

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for November 24, 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!



Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Welcome, Theo!



Siblings in Christ,

On September 14th Anna and I welcomed Theo Ashby Zimmer into our lives, and our lives have been a joyful whirlwind ever since!

Thank you for all the prayers, the cards, meals, gifts, and love that you've shared. We have felt the embrace of our community and are deeply grateful. It has made the long days, and even longer nights, less stressful. Thank you!

In the spirit of sleeplessness, I've been thinking a lot about time. Specifically, the difference between kairos and chronos. It is something you may already be familiar with, but it is something I know I need reminding about.

Chronos is the time that we live in. It is the time that is told by the clock. It's ninety minutes since the child last ate. It's being stopped by a red light as you race to a meeting, to school, to the doctor's office and try not to be late again. It is a type of time that moves through the seasons of our lives by counting the days, the years, and the hours. It marks time, both fleeting and lingering. It is the type of time that marks calendars, and stresses over them, looking at time as something that moves linearly: time that we'll eventually run out of.

As we enter the busyness of this coming season, I encourage you to join me in trying to think about time differently. It's not easy to do. We're wired for chronos, but in scripture we glimpse time in a different way: kairos. If chronos is our timeline, kairos is God's. Chronos is quantitative, measuring out each passing second. Kairos is qualitative, measuring moments – specifically, grace moments. Kairos is time above time. It is a time with no end, when you are able to momentarily stand still in the midst of the hubbub of life and see how things really are. It is stepping back, even in the craziness of life, to take notice of the blessings in life. To realize how God moves, how God provides, and how God simply is.

Like the season of Advent.

Advent is the intentional season of slowing down even in the midst of the consumeristic chaos. It is pausing in order to allow the mystery of the season to swoon us again, to embrace the love that longs to come and hold us tight.

Kairos holds tight.

Pausing in this kairos is to remember things as blessings, not as burdens. A screaming child, an endless stream of emails, the demands of family and friends. Food to be cooked, packages wrapped and sent. It's the type of time that brought Sarah a child in old age, called a stuttering Moses, and had frustrated disciples gather up food by the lakeshore. It is a time that focuses on quality not quantity; a time that works with who and whose we are – beloved children of God.

So as Advent begins, take a deep breath with me, and let us pray:

God of all time, help me to pause this season. Help me to not see the birthday of your son as a burden, but full of holy wonder of a love that comes and holds tight. Amen.

paz,

Pr. Andrew

Giving Tuesday - November 30

We began our Giving Tuesday event as a way to replenish our Assistance Fund in 2017. It has become the major source of funding for this ministry of our congregation. This year, you are invited to come to the church between 10 and 4 on Tuesday, November 30 to make a contribution. Those making a donation will receive a "Grab and Go" lunch courtesy of Thrivent, AND a chance to win a beautiful quilt. "Mask Up", please.

In 2018 we distributed \$24,000.

2019 - \$34,317.

2020- \$20,262

2021 - \$25,300 (As of October 25)

Assistance has become an important ministry in our area, and the needs are only growing. The biggest issue is housing and even though there are rental assistance programs in place during the pandemic, many people fall through the cracks. A huge problem is coming up with money for the deposit once housing is found. We receive referrals from agencies and charities that are set up to help and either don't have funds, or the person needing help does not qualify. We are even found through Google!

Please keep our Assistance Program in mind as you plan your charitable contributions.

Advent Resources and Worship

Beginning the first week in Advent, we will be holding weekly Advent Worship services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Join us for Holden Evening prayer throughout Advent: Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

Our Advent theme for this year is Closer to Home and our resources come from the Sanctified Art Liturgy. On the theme, the authors write, “When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. The Close to Home theme acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.” Indeed, during the season of Advent we receive a special and holy opportunity to become closer to God, who is indeed our home, our refuge, and our comfort.

Close to Home—An Advent Devotional

Once again we are offering an Advent devotional compiled by the artists in ministry from A Sanctified Art. This collection of art, poetry, songs, and reflections will help us pause and reflect on the images of home that are found in the Advent and Christmas scriptures. Pick up a copy on the welcome table outside the church office.

Honoring Inga Banitt

Inga has worked at Messiah for just over six years! On Sunday, December 12 we will take a moment during the 8:30 and 10:30 services to recognize Inga and all the work she has done for our church community. Please feel free to bring a card for her on this Sunday, or if you cannot be here, feel free to mail it to her home. When we get to a point where we can have coffee hour again, we will have cake, coffee and fruit and celebrate Inga and all she has done for us. She will be missed in the church office.

An Update on Our Family

We have been accompanying our family from Honduras for over three months now. It has been a joy getting to know them better and to introduce them to life in Marquette.

A few of our members have met with the family for walks, knitting, an afternoon at Hotplate and more. Speaking fluent Spanish is definitely not a requirement in spending time together. Being with non-Spanish speakers allows them to practice their English. Some of our volunteers speak a little Spanish, and some rely on a Spanish language app. Glenda, Romel, and Fernando are

eager to meet people and experience new things. If you would like to meet the family and do something together, please contact the church office and we will arrange that.

Also--please contact the church office if you are able to help with transportation to medical or other appointments.

The family is in need of a few items:

A guitar (to borrow or to buy)

A football

Please contact the church office if you could help with these needs.

Fernando is doing very well with his violin lessons and has received excellent reports from his orchestra teacher and his private lesson teacher. Romel is enrolled in the high school band but has expressed a strong interest in singing and learning how to play the guitar. We hope we can help him join these activities soon. Romel performed in his first high school band concert (a Halloween-themed performance) on October 20; and Fernando's first orchestra concert will be at Kaufman Auditorium on Wednesday December 1.

Romel and Fernando are taking part in a free sled hockey program at Lakeview Arena, and the entire family attended their first hockey game at NMU. They really enjoyed it!

All three continue with regular English classes and Romel and Fernando are working hard at school. They have quite full schedules!

We are very thankful for all at Messiah and in the community who have contributed their time and finances to help.

--Messiah's Asylum Task Force Team

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 that is on the welcome table and turn it in to the office.

Jams & Jellies are Back!

If you haven't noticed, Kathy and Grant's jams and jellies are back for sale in the atrium at Messiah. We made about 15 cases this year, many of which are out there, with more to come. We also greatly appreciate return of jars and rings which have been very hard to find this past year. We can't make it if we don't have anything to put it in! Thanks, *Grant & Kathy Soltwisch*

TV6 Can-A-Thon

Please help our neighbors who go hungry in our community by donating to the TV6 Can-A-Thon. We will have our grocery cart in the narthex for the month of November for this non-perishable food collection. At the end of the month the Salvation Army will bring all of these non-perishable items to their site for distribution to our brothers and sisters. We will be a collection site from November 1 - December 3. Thank you in advance, for your thoughtfulness & generosity.

From Messiah's Financial Secretary

2022 Giving Envelopes

Your envelopes will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, November 30th during our Giving Tuesday event. Or pick them up any time during our open hours. They will be in the narthex and placed on tables in alphabetical order by last name. Call the office if you need special arrangements to receive your envelopes. If you don't currently have envelopes and would like them; or have envelopes and don't want them for 2022, just let me know. I will accommodate what works best for you. If you give electronically, you may still receive giving envelopes or use a pew envelope for special/other donations.

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 is open through May 22, 2022, although registration prices increase on February 22.

St. Vincent de Paul

Every December, in cooperation with St. Vincent de Paul, the Food Pantry, Toys for Tots, St. Michaels Church, the Marines, the Mining Journal, and generous people in the community, there is a collection and give away of new toys and clothing for children, to parents who qualify according to income.

At St. Vincent de Paul, temporary volunteers are instrumental in sorting toys and clothing according to children's age groups and packing the items in boxes. The volunteers DO NOT have to purchase anything for this task.

Several volunteers are needed, where they will sort toys and clothing, according to child ages. This task will be done with a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer and will typically take 1-2 hours weekly between 10:00 am & 3:00 pm, from now until December 10th. Dates and times will be decided between the new volunteers & the St. Vincent de Paul volunteer. Due to COVID19, masks may be necessary.

Beginning at 9:00 am during the week of December 13-17, more volunteers will be welcome at St. Michael's gym for 1-4 hours on those days. The activities then include: helping set up tables at the gym on the 13th; moving the boxes to the gym on the 13th - 15th and then unpacking the boxes and arranging toys and clothing on tables according to age groups.

On December 16th, volunteers will assist parents select the toys and clothing & help pack the items with the parents. Also on the 16th, a noon potluck will be available for all staff and volunteers at St. Michaels for all that wish to bring in food or not.

Food items for parents will be available from the food pantry after the toys are packed and will not be handled by the temporary volunteers.

On December 17th, all remaining toys and clothing will be repacked and returned to St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent de Paul is located at 2119 Presque Isle Ave in Marquette. St Michael Catholic Church gym is located at 401 W. Kaye Ave in Marquette

Thank you!

--Jeannette Hauver

Messiah's Weekly Prayers

At every 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 prayers are spoken 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 from that person before we include anyone's name in the worship prayers.

Upcoming Special Events for November & December

November 25	Thanksgiving Day - church office closed (also closed on 11/26)
November 30	Giving Tuesday at Messiah 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
December 1	Advent Worship at 6:30 pm
December 8	Advent Worship at 6:30 pm
December 15	Advent Worship at 6:30 pm
December 18	Longest Night Worship at 5:00 pm
December 22	Advent Worship at 6:30 pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00, 7:30 & 10:00 pm

No Saturday 5pm worship on December 25

December 26 8:30 am worship only. We will not be having worship at 10:30.

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

Gene & Sharon Arntsen & family upon the passing of Gene's daughter Veronica Campbell; Linda; Alli Elsenbroek; Jeff; Erik Strazzinski; Virginia Bell; Carl; Ken; Cheryl, Kai, Gavin, Claire; David Shaver; Tobe Anderson; Ken Smith; William; Chuck; Daniel and Marcos; Ceil Aikala; Mary Leslie; Carol Steinhaus; Richard Toyra; Shawn; Owen, Becky & Joe; Ed Puska, Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Ann Lahti; Grace Wurster; Marjorie Vidlund; Chris Heiskanen; Jon; Jamie Baril; Johnnie; Ray Hasenhauer; Erin Andrews; Tina & her roommate; Matthew Williamson; Jim Shirtz; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Karen Johnson; Jill Krah; Michael Orhanen; Kristina Asta; Alison Cory; Sierra; Sandy; Charlene Avery

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 November 24 through December 1.

Pastor Molly is on vacation November 25 through 29.

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 – First Sunday of Advent

First Reading.....*Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Gospel Reading.....*Luke 21:25-36*

Worship Volunteers

Saturday November 27 – 5:00 pm in sanctuary

Ushers: Chris Kotila, Barb Salmela

Assisting Minister: Kathy Godec

Sunday November 28 – 8:30 am in sanctuary and on 101.9 FM, Vimeo and Facebook

Ushers: Mike and Emily Coyne

Reader: Larry Pagel

Greeters: Al and Gail Edgar

Assisting Minister: Larry Pagel

Sunday November 28 – 10:30 am in sanctuary and on Vimeo and Facebook

Ushers: Kurt Mensching, Grace Gronowski

Reader: Susan Shaver

Greeters: Sherry Johnson

Assisting Minister: Ruth Robb

Announcements and Classified Ads

Housing Request for NMU Student

NMU Office of International Programs is seeking a host home for a 19-year-old Brazilian soccer player from January to early May. He is an Exercise Science major with a high GPA and would be able to contribute something each month toward room and board. He will be on the NMU

soccer team and has been living with a host family in Oregon for the past two years. His English is excellent.

Please contact Diana Vreeland, Director of the program at 906-227-2925 if you are interested in hosting.

Do you have an announcement?

Send announcements and ads to Inga Banitt (inga@messiahlutheranmqt.org). Send concert or performance information, yard sale announcements, party invitations, requests for babysitters, yard maintenance, rooms for rent and items for sale. We will run announcements for two weeks. E-newsletter deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

Messiah Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church
305 W. Magnetic St.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-225-1119
906-225-5025 (fax)
Email: office@messiahlutheranmqt.org
Website: <https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/>

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor:
Andrew Plocher

Associate Pastor:
Molly Eversoll

Support Staff

Parish Administrator:
Jennifer Dodge

Administrative Assistant:
Inga Banitt

Messiah Custodian:
Kevin McGrath

Parish Accountant:
Mike Hill

Financial Secretary:
Nancy Hoover

Music Staff

Music Director:
David Dagenais

Bell Choir Director:
Judy Quirk

Organist:
Kathy Strazzinski

Pianist:
Lynne Lanczy