class and welcome children of all ages.

On August 1st, during 10:30 am worship, we will intentionally welcome the class to the Lord's Table to receive Holy Communion for the first time. We are excited to celebrate First Communion with your family!

Please register for this class by contacting the church office (225-1119). If you have any questions about first communion, Pr. Molly or Pr. Andrew would be happy to speak with you.

Worship Volunteers Needed!

We are so excited to return to in-person worship in July! Not only will we get to celebrate together, we also have the opportunity to welcome worshippers and contribute to assisting the pastors in worship. Yes, this means that we need worship volunteers! No previous experience required—we are happy to show you the ropes.

You will find sign-in sheets for all three services (5 pm on Saturday and 8:30 and 10:30 on Sunday) on the welcome table by the church office. Due to re-opening guidelines, the usher duties have changed a little—please talk to Inga in the church office for more details.

The church belongs to the people—we invite you to contribute to our worship life as a community!

Hope Accomplishes the Impossible

This was the theme for our Northern Great Lakes Synod Hunger Team this year, as we struggled to keep the issues around hunger in the forefront for our Synod Assembly. Not having an active "in person" presence, all we could do was HOPE that Messiah could raise as much as we did in 2020 which was roughly \$3,500.

Well - HOPE Does Accomplish What Seems To Be Impossible!!

Messiah sent \$7,206.10 to the Synod Hunger Fund this year. We doubled the amount we raised last year! THANK YOU to all you contributed, and a special thanks to a very generous member who wishes to remain anonymous.

Messiah's Birthdays

July 2021

Thursday 1	Lincoln Gordon
Friday 2	Kathy Bergh, Garrett Crimmins, Bruce Heikkila, Olivia Ruuska, Paula Taylor
Saturday 3	Linda Bullock
Sunday 4	Louise Anderson
Monday 5	Maria Flores, Charlie Ruuska
Tuesday 6	Helen Johnson, Jocelyn Mead
Wednesday 7	Rachel Dodge, Kate Johnson, Sally Olson, Tom Osier
Thursday 8	Paul Finstrom, Sarah Kemppainen, Kelly Mead
Friday 9	Sara Johnson
Saturday 10	Pearl Larson, Jillian Perry
Sunday 11	David Broadway
Monday 12	Alec Beauchamp, Abigail Reynolds
Tuesday 13	Barry Johnson, Brooke LaBelle
Wednesday 14	Jessica Gummerus, Erin Langenberg
Thursday 15	Bennett Gordon, Becky Johnson
Friday 16	Ruth Koehler
Saturday 17	Jesse Elsenbroek
Sunday 18	Kim Alanko, William Hendrick, Paul Marin
Monday 19	Michelle Walters
Tuesday 20	No birthdays
Wednesday 21	Bud Hendrick, Greg Larson, Penny Streeter, Zach Wiese
Thursday 22	Bill Weaver
Friday 23	Eric Wolf
Saturday 24	Bob Sromalski
Sunday 25	Jon Banitt, Jeanne Ruman, Sarah Ruuska
Monday 26	Eric Banitt, Linnea Gustafson
Tuesday 27	Hailey Fezatt

Wednesday 28	Mark Fuller
Thursday 29	Richard Toyra, Dave Winslow
Friday 30	Ernie Johnson, Jerrold Weeks
Saturday 31	Devin Fortin, Ron Strazzinski

Passages

In Sympathy to:

- * Ceil Aikala & family upon the passing of her son, Craig on June 13th.
- * Barry & Ann Johnson & family upon the passing of Barry's aunt, Helen Korpi on June 15th.
- * Jo Skogman & family upon the passing of her husband & former Bishop Dale Skogman on June 16th.

In Celebration of:

- * Messiah's High School graduates: Ashlee Blom, Gibson Korhonen, Alyson LaBelle & Savannah Methner
- * Quinn Tripp's baptism at Clark Lambros Beach on Sunday, June 6th. Quinn is the daughter of Dave & Laura Tripp.
- * Messiah's new members: Dave, Laura, Lydia & Quinn Tripp. Please welcome them to our Messiah family!
- * Hazel Lynn Benam's baptism at Messiah on Sunday, June 13th. Hazel is the daughter of Jason Benam & Kayla Dennis-Benam.

New High School Youth Mentor at Messiah!

Hello, members of Messiah! My name is Hailey Cronenworth and I am a student at Northern Michigan University. This summer and into the upcoming school year, I will be working as a high school youth group mentor here at Messiah. As an education student, working with the high school students of Messiah will not only be a great, hands-on experience for me moving forward in my career, but will provide me with an opportunity to strengthen my personal relationship with God while working with you. For this reason, I'm looking forward to getting to know the high school-aged students of Messiah. Please know that I am here to help, support, and be a friend to all of you. I'm very willing to tailor our future group activities to what appeals to and works best for you, and I'm simply excited to get to know you.

I'm looking forward to working with the high school students, but also look forward to getting to know all of you better. If you ever see me around or see me attending church, please feel free to say hello! I'm very excited to become a part of this congregation.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Jo Skogman & family upon the passing of her husband Dale; Mitchell; Heather; Barry & Ann Johnson & family upon the passing of his aunt, Helen Korpi; Ceil Aikala & family upon the passing of her son Craig Aikala; Grace Wurster, Marjorie Vidlund; Jennifer Letvenow; Pauline Kiltinen; Mike McGrath; Herb & Sandy Grenke; Jean Rahilly; Chris Heiskanen; Roger; Brian; Sigurds Janners; Carol; Chris; Phyllis; Jon; Larry; Lee; Wil; Jamie Baril; Jan Brown; Johnnie; Ray Hasenhauer; John & Rose Collins; Scotti Oja & her family; Jess Laxo & her grandma Betty; Erin Andrews; Tina & her roommate; Ted Koehler; Matthew Williamson; Linda Ruohoniemi; Jim Shirtz; Cheryl; Billi Jo; 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!

Rachel Circle - Baby Care Kits

Rachel Circle will be collecting items in July to go in the Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. To do this, we need your help. These are the items we are in need of:

- lightweight cotton T-shirts (no Onesies) 12-24 months
- long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) 12-24 months
- jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood or include a baby cap
- 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)
- socks
- cloth diapers flat fold preferred

Monetary donations are also welcomed & may be dropped off or mailed to the office. Checks can be made out to Messiah Lutheran Church with *Baby Care Kits- Rachel Circle* noted on your memo line. Rachel Circle appreciates your contributions to this effort. We thank you in advance for your help. There is a collection bin by the office.

Community Assistance Fund Mid-Year Update

Our Community Assistance Program has operated via phone during the pandemic and so far in 2021 we have taken 94 phone appointments and distributed \$7,591.92. A new twist has been the influx of requests for child car seats. The Health Department had a program for new mothers with grant funding for car seats. This grant has now run out, and we are getting these requests, since there is no other agency that deals with this need. Since March, we have purchased 10 infant seats for moms in need. A grant has been written to the Northern Great Lakes Synod requesting extra help to meet this need.

The office staff and volunteers have gone out of their way to be flexible and compassionate during this time. Thanks to all who support this ministry of our church. --- Mary Lou Blomquist, Community Assistance Volunteer

Ashlee Blom - 2021 MSHS Graduate

Congratulations to Messiah member Ashlee Blom on her recent graduation from high school. Ashlee wrote the following about her high school accomplishments & future plans.

During high school, I was on the honor roll every year for each semester of that school year, totaling 8 semesters (2 semesters every year for 4 years) on honor roll. I was also a member of National Honor Society and during my senior year, I was the secretary in the group of executive officers for the Society. During all four years of high school, I played for the high school volleyball team and was on the varsity team my Junior and Senior years. In my junior year, I was awarded Student of the Week after receiving a recommendation from one of my teachers. In the most recent year, my senior year, I received Excellence in Education for being in the top 5% of my graduating class. I also received the Math Department Kaufman award for the high school. I graduated high school with Distinction (4.0-grade point average or above). This summer I will be staying in Marquette as in the Fall I will be attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In college, I plan to study Molecular Biology to prepare for my future in that field of study!

Virtual Worship

Although we are starting in-person worship on Saturday & Sunday, July 3 & 4, we will be streaming our two Sunday services on-line. The 8:30 am worship service will continue on the radio as it always has been.

Messiah's 8:30 am worship will be broadcast on the radio at Sunny 101.9 FM and both Sunday services can be found online at the following sites: Vimeo - vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt and Facebook - www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt

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

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

The New Free Store Donations & Request for Help...

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.

**July - male/female deodorant*

**August - Baby wipes & diapers (size 1-5)*

Here is another way you can support The Free Store:

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!

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 at Messiah.

'Welcome Your Neighbor' Signs

These yard signs are available for purchase in the church office for a suggested donation of \$10.00 to offset the cost. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & Sunday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, feel free to come in & pick one up.

Medication Help Available

If you have questions &/or concerns regarding your medications, you can contact retired pharmacist, Barb Salmela. To get her contact information, please contact the church office. All inquiries are confidential. She can help find discounts for medication, ways to possibly obtain them for free, or suggest less expensive alternatives. Also, if you need assistance signing up for Medicare, please call Barb for an appointment. She would be happy to help you through this process.

Lectionary Readings - July 2021

July 4 -- 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Reading.....Ezekiel 2:1-5

Gospel.....Mark 6:1-13

July 11 -- 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Reading.....Amos 7:7-15

Gospel.....Mark 6:14-29

July 18 -- 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Reading.....Jeremiah 23:1-6

Gospel.....Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25 -- 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Reading.....2 Kings 4:42-44

Gospel.....John 6:1-21

Message from Bishop Eaton

As children of God, we give thanks for all of the LGBTQIA+ people who experience God's calling to the holy work of parenting. In particular response to the June 17 Supreme Court ruling on *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, the ELCA stands with our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ and reaffirms our commitment to equal protection, opportunities and responsibilities under the law.

Children and youth in the child welfare system are among the most vulnerable members of our society, and a disproportionate number of young people in the child welfare system are LGBTQIA+ and in need of compassionate and supportive homes. Our concern as disciples of Christ is for their best interests. This includes recognizing and affirming the vocation of LGBTQIA+ people as parents and foster parents.

Each of us can respond through ongoing education and action in support of LGBTQIA+ people, including those who are called to provide loving care for children, and through compassionate care for our most vulnerable children and youth.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bread for the World

As you are enjoying a summer's day please take time to write our members of Congress about hunger and racial justice. If you are not sure of what to say you can go to <bread.org/ol> for videos, hunger facts, prayers or other resources to learn more. This year's "Offering of Letters" will focus on extending the increase in SNAP benefits, the expansion of the Child Tax Credit and the 2022 budget global nutrition funding item.

You can use examples from our area citing the many families who for the first time have asked Messiah for help or have received boxes of food from a distribution center. Please check on the information and write your letters.

If you visit Washington, make an appointment to visit & advocate in person. Make your opinion known... E-mail. Phone. Mail.

Send a letter to:

Senator Gary Peters

U.S. Senate
724 Hart Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Debbie Stabenow

U.S. Senate
731 Hart Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Jack Bergman

US. House of Representatives
566 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Zoom Qi Gong for Health & Wellness

- *It's often an effort to keep moving as we age. Our health tosses in so many road-blocks, increasingly.*
- *It was so much easier in our youth: Hop up and go and the body responded.*
- *It does keep our mind active to continually adjust to circumstances and find our way through.*
- *Wherever you are in this journey, wishing you blessings.*

Zoom Qi Gong is held on Tuesdays from 12:00 - 1:00 pm. It is lead by Diana Magnuson (906-362-9386 or magnusondiana@gmail.com)

Each class member applies their own range of motion to the qigong exercises, standing or chair. 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. Instead of a fee, we invite you to make a contribution to Messiah Lutheran Church's food bank at any time as a sign of thanksgiving.

UP Wild.org

Kids Foraging Adventure

Saturday, July 17 / 10:30 am / in-person

We will guide our little ones on a mini foraging adventure looking for 3-4 different plants that are native to our area and edible/medicinal. Kids will be given a little adventurer booklet to identify plants and mark which ones they find. We will be guided by a mother of three who is excited to share with others her love of and wonder for the plants we often overlook in our own backyard. How is the mystery of God in the seeds that take no effort to cultivate by human hands? Which Saints also loved our little finds? Donations of \$10 appreciated to cover costs. Email lanni@upwild.org to register. Gathering @ Lakeneland. For children and families.

Prayer 'Sit in' on Lake Superior Shoreline

Thursday, July 22 / 8:00 pm / in-person + FB LIVE

We are organizing groups of people interested in mobile prayer stations that will go out to places in need of prayer or healing. This month's location will be Little Presque Isle and our prayer focus will be protecting the sacredness of water and our Great Lakes Watershed from shoreline industrialization. If you'd like to be included in this monthly group please contact us (for more information, email lanni@upwild.org).

Nature Prayer Service

Sunday, July 25 / time TBA / in-person

Our nature prayer services take place EVERY LAST Sunday of each month beginning in July and are always located at Presque Isle. Easy to access with restrooms available. We gather for an opening reflection on a revolving topic, a couple poems are read by our members, we offer prayers collectively, allow for solo time to explore nature and end in community discussion & snacks. Donations for our ministry will be collected. All are welcome including children.

Thank you Messiah!

Hello! I've walked with God all my 83 years. He's answered my prayer, how will I pay for my big water bill? I truly & really appreciate your help. May God bless all. Joanne

Part of an email response from another recipient... "Wow such great news right at the start of the day!! Positive choices are always beneficial. My son just turned a year . He normally has a high body temp. Plus those few really hot days upstairs apt and no a/c he got that heat rash... i felt awful seeing him suffer thru the day and unable to do more. " Another part of an email response from same recipient... "Know you have helped our little family more than u may think. i hid my tears. Its people like you guys that make dreams come true. so grateful. if i can return the favor in any way please dont hesitate to ask. Elliott says thank you for making his days cooler." Jessica

July 2021 Worship Volunteers

Saturday July 3 - 5 pm

Ushers- Barb Salmela, Billie Johnson
Assisting Minister- Chris Kotila

Sunday July 4 - 8:30 am

Ushers- Dave Blomquist, Mike and Emily Coyne
Reader-Fred Maynard
Assisting Minister-Mary Lou Blomquist

Sunday July 4 - 10:30 am

Ushers-Dave Luoma, Jon Banitt, one needed
Reader-Jill Luoma
Assisting Minister-Anna Zimmer

Saturday July 10 - 5 pm

Ushers- Chris Kotila, Clare Sauer
Assisting Minister-Diana Peterson

Sunday July 11 - 8:30 am

Ushers-Ray Jarvis, Cathy Seblonka, Grant Soltwisch
Reader-Kathy Soltwisch
Assisting Minister-one needed

Sunday July 11 - 10:30 am

Ushers-Ruth Robb, two needed
Reader-Erik Bergh
Assisting Minister-Molly Smith

Saturday July 17 - 5 pm

Ushers-Beth Wendricks, Barb Maszlewski
Assisting Minister-Karen Kimar-Johnson

Sunday July 18- 8:30 am

Ushers-Penny Streeter, Linda Berry, Mark Petrie
Reader-Terry Langenberg
Assisting Minister-Darley Kemppainen

Sunday July 18 - 10:30 am

Ushers-Jean Arntsen, two needed
Reader-one needed
Assisting Minister-Ruth Robb

Saturday July 24 - 5 pm

Ushers- two needed
Assisting Minister-one needed

Sunday July 25 - 8:30 am

Ushers-Barb Avery, two needed
Reader-one needed
Assisting Minister-one needed

Sunday July 25 - 10:30 am

Ushers-three needed
Reader-Renee Jewett
Assisting Minister-one needed

Saturday July 31 - 5 pm

Ushers-two needed
Assisting Minister-one needed

Quilts on Display

The Messiah Quilters have again been invited to display some of our LWR Quilts in the atrium of the Marquette Medical Center. The five quilts we've selected range from our prettiest to one that simply answers the question "Will it keep someone warm?". They will be up for most of July so take a moment to view them.

So far this year we have assembled 140 quilts but could not have made them without help from you. Thank you for the sheets, fabric, finished tops or abandon starts that provide material. Thank you also for the money to purchase rolls of fillers, thread, and to cover shipping costs. We are meeting on most Thursdays in Magnuson Hall from 9:00 am-3:00 pm and welcome more hands to help.

--- Judy Quirk, Volunteer Quilter

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.

From Bishop Finegan

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod, As I write this, it is not even 48 hours since our week of Synod Assembly concluded.

I do believe the experience of Synod Assembly this year was uneven for many people. For those who received prompt answers to technology questions, for those who voted without incident, for those who simply accessed the YouTube feed and listened to workshops and business, I do believe this was, overall, a very positive experience for you.

However, I am also well aware of a certain level of frustration for those who waited on the phone for answers, got disconnected, who didn't know what a web browser was much less how to click on it, who had trouble with the web portal and impatient with the voting glitches, you will join me in being happy if we never have synod assembly this way again.

Please trust that the goal was not to add to the frustration of days that are already full of reasons to feel weary. That just happened by accident. I hope that we have all increased our knowledge and understanding of technology and the communication required to fine tune the details.

Despite the challenges, we did manage to accomplish some things worth celebrating and we have learnings that will definitely be applied to future efforts.

We passed, by a significant majority, the resolution to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, thereby adding our NGLS name to the other 17 synods who have done this work. It is an excellent beginning, as the Task Force is already thinking of ways to lead our synod into more meaningful ways of being good neighbors.

I wish to commend the Doctrine of Discovery Task Force for their creative and tireless efforts to educate our synod on what the doctrine is, what it has meant, and why repudiation was the right thing to do. From Lifelong Faith Formation classes, to workshops, to video communications, their work was inspired and inspiring.

Thank you to:

- Jeff Henquinet-Good Shepherd, Houghton
- Pastor Melinda VanderSys-Our Redeemer & First, Presbyterian, Newberry
- Pastor Julie Belew- Holy Cross, Baraga
- Pastor Bucky Beach- Good Shepherd, Houghton & Lutheran Campus Ministry of MTU
- Pastor Scott Ehle of Bethel, Menominee
- Retired Pastor Dave VanKley
- Staff Liaison, Pastor Jim Duehring

The World Hunger Committee celebrated the winners of the Big Bear Awards and the Bread Basket Awards. The Big Bear Award is given to a group that has made an exemplary effort in the area of hunger ministry.

Congratulations to our Big Bear Award Winners:

- Board of Outreach at Faith, Three Lakes
- The Garden Crew at Calvary, Minocqua

The Bread Basket Award is given to individuals who give an exemplary effort to address issues of hunger and poverty. We congratulate this year's winners:

- Ron Schickowski of Pioneer Lake, Conover
- Elizabeth Beyne of Messiah, Marquette

Thank you both for your inspiring example of compassionate commitment and generosity with your time and energy.

We celebrated the installations of Pastor Grant Van Lishout and Deacon Lori Ward. Pastor Van Lishout will serve with our ministry partner, Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center and Deacon Ward will serve as our NGL Synod Missioner for Lifelong Faith Formation and LLM evaluation administrator. Livestreamed through YouTube and Facebook, we enjoyed a lovely worship service complete with "All Creation Sings" liturgy, hymns led by the music team of Messiah, Marquette, a choral anthem offered by Ascension, Minocqua, and preaching by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

We had a week of communications, workshops, Prayfaithfully video devotions, and more. The online workshops are something we will definitely do again as more than 400 participants were able to learn together through technology from every corner, hamlet, shoreline, and woodland copse in our synod territory. Special thanks to our pastors and deacon who contributed to the special devotions on Hope that week. Despite the challenges, we managed to update and amend our Synod Constitution, lift up the creativity of our congregations as ministry efforts have pivoted, and celebrate that the work of Christ in and through the Church has continued, unabated.

And most of all, we embraced HOPE. From scripture readings to the word proclaimed, from hymns sung to anthems heard, from the images of ministry in action that flashed across our screens to the plans for future gatherings, we embodied that we are people of hope; hope in the future God has prepared, hope in the plans that God has for us, hope that pandemic challenges will give way to creative solutions and making the most of unexpected opportunities – we hope together.

I hope to see you this fall at a Walking Together event near you. I hope you are able to join a Lifelong Faith Formation class. I hope to read about this assembly in your congregational newsletter. I hope that you are reminded, once again, that as a synod of congregations, we are in this work together, walking alongside each other and the presence of Christ who walks with us. It is a joy and a privilege to be in partnership with you!

Thank you for a great Synod Assembly week!

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Messiah's Church Staff:

Pastoral Staff:

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

Support Staff:

Parish Administrator.....Jennifer Dodge
Administrative Assistant.....Inga Banitt
Custodian.....Kevin McGrath
Parish Accountant.....Mike Hill
Financial Secretary.....Nancy Hoover

Music Staff:

Music Director.....Dave Dugemais
Organist/Pianist.....Kathy Strazzinski
Pianist.....Lynne Lancy
Bell Choir Director.....Judy Quirk

Messiah Lutheran Church
305 W. Magnetic Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 62
Marquette, MI