

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for September 1, 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!



From Pastor Andrew

Siblings in Christ,

As the author of Ecclesiastes once wrote, “to everything there is a season,” and, as the saying goes, “the only constant is change.”

It has been one of the most difficult and strange years that most of us can remember. We have woven in and out of restrictions, isolation, and modified working/schooling conditions. We've

been online and in person, masked and unmasked, and are still navigating safety and comfort. What started in March of 2020 continues to challenge our community, our nation, and our world.

As I write to you, we arrive at the threshold of Autumn and the start of the school year. It is a time when we normally celebrate the return of rhythms. Time away becomes time at home, summer camps are exchanged for classes, and the hodge-podge schedules of summer become more metered days.

Traditionally Messiah celebrates rally day – a sort of homecoming – as the fall begins, and so we do so again this year. On September 12th we will gather for our rescheduled annual meeting and then adjourn to the parking lot for food and fellowship. The meeting will begin at 11:30 and we hope to be done by noon. Please mark your calendars and join us if you are able! As we celebrate the “return” to church in this tumultuous time, I am mindful of the change that is coming to Anna and my lives very soon. Our first child is due on September 19th and we are excited as that date draws near. Please know that Anna and the baby (a boy) are doing well, and we appreciate your prayers of support. It was a long journey for us leading to this pregnancy and we are in awe of the miracle of life. We are also mindful that the challenges of fertility and pregnancy are not unique to us. If you have struggled with fertility, please know that you are not alone.

While Anna and I couldn't have imagined welcoming a child during a pandemic – here we are. Ecclesiastes was right that there is a season for everything, whether we know it or not.

In this season of life for Anna and me, we ask your grace and space as we learn to be a new family together. We will share the news of a birth as swiftly and widely as we can among the Messiah community. I will be on paternity leave full-time for 6 weeks beginning when the baby arrives (or Sept. 19th), whichever comes first. I'll then be back part-time for 4 weeks before returning to my normal full-time role. I am incredibly grateful for our synod's recommended family leave, for the generosity of our Council, and for our staff in making this possible. I'm especially thankful for Pr. Molly's presence and skillful ministry while I will be away.

If you are interested in supporting our family during this transition, please contact the church office and they can give you some guidance. Once Anna and I are comfortable doing so (which is a difficult question in a pandemic), we look forward to introducing our son to all of you.

Indeed, I'm delighted that he'll have such an amazing extended family!

In closing, my prayer for you these days is one I hold for myself. It is one that is expressed beautifully in Mary Oliver's poem “Don't Hesitate”:

“If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's

often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb."

blessings,

Pr. Andrew

Annual Congregational Meeting - September 12

Our **rescheduled Congregational Meeting** will be held on **September 12th at 11:30 am in the sanctuary**. Items of business include the approval of the budget and elections (Council, committee members, delegates). All members are encouraged to come and participate. We hope to see you there!

Rally Day! - September 12

We haven't had a church picnic in 2 years, so this is BIG! Join us on September 12th at noon for our Rally Day picnic. There will be food, activities, and the opportunity to socialize and catch up with one another as we begin our Fall rhythms here at Messiah!

Rally Day - Help with Lifting/Loading

We are in need of volunteers to help lift and carry tables and chairs on Sunday morning (9/12) before and after our Rally Day picnic. As the date nears, we can pinpoint the time this will happen based on who can help when. Please consider this and know that you will have a fantastic hot dog lunch with delicious sides as well as ice cream at the end! A local Boy Scout troop will be putting up canopy covers for some of the tables.

If you are able to help with setting up and taking down tables and chairs, please contact the church office at 225-1119 or office@messiahlutheranmqt.org Thank you!

Thank You, Linda!

Messiah member Linda Berry volunteered at HarborFest the weekend of August 27 and 28; and by doing so she helped Messiah get a \$1500 grant from the Marquette West Rotary. This money will be used for car seats distributed through Messiah's financial assistance program. Thank you, Linda!

Produce Swap at Messiah

It's that time of year where all of our gardeners share the bounty of their gardens with friends and neighbors. During the next few weeks, we are setting up a table at Messiah where people

can bring their produce to share, or to take some produce home with them. We are looking forward to “sharing the harvest” with the Messiah community.

Ingathering for Lutheran World Relief at Messiah

This year our ingathering of quilts, school kits, personal care kits, and baby care kits for Lutheran World Relief will be held at Messiah on Saturday October 2 from 9 am to 1 pm. Churches from the central and western UP will be unloading their items for storage in Messiah’s education wing; and early the following week Messiah volunteers will be loading everything on a U-Haul for transport to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul. Please watch for a volunteer sign-up sheet on the welcome table in the next few weeks. Volunteers will be needed on October 2 as well as the following week (the date of the U-Haul loading will be determined soon).

If you would like to contribute to the cost of the U-Haul and gasoline expense, please send a check with a notation of LWR U-Haul in the memo line.

We greatly appreciate the faithful work of our Messiah quilters and our Women of the ELCA circles who work to get quilts made and kits assembled. We also thank Les Scheuren who will be transporting all of these items to St. Paul.

Messiah Church Directory Updates

It is time to update and print a new church directory for the 2021-22 academic year. If your address or phone number have changed, please contact the church office office@messiahlutheranmqt.org, or note the changes on the print-out on the welcome table by the church office. We’d appreciate receiving these changes by Labor Day weekend September 5. Thank you!

Worship Volunteers/Flower Deliverers Needed

Now that we are worshipping together in the sanctuary, we are in need of people to volunteer in worship. Please consider some of the worship volunteer roles: greeter, usher, reader, communion assistant, or assisting minister.

After the 10:30 service, a volunteer delivers the altar flowers to people who are homebound or in the hospital or in nursing homes, or to people who are celebrating anniversaries or birthdays. If you haven't volunteered for this job before, it's a fun way to connect with people--and who doesn't enjoy receiving a beautiful bouquet?

Please contact Inga in the church office if you can help in any way or if you’d like to know more about what each job involves. The church belongs to the people—we invite you to contribute to our worship life as a community!

CROP Walk 2021! - Messiah Liaison

The 2021 CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 10th. Currently we are in need of a CROP Walk liaison for Messiah. This volunteer position isn't too time intensive. You would get the packet of information for the walk, explain the CROP Walk to others in our congregation who inquire about it, and hand out envelopes for those interested in walking to raise funds for local hunger. After the walk you would collect all walkers' funds and turn them in to the First Presbyterian Church. If you choose, you can coordinate a group from Messiah to walk together to help fight hunger. If you are interested in being Messiah's liaison for the CROP Walk please contact the church office (225-1119 or office@messiahlutheranmqt.org).

25% of funds raised this year for CROP walk will stay local and be split between St. Vincent de Paul & NMU's food bank.

If you are interested in giving towards the CROP Walk this year, please make your check payable to: CWS/CROP. All checks need to be turned in to Messiah's office by Tuesday, October 12th. Thank you all for your support.

BLESSING THE TREES Saturday Mornings September 4th & 11th 9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Meet at Messiah's Parking Lot at 8:45 A.M. Leaving for Big Bay where we will stop for a brief orientation at the Community Presbyterian Church, then on to our planting of 250 trees on each of two consecutive days. All are welcome. This is not a typical commercial-like tree planting event. Each seedling is placed into the ground with prayer. Many of them will be accompanied by a specific name in memory of a loved one.

This is an opportunity to make a difference. Gently. With an investment in protecting our environment for future generations. Volunteers, young and old, from Wild Church and the Yellow Dog Community Forest will be with us. Rain or shine!

If you wish to help us or for more information call Ken Kelley 906-869-1911. Donations for trees are always welcome at \$5 per tree. Please list a name for whom you wish the tree to be planted along with your contribution so prayers will be lifted up accordingly. Donations can be dropped

off to the Messiah Lutheran Church office; Checks can be made out to the Cedar Tree Institute or you can make a donation via the CTI website at cedartreeinsittute.org. via the Donate Button on the home page.

Martin Luther said it best 400 years ago. "If I know the world would end tomorrow, I would plant a tree!" He believed no matter what happens, love wins.

--Jon Magnuson

Synod Lifelong Learning

The Northern Great Lakes Synod offers a diverse series of online classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, contemporary Christian issues, and more. Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation, evolved from the synod's Lay School for Mission.

Lifelong Faith Formation is not driven by an end result, such as graduation from a program. It is not a certification program to become a Licensed Lay Minister. It may play a role in an individual's discernment to participate in a higher accountability program through a neighboring synod (East Central Synod of Wisconsin or Northwest Synod of Wisconsin) or lead to seminary.

If you are interested in becoming a Licensed Lay Minister, please read this article

<https://nglsynod.org/dataarchive/ngls/pdf2017/LaySchoolLetter.pdf>

and contact Bishop Katherine Finegan.

Mostly, Lifelong Faith Formation is designed for curious adults who want to engage more deeply with the Bible, to learn more about church traditions, to become better equipped to serve the work of Christ in their congregations and to grow in spirituality and faith.

While pandemic restrictions have eased, these are still uncertain times. The Synod will continue to offer online classes this fall. **Two special notes:** First, some people may meet as a group out of their own congregations. Second, last year we realized that online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod—people who share a love of learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith. Classes are FREE but may require the purchase of textbooks or other materials. Students will receive Zoom links from their instructor. For more information or to ask questions, please contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

For details about fall classes and to register, go to

<https://nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation/?swcfpc=1>

Update on the Family Messiah is Accompanying Through the Asylum Process

Glenda, Romel, and Fernando arrived safely on August 9th and have experienced a whirlwind of activities since their arrival. They have been very grateful for the hospitality that they have

received both at church and in the community. They express that gratitude frequently and are very happy to have arrived in Marquette. Thank you for being such a welcoming community! Much is being accomplished regarding medical and dental care, educational pursuits, and moving forward through the legal process which anyone seeking asylum needs to accomplish. Thanks to all who have graciously greeted and welcomed them and offered support in any way. There is a volunteer sheet available to be filled out if you would like to offer assistance with transportation, (including rides to church), shopping, etc. There is also a Task Force Volunteer Agreement which needs to be signed before participating in any volunteer activities with the family. You can get these forms at the church office.

Please be respectful of the family's privacy and refrain from asking personal questions regarding their journey from Honduras. On the other hand, if you have signed up to volunteer in any way, feel free to help them get to know you and our city! Those of us who have had the privilege of interacting with this wonderful family have been impressed by their positive attitudes, eagerness to learn English, and willingness to participate in many different activities. Spanish translators are available to accompany you on an outing with the family. Simply call Inga in the church office and she will arrange a translator for you.

The New Free Store Donations

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.

**September - Feminine pads & tampons*

**October - Hand Sanitizer & Toilet paper (4 or 6 rolls/pack)*

Passages

In Sympathy to:

- * Lowell & Pearl Larson & family upon the passing of Pearl's brother Wesley Maki.
- * Jeff & Sally Olson & family upon the passing of Jeff's father Sigward Olson.
- * Jason & Jen Elsenbroek & family upon the passing of Jason's father Jim Elsenbroek.

In Celebration of:

- * Hal Martin becoming an Associate Member of Messiah. Please welcome him when you see him at worship. He normally attends our 10:30 am service.
-

Livestream Sponsorship

We are adding another weekly sponsorship item for you to consider. Along with sponsoring the Altar Flowers or the Radio Broadcast, we are adding Livestream. If you would like to sponsor our livestream on any given Sunday, contact the office at 225-1119 or office@messaihlutheanmqt.org. The cost of the Livestream sponsorship is \$110.

Similar to Altar Flowers and Radio Broadcast, you can sponsor the Livestream in Memory or in Honor of a loved one. Thank you!

LWR School Kits

Messiah's Women Reaching Women Circle will be gathering school supplies for LWR School Kits in September. Please consider donating the following items for the kits, which will be sent to students in need in the US and around the world. A bin is available in the narthex for this collection. Thank you!

LWR School Kits - Items needed

- 70-sheet spiral notebooks, wide- or college-ruled
 - 30 cm ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
 - pencil sharpeners
 - Fiskar-type children's scissors
 - box of 16 or 24 crayons
 - Pink Pearl-type erasers
 - ballpoint pens, blue or black ink (No gel ink)
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Prayer Partners

Prayer Partners will meet for the first time on Sunday, October 24th at 9:45 am in Magnuson Hall. There are sign-up sheets on the welcome table near the office for children & adults. Participating children can be between the age of five & 5th grade. It is an opportunity for the children to meet an adult that works with them. The sign-up sheets must be turned into the church office by Sunday, September 26th. If you have any questions, you can email Sherry at sherrymj2@yahoo.com. Thank you.

--Sherry Johnson, Prayer Partner Coordinator

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meets the second Thursday of each month from 5:30-7:00 pm during the academic year (Sept-May). Join to rejoice and discuss the journey of motherhood. We welcome all mothers of preschool - Kindergarten aged children. We are

always looking for volunteers who would like to help with childcare or be a mentor mom. Visit our Facebook page Marquette Area MOPS or call Olivia 906-360-8466.

Volunteer Training for Room at the Inn

Are you interested in helping out at Room at the Inn? While we are no longer hosting overnight guests, there are still many ways that you can be involved. You're invited to a training at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church (401 W Kaye Ave) on September 7th from 6:00 -7:00 pm. Trainings will be offered the first Tuesday of every month at St. Michaels. For more information about volunteering, visit the Room at the Inn website: roomattheinn.org/volunteer

Council Highlights - August 2021

Messiah's August Council meeting was canceled due to a quorum not being met. It has been postponed/rescheduled for Thursday, September 9th at 6:30 pm.

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.

Special Events for August and September

September 6 Church office closed for Labor Day
September 12 Annual Meeting for 2020 at 11:30 am
September 12 Rally Day Picnic at 12:00 pm
September 19 Sunday School starts
September 26 Bible Sunday for 3-year-olds, 3rd graders & 6th graders
October 2 LWR In-Gathering, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
October 2 Blessing of the Pets at 4:30 pm (5:00 pm worship to follow)
October 10 CROP Walk, 2:00 pm at Hope Connection Center (Fair Ave.)

Zoom Qi Gong for Health & Wellness

It's often an effort to keep moving as we age. Our health tosses in so many roadblocks, 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 led 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.

In the Hospital

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

In Our Prayers

Phil & Nancy Hoover upon the passing of Nancy's sister in law Kris Newmann; Mary Leslie; Carol Steinhaus; Dick Toyra; Shawn; Owen, Becky & Joe; Ed Puska, Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Martha; Ann Lahti; Grace Wurster; Marjorie Vidlund; Mike McGrath; Jean Rahilly; Chris Heiskanen; Brian; Sigurds Janners; Chris; Phyllis; Jon; Larry Pagel; Lee; Wil; Jamie Baril; Johnnie; Ray Hasenhauer; Erin Andrews; Tina & her roommate; Matthew Williamson; Linda Ruohoniemi; Jim Shirtz; Cheryl; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Karen Johnson; Jill Krah; Michael Orhanen; Kristina Asta; 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 September 1-8.

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 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading.....*Isaiah 35:4-7a*

Gospel Reading.....*Mark 7:24-37*

Worship Volunteers

Saturday September 4 – 5:00 pm in sanctuary

Ushers: Billie Johnson, Diana Peterson

Assisting Minister: Kathy Godec

Sunday September 5 – 8:30 am in sanctuary and on 101.9 FM, Vimeo and Facebook

Ushers: Sam Elder, Bruce Robertson

Reader: Brenda Blett

Communion Assistants: Beth Krznarich, Larry Pagel, Kathy Maynard

Greeters: Beth Krznarich, Pat Nebel

Assisting Minister: Mary Lou Blomquist

Sunday September 5 –10:30 am in sanctuary and on Vimeo and Facebook

Ushers: Nancy Raisanen, one needed

Reader: one needed

Communion Assistants: Ruth Robb

Greeters: Kurt Mensching

Assisting Minister: Susan Shaver

Announcements and Classified Ads

Do you have an announcement?

Send announcements and ads to Inga Banitt (inga@messiahlutheranmgt.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