

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# MESSENGER

[WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG](http://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](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org) E-mail: [office@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmqt.org)

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



October 3, 2021

## 19th Sunday after Pentecost

**Flowers:** To the Glory of God & In Loving Memory of...

\* My parents on their anniversary from Mark Paulsen

**Radio:** To the Glory of God...

\* from our Messiah family

**Livestream:** To the Glory of God & in Memory of...

\* Our parents from Bill Angeloff & Karen Goins

Dear People of God,

Over the past couple weeks, I have used the phrase 'holding our plans loosely' an excessive number of times. I feel like the minute I plan anything, something happens, and I have to make a second, third, and sometimes fourth plan. As we are moving into the fall, I know that we were hopeful that things would be getting back on track and to that normal that we knew many, many months ago. I don't have to reiterate what we're going through; you know it well. I do have to constantly remind myself to hold my plans loosely in the midst of the uncertainty. I don't know if anything in life, including plans that were made in the time before COVID, were ever certain but these times have made life's uncertainty all the clearer. That uncertainty makes it clearer that we must be grateful for each moment we have.

I have been thinking about the book of James lately, since it has been popping up in the lectionary. In chapter 4 verses 14-16, we hear "Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that.'" These are powerful words, and I cannot say that I am always fond of hearing them. I want to make plans and I want my plans to happen! I am not pleased when I have to make second, third, and fourth plans.

If making plans and never getting to see them to fruition has been a real pain for you as well, I have a few thoughts on it. First, remember that it is okay to grieve for plans that don't happen. It's frustrating, it's annoying, and sometimes it is just depressing when things don't happen in the way we had hoped. Second, the other phrase that has been used profusely in my grammar these days is, God willing, of which we hear a version in the James passage. Often, this can be used to attribute every little thing to God. While I do not think of God as a puppet master controlling every detail of our lives,

in the bigger picture I think this phrase is helpful. It helps us remember that nothing is certain, but that we are all held in God's larger plan. God's larger plan is simply this: to have life abundant.

The tapestry of an abundant life is full of ups and downs. It is full of disappointments and joys. It is full of days where we have everything figured out and days where we want to burrow under the covers and not make one more decision. So, if we aren't sure what to do next, or if we are looking for the second or third plan, remember there is always room in this abundant life to make plans that are held loosely but God willing, above all, live in the gratitude of this moment of your life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Molly

## Fall Youth Plans

- **Confirmation Sunday:** Several of our confirmation students will be confirmed on Reformation Day, Sunday, October 31st. We are excited to celebrate their faith journey as they continue their commitment to the church and this community. Please join them at the 10:30 service and congratulate them!
- **High School Youth Group:** High Schoolers will begin meeting on Sunday, October 3rd after the 10:30 service. They will have a time for socialization and community led by Maddy Dettloff.
- **Confirmation Retreat:** Our first retreat for the year is planned for the first weekend in November, the 5th – 7th at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Over the weekend we will explore what it means to be Christian community together. The current plan is to leave from the church parking lot at 4:30 pm on Friday and return on Sunday afternoon between 3:00 and 4:00 pm. There will be lots of time for learning, socializing, and some free time for homework and relaxing over the weekend. All food and costs for this retreat are provided by the church.

This is a plan we are especially holding loosely as COVID numbers rise in the area and we do not yet know what restrictions will be in place during the time of this gathering. Our priority is to ensure that students are safe and that we don't risk exposure or spread of COVID. A plan B may involve us spending just Friday evening and Saturday during the day at the church.

Please let Pastor Molly know if you/your student will be attending by October 15th. She will also let families know by that date where the retreat will be held.

## Luty Reception

Molly and Stephen Luty will be celebrating their recent wedding locally on October 9th at Messiah in the fellowship hall from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Come join us to celebrate the newly married couple!

# Messiah Calendar

## Monday, October 4

9:00 am Men's Bible Study  
7:00 pm AA

## Tuesday, October 5

12:00 pm QiGong-zoom  
1:00 pm Knotty Knitters  
1:30 pm Staff Meeting  
7:00 pm Male Chorus

## Wednesday, October 6

3:00 pm Workshop for Church Musicians  
5:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts

## Thursday, October 7

9:00 am Quilting  
10:30 am Koinonia Bible Study  
4:00 pm Asylum Task Force  
5:00 pm Building & Grounds

## Friday, October 8

Nothing Scheduled

## Saturday, October 9

3:00 pm Luty Reception  
5:00 pm Worship

## Sunday, October 10

8:00 am Senior Choir Rehearsal  
8:30 am Worship  
10:30 am Worship  
1:30 pm CROP Walk Registration  
2:00 pm CROP Walk

# Special Events for October & November

October 2 LWR Ingathering, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
October 2 Blessing of the Pets at 4:30 pm (5:00 pm worship to follow)  
October 9 Stephen & Molly Luty Reception  
October 10 CROP Walk, 2:00 pm at Hope Connecton Center (Fair Ave.)  
October 16/17 Stewardship weekend  
October 24 Prayer Partners at 9:45 am in Magnuson Hall  
November 6/7 All Saints Worship  
November 25 Thanksgiving Day - church office closed

# Sunday School

Sunday School is off and running! We have had two Sunday School class meetings so far and they went well. We had eight students in our preschool & kindergarten class and seven students in our first through fifth grade class. While we always welcome anyone who would like to join us, it was special to work with a smaller group of students. This year, we are using a new curriculum called Mini Revolutions. Compared to the Spark curriculum we have previously used, this curriculum is more easily adaptable to having different age groups in one class.

If you have not registered for Sunday School, please do so! Go to the Messiah website, [messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://messiahlutheranmqt.org), go to the "ministries" tab, then click "children, young adult and family." Scroll down to "Sunday School" and click the button, which will take you to a Google Form to fill out. Please do this so that I have your email to keep you informed of Sunday School events and reminders. It is also good to have your student's emergency information on hand. As a reminder, I am seeking one more teacher for our first through fifth grade class as well as any additional substitute teachers to add to my list. If you are interested in teaching first through fifth grade or in being available to substitute teach in either classroom, please email me at [miss.grace.gronowski@gmail.com](mailto:miss.grace.gronowski@gmail.com) or contact the church office.

- - - Grace Gronowski, Sunday School Coordinator

# In The Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. 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.

# '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 & Sunday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. Feel free to come in & pick one up for your yard.

## On Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: on paternity leave  
Pr. Molly Eversoll: October 1-31

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our November newsletter is Monday, October 25, 2021.

## Messiah's Newsletter

October 3, 2021  
Volume 103, Issue 10

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

# Northern Great Lakes World Hunger Quilt on Display

The World Hunger quilt created in 2018 for our synod Hunger Drive will be on display in the atrium of the Marquette Medical Center in the month of October. Our theme that year was, "ALL IN FOR WORLD HUNGER", and the quilt represents the work of all 82 congregations in the synod. The design was created by Jackie Lehto, a professional quilter and member of Bethlehem Lutheran in Florence, Wisconsin. The back of each of the pieces tells which congregation contributed that square. It was a lot of work - and one of our most successful synod World Hunger fundraisers.

Stop to see the display anytime in October. The quilt wall is near the Starbucks Coffee Shop.

# Messiah's Birthdays

## October 2021

Friday 1	Linda Savage, Pat Vacilek
Saturday 2	Shane Parks, Paul Wainio
Sunday 3	Sarah Zeller
Monday 4	Janelle Carroll, Joan Tasson
Tuesday 5	Patty Ryan, Esme Ulland-Joy
Wednesday 6	Al Edgar, Candace LeDuc
Thursday 7	Karen Bergh, Lois Raikko
Friday 8	Dave Echelbarger, Jackie Greising, Milton Soderberg, Sydney Voskuhl
Saturday 9	Carol Ontto, Craig Teed
Sunday 10	Jim McVannel, Julie Mingay
Monday 11	Tanya Jennings
Tuesday 12	Phyllis Maki
Wednesday 13	Jen Elsenbroek, Erynn Messana, Tom Moyle, Brianna Weir
Thursday 14	Glenn Beckman, Mark Bergh, Jason Peterson, Steve Schinella
Friday 15	Caleb Beerman
Saturday 16	No birthdays
Sunday 17	Dawn McAuliffe
Monday 18	No birthdays
Tuesday 19	Jaime Aho, Philip Andersen
Wednesday 20	Maija Maki-Warne, Diana Peterson
Thursday 21	Debra Abraham, Cecelia Fuller, Cindy Kotila, Todd Leigh, Joe MacPhee, Cheryl Mayer, Joan Myefski, Ron Tervo
Friday 22	Bob Groleau, Sandy MacPhee
Saturday 23	No birthdays
Sunday 24	Linda Winslow
Monday 25	Aubrey Muscoe
Tuesday 26	Reid Kloet

Wednesday 27	Jamie Beauchaine, Jim Lahti
Thursday 28	Marsha Lucas
Friday 29	Jacob Larson, Andrew Peterson, Jon Ruuska
Saturday 30	Michelle Sellers
Sunday 31	Karen Kimar-Johnson

## Passages

### In Sympathy to:

- \* The family of Sharon Brownell who passed away on August 11th. She was the daughter of the late Everett & Brenda Setter.
- \* Cookie Aho & family for the loss of her sister Marilyn Pfeifer, who died of Covid in the Detroit area on September 5th.
- \* Bill & Mary Davis & family for the loss of their daughter Liz Kro, who passed away on September 10th.
- \* Maggie Lindholm, Jon & Sarah Ruuska and family upon the loss of Maggie's husband & Sarah's father John, who passed away on September 11th.

### In Celebration of:

- \* the baptism of Angie & Emma LeDuc at Messiah on September 12th.
- \* the birth of Theo Ashby Zimmer on September 14th. Mom, Dad & Theo are all doing well!
- \* the children who received their Bibles this fall: 3 year olds, 3rd graders & 6th graders.

## 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.

## Prayer Partners

Prayer Partners will meet for the first time on Sunday, October 24th at 9:45 am in Magnuson Hall. If you or your children haven't signed up yet, please do so soon. Participating children can be between the ages of five & 5th grade. It is an opportunity for the children to meet an adult whom they get to know better throughout the school year. If you have any questions, you can email Sherry at sherrymj2@yahoo.com. Thank you. --- *Sherry Johnson, Prayer Partner Coordinator*

## Border Trip 2022

Messiah, alongside Northern Campus Ministry, will be embarking on another border trip through Border Servant Corps in the early spring of 2022. This trip will be held from Saturday, February 26th through Friday, March 4th. It is a learning trip where we will visit the border places of Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX. It is a time to listen, learn, and reflect on stories and experiences at the border. A few things to expect if you are interested: we will be flying out of Milwaukee, the trip involves a decent amount of walking and sitting for extended periods of time, Border Servant Corps provides housing and several meals, but experiencing the fusion of cuisine at the border is also a large part of the experience. The cost for the trip will be \$1,200 which includes airfare, transportation, and the fees from Border Servant Corps. A \$500 deposit will be necessary to secure your position after you have filled out an interest form & have spoken with Pastor Andrew and Pastor Molly.

Because we are traveling with campus ministry, spots are limited. If you are interested in participating, please fill out an interest form (located on the welcome table outside the office) and Pastor Molly will contact you and meet with you one-on-one in November.

## U.P. Wild, Fall Colors Hike - October 9th

*Saturday, October 9th at 11:00 am*

Taking in the full beauty of the changing colors, we usually choose an off the beaten path (away from tourists) location and as we usually discourage bringing phones/cameras with us, this is one of the exceptions with wonderful views of Lake Superior and Marquette in the distance. Trail is steep and for intermediate/advanced levels. We meet on the base of the Huron Mountains, easy to access by car. Email lanni@upwild.org or call 906-251-0065 for directions. Invite a friend!

## Freezer Meals for Pastor Andrew & Anna

Pastor Andrew, Anna, and their new baby Theo are at home and doing well! Please stop by the church office to see a family photo.

Pastor Andrew & Anna would greatly appreciate receiving freezer meals during this time. Soups, casseroles, pasta dishes or any favorite dish that freezes well are welcome. Please bring your meal to Messiah during our office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Thursday or 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Friday) and we will keep them in Messiah's freezer. If you need to arrange a different time to drop off your meal, please call the church office at 225-1119. Thank you!

## In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Dennis Walsh; Chuck; Daniel and Marcos; Ceil Ailkala; Mary Leslie; Carol Steinhaus; Dick Toyra; Shawn; Owen, Becky & Joe; Ed Puska, Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Martha; Ann Lahti; Grace Wurster; Marjorie Vidlund; Chris Heiskanen; Brian; Sigurds Janners; Chris; Phyllis; Jon; Lee; Wil; Jamie Baril; Johnnie; Ray Hasenhauer; Erin Andrews; Tina & her roommate; Matthew Williamson; Linda Ruohoniemi; Jim Shirtz; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Karen Johnson; Jill Krah; Michael Orhanen; Kristina Asta; Alli & Johann Elsenbroek; Alison Cory; John; Sierra; Sandy; Charlene Avery

*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!*

## With Gratitude

Thanks to the partnership & volunteers from Messiah, Wild Church, and the Community Presbyterian Church in Big Bay, 500 cedar tree seedlings were planted along Powell County's Yellow Dog River and Lost Creek during the first two Saturdays in September. During the first of those plantings, 100 trees were gently placed into the ground, each with a whispered prayer of thanksgiving for Liz Kro (Davis) who was confirmed at Messiah 25 years earlier. Liz, a young mother, age 37 and the beloved daughter of Bill and Mary Davis, died the following Friday morning in Minnesota after a long struggle with cancer.

We lift up prayers for her parents Bill & Mary, her surviving son Henrik and loving husband Nate. Liz was a gift to all of us.

*- - - Jon Magnuson, The Cedar Tree Institute*

## 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering Update

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth & their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged & inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The ELCA Youth Gathering is an amazing experience for high school youth and adult leaders to experience the boundless love of God.

Congregations from the Northern Great Lakes Synod are already planning for the 2022 Gathering, which will take place July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN. Registration opens on September 22 & remains open through May 22, 2022, although registration prices increase on November 22 & February 22.

## **CROP Walk 2021 - October 10th**

The 2021 CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 10th. This year our CROP Walk Liason is **Jason Parks**. Thank you Jason, for stepping up in this role!

If you are interested in raising funds for hunger by walking in the 2021 CROP Walk or if you have questions, please reach out to Jason Parks at [japarks@ymail.com](mailto:japarks@ymail.com). Registration for the CROP Walk begins at 1:30 pm at the Marquette Hope Connection Center on Fair Ave & the walk begins shortly after that at 2:00 pm. There is a two mile or a three mile loop to walk. When you return to the starting point at Hope Church on Fair Ave, they will have some refreshments for everyone. Please consider walking for hunger. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised will stay in our local area.

If you are interested in giving towards 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.

## **Council Highlights - September 2021**

1. The COVID Task Force recommended that the council take the congregation back to Stage A in our reopening plan. This allows in-person worship, but requires masking for all involved. This move also impacted the cancellation of Rally Sunday for Sunday School.
2. Council approved \$2,500 to support the Water Stewards Program. (*Messiah has contributed to this program since its inception, and is a major supporter of the project.*)
3. Council recognized three members as their terms are completed: Jeannie Wagner, Dave Blomquist & Grant Soltwisch. Their wisdom and counsel has been an asset to our council.
4. New members joining council include Rachel Skaw (re-elected), Vickie Paupore, Eric Hammerstrom & Terry Langenburg. Welcome!

## **Volunteer Training for Room at the Inn - Oct. 5**

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 October 5th & November 2nd 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](http://roomattheinn.org/volunteer)

## **Lectionary Readings - October 2021**

### **October 3 -- 19th Sunday after Pentecost**

Reading.....Genesis 2:18-24

Gospel.....Mark 10:2-16

### **October 10 -- 20th Sunday after Pentecost**

Reading.....Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Gospel.....Mark 10:17-31

### **October 17 -- 21th Sunday after Pentecost**

Reading.....Isaiah 53:4-12

Gospel.....Mark 10:35-45

### **October 24 -- 22th Sunday after Pentecost**

Reading.....Jeremiah 31:7-9

Gospel.....Mark 10:46-52

### **October 31 -- Reformation**

Reading.....Jeremiah 31:31-34

Gospel.....John 8:31-36

## **Livestream Sponsorship**

We have added 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@messiahlutheranmq.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmq.org). The cost of the Livestream sponsorship is \$110.

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

## **Thank You Messiah!**

Hello, I just spoke with Terry from St. Vincent de Paul in Ishpeming and he said he spoke to someone at Messiah & they let him know that they were helping me with the remainder of my rent. I just wanted to write back to thank you for your help. You have no idea how much I appreciate this! Your kindness has really touched my heart! Thank you so much! Much Love, Jen S.

**To view our calendar,  
updated daily, please go to  
[messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://messiahlutheranmqt.org)**

**To view our calendar,  
updated daily, please go to  
[messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://messiahlutheranmqt.org)**

## 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.

## Medication Help Available

If you have questions &/or concerns regarding your medications, you can contact retired pharmacist, Barb Salmela. Call the office to get Barb's phone number. 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.

## Virtual Worship

Messiah's 8:30 am worship will be broadcast on the radio at Sunny 101.9 FM. Both of our Sunday morning services (8:30 & 10:30 am) can be found online at the following sites:

Vimeo - [vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt](https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt](https://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)

## 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.

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

\***November** - *Toothbrush (child & adult), toothpaste, dental floss, denture cleaner*

## Lifelong Faith Formation - Registration Extended!

*Welcome to Lifelong Faith Formation!*

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 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.

### Fall Semester 2021

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 (details below). 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](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org). Remaining classes are listed below:

- Book Study of Friedman's Fables (by Rabbi Ed Friedman): "Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking" with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, Northern Great Lakes Synod, meeting on Saturdays, October 2 - November 6 (four sessions) at 10:00 am CT/11:00 am ET
- Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why with Bishop Katherine Finegan, Northern Great Lakes Synod, meeting on two Mondays, October 11-18, 6:00 – 7:30 pm CT/7:00-8:30 pm ET

## Devotions Link

[www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org) is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.



## Still There When the Headlines Go Away

Fires in California, hurricane floods in New Jersey and Louisiana. They make the news, and response pours in. But what happens when the headlines go away?

Six months later, a year, and your house is still not fit to live in. The stores ran out of plywood, and the carpenters and electricians are overwhelmed. It's just plain hard. Tempers fray. And you wonder if anybody still knows you're there.

I first learned about Lutheran Disaster Response when tornados hit Mountain Lake, Minnesota, near where we lived. They called for volunteers. The Red Cross was there, a Jewish Relief group, Lutheran Disaster Response – all of them worked together. There were stacks of bottled water in the high school gym, cartons of food, brooms and rakes to start the cleanup. LDR sent some of us out door to door, in our official T-shirts so people would know why we were there, to find out what people needed most right now.

And as we met for breaks, to talk things over, I learned it was Lutheran Disaster Response that would ask another question. What would this community still need, when all the headlines go away?

Rebuilding is slower than you might expect. "So when do things get back to normal?" In this year of Covid we've come to understand how that goes. After six months, a year, two years, when part of your town is still wrecked, you wonder if normal will ever come again. That's when Lutheran Disaster Response is still there. If supplies are needed, LDR will help find them. When counseling and simple support is what you need, LDR will be there. That's their role. To be there when the headlines go away. To stay there until "normal" comes at last. However long it takes.

You can find their web site: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/> You'll see links for the California fires, and for Hurricane Ida. You'll also see links for the storms back in February when half of Texas froze, and more links for volunteers to help rebuild from Hurricane Maria back in 2017. LDR does not forget. And you will see a promise: 100% of your donation will go for that need. Behind that is another promise: when the needs continue, LDR will still be there. Until the work is done. - - - Allan E. Johnson

## Bishop Finegan's Thoughts

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod, This verse has been coming to mind lately... "What then shall we say to this?"

*If God is for us, who is against us?*

*He who did not spare his own Son*

*but gave him up for us all,*

*will he not also give us all things with him?" ~Romans 8:31ff*

When we needed to cancel our Walking Together events, *what then shall we say to this?* When hospital beds are full of covid patients, leaving little room for accidents and other health emergencies, *what then shall we say to this?* As people continue to disagree about vaccine safety, masks, and protocols, *what then shall we say to this?* God promises in Christ, that God is not against us. This is good news. But what if we are against each other?

When suspicions are stronger than the ties that bind, when the conviction of political views undermines our common mission and congregational unity, what then shall we say to this?

I think we look for answers, for a diagnosis, for someone to explain or blame. Perhaps we stop listening and only assert our position more loudly. Perhaps we seek to convince instead of understand.

I believe it helps to remember that we are not the first people of faith to argue, lament, suffer, and disagree. The Israelites in the wilderness certainly suffered uncertainty, fear, and pain. And they also grumbled and complained. Paul's letters to the Galatians, the Corinthians, the Colossians and more give witness to each congregation's challenges, from persecution and fear to how to get along and remember their purpose. In his letters, Paul makes an effort to remind people of faith who they are in Christ and what that means.

In the midst of the grief and weariness of all that we must face in these days, I ask you to remember who you are in Christ Jesus, and all that Christ calls you to do and be, no matter the circumstances.

Matthew 22:35-44 reads, "...and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

I encourage you to weigh your words and your actions, your social media posts and your conversations, your opinions and convictions, against the metric that Jesus provides, love of God and love of neighbor.

While I know there is interpretive room as to how to live these two commandments, I would like to think that remembering love of God and neighbor can indeed help shape our actions and our words in these days, as it has always meant to.

What does it mean to you to love God with your whole heart? What does it mean to you to love your neighbor as yourself? And who do you consider to be your neighbor? Jesus answered this question for us with the parable of the Good Samaritan. If we apply historical context to contemporary circumstances, our neighbor is anyone whom society considers "less than." Or in the nitty gritty details of the parable, anyone that you would rather not be obligated to, anyone you would rather not have touch you, anyone whom the dominant culture considers free to disparage, exclude, ignore, ridicule, oppress, or denigrate.

As you know, loving people that we dislike or do not understand is not easy. And yet, Christ's call upon our love, our speech, and our actions remains.

I encourage you to remember in this pandemic wilderness that "this too shall pass." A time will come when either the pandemic will be managed, or some other new reality will emerge that feels less anxious. Then we will have the luxury to argue about new things and disagree about something other than the current disputes. Whatever the future holds, we are the body of Christ now, called to show the world the rest of what Paul writes in his letter to the church at Rome in Romans 8:38-39, that

"neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from  
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Yours in Christ, *Bishop Katherine Finegan*

## **Telling and Teaching the Truth: The Church's Obligation to Education about the Ongoing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery**

From Churches Beyond Borders: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Anglican Church of Canada, The Episcopal Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

As another school year commences, we are reminded that the educational systems we have handed down to our children often teach national narratives that perpetuate white supremacy by deleting and ignoring the histories and contributions of Indigenous People and other marginalized communities and peoples in both Canada and the United States. The ongoing legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery and the sinful acts of racism in North America are rarely if ever taught in our school systems or churches with the fullness and import that is necessary and just.

When Christians engage history with honesty, humility and a spirit of confession, it is clear that the church was and is complicit:

- In the hunting and killing of Indigenous Peoples,
- In the dishonorable breaking of thousands of treaties that federal governments made with First Nations and Native nations,
- In the forced removal of Indigenous Peoples from their original homelands,

- In the relocation of Indigenous Peoples into reserves and reservations where poverty, starvation, desperation, missionization, addiction, and suicide were allowed to become the rule for generations of Indigenous people,
- In the making of long-term federal policies that enforced family separation,
- In the stealing of Indigenous children away to brutal assimilation camps known as Indian boarding schools in the US and residential schools in Canada,
- In the ongoing plight of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls,
- In the coverup of all of these evils, including through systemic efforts to erase Indigenous Peoples from our collective memory.

Scripture reminds us that the truth is costly. In Proverbs 23:23 we read, "Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding" (NRSV). Our churches' work to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery begins with the costly work of telling the truth.

Only then will we be able to start making good on our promises as churches and, together across borders, to seek truth and healing for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples by:

- Providing educational opportunities for all of our churches' people,
- Leading advocacy efforts for legally mandated inclusion of accurate and truthful history and narratives of Indigenous people in our educational systems at all learning levels,
- Standing in solidarity with residential and boarding school survivors and their descendants,
- Doing the necessary research to reveal as much truth about this shameful part of our churches' histories.

We encourage you to learn about residential and boarding schools, honor survivors, and remember those who never made it home from the schools.

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
- National Bishop Susan C. Johnson, *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*
- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, *The Episcopal Church*
- Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls, *Anglican Church of Canada*

## Plan for Giving (Pledge) & Other Donation Topics

Thank you to everyone that already turned in a 2022 Plan for Giving. Here is an ongoing list of frequently asked questions.

- Do I complete both sides of the Plan for Giving card? The signature side is only needed if giving electronically.
- How do I supply checking/credit card information for electronic giving? Request an authorization form from the office when first setting this up, changing banking, or discontinuing.
- I give electronically, so is a completed Plan for Giving card still necessary? Yes. The plan for Giving provides us with your pledge intent and commitment.
- Will my automatic/electronic giving continue from year to year? Yes, it will remain in effect until you provide reasonable notification to terminate your authorization.
- Will my Plan for Giving (pledge) carry to the next year? No, we start over each year and request a new one. However, you may add a note stating you want to keep it the same as the prior year or call to tell us that. If you make that note & didn't have one completed the prior year, Nancy Hoover will contact you.
- When I complete a Plan for Giving, selecting general and property funds, do my donations automatically get applied to each of them. Yes, if set up electronically; otherwise no. Undesignated donations are applied to the general fund unless you communicate your intentions to Nancy Hoover.
- How are investment checks handled? Please request adding your name on the check memo/stub, and communicate your intent by phone or preferably by email to Nancy Hoover at Messiah.NancyH@gmail.com.
- I prefer to work paperless. Can I complete my Plan for Giving online? Yes, a Google form is located on Messiah's Website, and shown here under Give & Get Involved / Pledge Form.
- I prefer to have a link sent to my email to complete the Plan for Giving Google form. Okay, call the office or email Nancy Hoover at Messiah. NancyH@gmail.com
- I have questions about completing the Plan for Giving. Okay, call the office & leave a message for Nancy Hoover or email her at Messiah.NancyH@gmail.com
- I have eyesight problems, could I get assistance with filling out the form. Yes, please call the office and leave a message for Nancy Hoover to call you.

*Nancy Hoover, Financial Secretary*

## Confirmation

Confirmation is off to a slow, but great start. We were able to have lunch together at Presque Isle & walked part way around on the paved road. We had fun exploring a new trail and throwing rocks at Black Rocks.

Reformation Sunday is Confirmation Sunday, October 31st! As you may remember, we were unable to confirm students during a service safely in 2020, so we are really looking forward to confirming students from last year (Lexi Hammerstrom, Mylee Muscoe, Delaney Parks) as well as students this year (Jacob MacPhee, Maija Maki-Warne).

We are looking forward to our Confirmation retreat in November! While we are hopeful that we will still be able to hold it at Fortune Lake, we also have a back up plan for holding it at Messiah. Many factors will determine whether or not we are able to go to Fortune Lake. We will be looking at the Covid/vaccination numbers as well as the expected attendance of Confirmation students, before we can determine our ability to make it happen. Please feel free to contact the church office with any questions.

- - - Shalom, Jen Elsenbroek

## Your Prayer Requests

At every Saturday and Sunday worship service, we ask people to fill out a welcome card that is found in the bulletin. The card asks people to put their prayer requests on the back, and these requests are prayed for every Tuesday afternoon at Messiah's staff meeting. If you wish to have your name or a loved one's name read during worship, please call the office or let the pastors, Jen, or Inga know. We will need to get permission before we include anyone's name in the worship prayers.

## Fortune Lake Senior Days

Senior Days at Fortune Lake – The next Senior Day at Fortune Lake will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021. The event runs from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Working together, we will prepare and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. Come and join us for a day of wonderful conversation, delicious food, and great fun! A \$10.00 donation per participant is requested. Please RSVP by the Friday before to 906 214-2267.

# October 2021 Worship Volunteers

## Saturday October 2 - 5 pm

Ushers-  
Assisting Minister- Clare Sauer

## Sunday October 3 - 8:30 am

Ushers- Sam Elder, Bruce Robertson  
Reader- Kathy Soltwisch  
Greeters- Pat Nebel  
Assisting Minister- Grant Soltwisch

## Sunday October 3 - 10:30 am

Ushers- Ruth Robb, Jean Arntsen  
Reader- Jill Luoma  
Greeters-  
Assisting Minister- Mike Hill

## Saturday October 9 - 5 pm

Ushers- Billie Johnson  
Assisting Minister- Carol Bell

## Sunday October 10 - 8:30 am

Ushers- David Dill, Linda Berry  
Reader- Brenda Blett  
Communion Assistants- Dave Blomquist  
Greeters- Penny Streeter, Sherry Labbe  
Assisting Minister- Larry Pagel

## Sunday October 10 - 10:30 am

Ushers- Kurt Mensching,  
Reader- Erik Bergh  
Communion Assistants-  
Greeters-  
Assisting Minister-

## Saturday October 16 - 5 pm

Ushers- Carol Bell  
Assisting Minister- Karen Kimar-Johnson

## Sunday October 17 - 8:30 am

Ushers- Barb Avery, David Dill  
Reader- Fred Maynard  
Communion Assistants- Kathy Maynard, Terry Langenberg  
Greeters- Mike and Emily Coyne  
Assisting Minister- Kathy Maynard

## Sunday October 17 - 10:30 am

Ushers- Jean Arntsen  
Reader- Mark Paulsen  
Communion Assistants-  
Greeters-  
Assisting Minister-

## Saturday October 23 - 5 pm

Ushers- Dick and Laura Goodney  
Assisting Minister- Diana Peterson

## Sunday October 24 - 8:30 am

Ushers- Bruce Robertson  
Reader- Larry Pagel  
Communion Assistants- Grant Soltwisch  
Greeters- Jan Vickstrom, Joan Tasson  
Assisting Minister-

## Sunday October 24 - 10:30 am

Ushers- Jill Luoma  
Reader- Erik Bergh  
Communion Assistants-  
Greeters-  
Assisting Minister-

## Saturday October 30 - 5 pm

Ushers-  
Assisting Minister- Kathy Godec

## Sunday October 31 - 8:30 am

Ushers- Ray Jarvis, Linda Berry  
Reader- Jennifer Bleckiner  
Communion Assistants- Al and Gail Edgar  
Greeters- Tom and Amy Froiland  
Assisting Minister- Jennifer Bleckiner

## Sunday October 31 - 10:30 am

Ushers-  
Reader-  
Communion Assistants- Mike Hill  
Greeters-  
Assisting Minister- Mike Hill

### **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