

# Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Answering God's call to love

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**Messiah ENewsletter for January 5, 2022**

## Messiah Events & News

On the web...

go to [messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://messiahlutheranmqt.org) for more information about our congregation and “like” us on Facebook to receive updates and information there.

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*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!*



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### From Pastor Molly

January Greetings,

When I was in college, I used to work late nights at the welcome desk and walk home through the quiet campus on dark and frigid winter nights in rural northeastern Iowa. Now, many of you know, I am not one for the cold, but there was always something spectacular about these late

night walks on clear cold nights. I would look up at the sky and there was nothing like it, the sheer amount of twinkling stars on a clear night was miraculously beautiful and filled with God's creative power. I was thinking about those skies this week as I was contemplating the coming of Epiphany.

Epiphany is the day that we celebrate the wise men following the star to find Jesus and just that act is amazing. It fills me with questions like, how did they know which star? What within them called them to follow? How did they know not to tell Herod of their journey? I am just in awe of their purpose and their sureness of their mission.

When I think about looking up at a clear night sky, there are so many beautiful stars and bright planets. It can be overwhelming to take it all in. If I was one of the wise people, how on earth would I know which star to follow? How would I know which one was the right path?

With the coming of the new year, there is always this pull to make resolutions and to choose what path the new year will hold. I personally love that there is this built-in social opportunity to make new commitments and plans,

but I think it can also be overwhelming to choose what path, or which star, we will follow in the coming year. What will be our priorities? What will be our hopes and dreams?

I think back to the wise people. Their hope was simply to see the Christ child. What a delightfully simple goal! But what does it mean to see the Christ child? Messiah's devotional booklet for Advent compared seeing the Christ child as coming "close to home" and I think that is a good way to describe it. In an ideal world, home should be a place where we feel wholly loved, accepted, cared for, and cherished. It should be a place of hope, joy, forgiveness, and peace.

When we think about what our priorities, goals, hopes, dreams, and which star we choose to follow in the coming year, let them be centered in bringing us closer to home, closer to the Christ child, one so new and full of promise, the little one who will become what it truly means to follow the way to our true home.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Molly

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## **The Lutheran Course**

Join us beginning January 12th at 6:30 pm and each Wednesday evening thereafter in room 202 for the Lutheran Course. Are you a lifelong Lutheran? Are you relatively new to Lutheranism? All are welcome! Pastor Andrew and Pastor Molly will be teaching a 7-week course in-person on the basics of what Lutherans believe and how we live out our faith. For questions contact Pastor Andrew or Pastor Molly. Please let us know if you are coming by emailing Pastor Molly at [molly@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:molly@messiahlutheranmqt.org)

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## **New to Messiah?**

Are you relatively new to Messiah? Know someone who is? On Sunday January 23rd between the 8:30 am and 10:30 am worship services, we'll be having a brief gathering where folks can learn more about our beloved community. We will gather from 9:45 am – 10:15 am in the Atrium. We hope you can make it! If you can't and are interested in learning more, just let the church office know and one of our pastors will reach out to you.

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## **Saturday Evening Worship**

Beginning on January 8th, our 5:00 pm worship service will be making a transition. We will gather in the Atrium instead of the sanctuary and the service will have a slightly different feel, as there will be no musician. Kathy Strazzinski has retired from being the accompanist for this service, so we are taking the opportunity to try something new and return to the original design of this worship service. We invite you to join us during this time of transition. If you have questions or feedback regarding this change, please talk with Pr. Andrew.

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## **2021 Statements**

How does the time fly by so fast? We're wrapping up yet another year and your Annual Giving Statements will be sent out by the end of January. Thank you for your gifts, pledges, and patience during this year of transition with Covid, both joys and sorrows in our world, and personal lives, along with a new church management system. Please call the office to leave a message or contact me by email with any of your donation questions or concerns.

Messiah.NancyH@gmail.com

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## **Messiah's 2022 Annual Report**

Messiah's 2022 annual report will be printed and distributed the week prior to our annual meeting on Sunday January 30. Please submit your reports to Inga ([inga@messiahlutheranmq.org](mailto:inga@messiahlutheranmq.org)) by Friday January 14. Thank you.

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## **Lifelong Faith Formation**

The Synod will again host a plethora of intriguing courses throughout the winter semester. These courses are free and begin in January. Registration closes on January 7th at 5:00 pm. You can register on the Synod's website at [nglsyond.org/lifelong-faith-formation/](http://nglsyond.org/lifelong-faith-formation/) Classes for the Winter semester include: Introduction to Biblical Hebrew, The Samuel Series: Prayer and the Spiritual Life, The Big Picture Bible Discussion, Ezekiel Bible Study, Anishinababe Culture,

and Dialogue with the Islamic Resource Group. All classes will be on Zoom. If you need assistance with Zoom or registering please contact the Synod office.

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## **Tornado Response**

*"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:78-79).*

Friends,

On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery.

Your gifts to "U.S. Tornadoes" will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete.

The season of Advent is a time of hope as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Right now, we have an opportunity to share hope with our neighbors in their time of greatest need. Please join me in prayer and consider giving if you are able by going to:

<https://community.elca.org/USTornadoRelief?erid=3cb94fa3-a772-4b24-a582-3b3baaa2c9cb&trid=3cb94fa3-a772-4b24-a582-3b3baaa2c9cb>

You can also go to the website [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and find the link for making a donation towards tornado relief under "News and Events."

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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## **Thank you from Queen City Dance**

To All at Messiah Lutheran Church,

All the members of Queen City Adult Ballet would like to thank you for giving us another opportunity to do what we love. We hope you enjoyed the performances and that they moved you during this holiday season.

We relish these opportunities to serve you all in this way!

Until we meet again, *Queen City Dance, Deborah*

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### **Thank you Messiah Lutheran Church!**

Messiah Lutheran Church, Thank you for all your hours spent making those lovely crafted mittens, hats & scarves. They were given out on December 16th at our give-away to about 150 families. Thank you and God bless... Mary Lee Kirkim, coordinator on behalf of St Vincent de Paul

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### **Office Vacancy**

The Personnel Committee invites applications for the part-time Administrative Assistant position. The position will begin at 20 hours per week. Preference will be given to current members of the Messiah family. Interested candidates should plan to submit an application letter and resume to the church office by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Rachel Circle Thanks YOU!**

Messiah's Rachel Circle would like to thank you for your donations to help the clients at Great Lakes Recovery Center. Our collection box for them was very FULL! You are all so generous. We also had some Walmart gift cards donated for the children. Thank to everyone for your generosity. --*Rachel Circle*

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### **Sunday School**

Messiah's Sunday School teachers and students are looking toward 2022! But first we will recap our year. Ten first through fifth grade students and 10 preschool and kindergarten students attended Sunday School overall in 2021. On average, four students attended each class, or eight students total, on any given week. We had two amazing full time Sunday School teachers as well as one part time teacher and two substitute teachers. I am so grateful for everyone who contributed to Sunday School this year! Thank you for all you have done. I also led two successful craft Sundays where the students and I considered what we were thankful for in our Thanksgiving crafts and shared our gifts to Jesus for His birthday for our Christmas crafts. Craft Sundays are a fun break from lessons where all students are invited to

come together! We are thankful for the ability to hold craft Sundays to help us celebrate holidays.

I anticipate another successful semester in 2022. We will resume on January 9, the Sunday after the school holiday break ends, to allow our teachers time off for the holidays. Then we will meet every Sunday until spring break, when we will not meet at least one of the two Sundays, either April 3 or April 10. Then, Easter is April 17, so we will not meet to allow teachers and students to spend the worship service with their families in lieu of lessons. Finally, I expect our final lesson to be held on May 22, the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend, but that is subject to change. Our policy of no food in the Sunday School rooms will continue in the new year to abide by the council's current stage of Covid-19 rules.

As always, if you would like to sign a child up for Sunday School or would like to volunteer, please email me at [miss.grace.gronowski@gmail.com](mailto:miss.grace.gronowski@gmail.com) and I will be happy to answer! Here's to another great semester. - - - Grace Gronowski, *Sunday School Coordinator*

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## **Passages**

### **In Sympathy to:**

- \* Scott Krah & family upon the passing of his wife Jill on December 6, 2021.
- \* Laurel Kniskern upon the passing of her husband Jon on Sunday, December 19th. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

### **In Celebration of:**

- \* our new member Lynda Trafton who has returned to Messiah! She is the daughter of Ken & Jan Vickstrom. She was raised in our church as a child and has returned to Marquette, seasonally.
  - \* the birth of Niilo who is the son of Kira & Kyle December. He is the grandchild of Dave & Jill Luoma. Niilo's mom, Kira is doing well. Their family resides in Madison, WI.
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## **OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)**

With the colder weather, the OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) are now walking at the Dome on Mondays at 10:00 am. Masks are required. The Dome is open for walking; however, the schedule may fluctuate based on NMU's schedule. Please join us. Any walking speed or distance is just fine. We feel it's important to get out, get some exercise, and most importantly, to visit with others especially during this isolating time.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Louise at 906-250-3990. All are welcome, and we hope to see you soon!!

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## **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.

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### **Council Highlights - December 2021**

1. The Personnel Committee met and recommended a 6% COLA for all staff. This will be inserted into the 2022 Budget for approval by the congregation.
  2. Council approved Lynda Trafton for membership via letter of transfer.
  3. Reminder--the Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30.
- Respectfully submitted, *Erik Bergh, President*
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### **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.

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### **Axel & Barbara Anderson from Menominee**

Axel & Barb Anderson are from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Menominee. They have a camp on Little Lake in Gwinn and would spend summers there and attend Messiah on Saturdays. Barbara has recently passed away and their daughter asked us to announce this to folks at Messiah.

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### **In Our Prayers**

The family of Ray Hirvonen who passed away; John Collins; Laurel Kniskern & family upon the passing of her husband Jon; Linda & Dan; Tom McNabb; Barry Johnson; Ruth Almén; Heather, Mike & family; the Williamson family; Linda; Alli Elsenbroek; Jeff; 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; Jamie Baril; Johnnie; Tina & her roommate; Matthew Williamson; Jim Shirtz; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Karen Johnson; 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.*

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### **Pastor on Call:**

Pastor Andrew is on call January 5,9-12

Pastor Molly is on call January 6-8

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### **Messiah Newsletters**

Messiah newsletters and the weekly E-news are all available at [www.messiahlutheranmgt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmgt.org). The online Messenger (monthly newsletter) includes all the stories and information but saves the paper!

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### **Scripture Reading This Week – Baptism of Our Lord**

**First Reading**.....Isaiah 43:1-7

**Gospel Reading**.....Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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### **Worship Volunteers**

#### **Saturday January 8 – 5:00 pm**

Ushers: Ron Tervo, Jan Julian

Assisting Minister: Chris Kotila

#### **Sunday January 9 – 8:30 am in sanctuary & on 101.9 FM, Vimeo & Facebook**

Ushers: Barb Avery, Cathy Seblonka

Reader: Brenda Blett

Greeters: Joan Tasson, Jan Vickstrom

Assisting Minister: Larry Pagel

#### **Sunday January 9 – 10:30 am in sanctuary & on 101.9 FM, Vimeo & Facebook**

Ushers: Liz Beyne, **one needed**

Reader: Mike Hill



Greeters: Milt & Boli Soderberg

Assisting Minister: Erik Bergh

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## Announcements and Classified Ads

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### **Sister City “Clean the Closet” Event - January 15**

Marquette has had a Sister City relationship with Higashiomi, Japan, for over 40 years; and with Kajaani, Finland, for over 20 years. During that time, a lot of gifts have been exchanged between the cities and individuals who have visited. It's time to clean out the closets!

On Saturday, January 15, items will be made available to the community for personal or public use. These are gifts and mementos that have been donated by past delegates and are of high quality. They will not be priced, donations to the Marquette Area Sister City Partnership will be accepted and appreciated. In addition, a small group of original artwork will be available for purchase with proceeds going to the Sister Cities Guest Artist fund.

The event will take place in the lower level of the Peter White Library from 1:00 -4:00 pm on January 15. All are welcome!

*--Mary Lou Blomquist, Marquette Area Sister Partnership Board, Chair*

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### **Do you have an announcement?**

Send announcements and ads to Jen Dodge ([jen@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:jen@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.

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## Messiah Contact Information

Messiah Lutheran Church

305 W. Magnetic St.

Marquette, MI 49855

906-225-1119

906-225-5025 (fax)

Email: [office@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmqt.org)

Website: <https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/>

### **Pastoral Staff**

Senior Pastor:  
Andrew Plocher

Associate Pastor:  
Molly Eversoll

### **Office Staff**

Parish Administrator:  
Jennifer Dodge

Parish Accountant:  
Mike Hill

Financial Secretary:  
Nancy Hoover

Messiah Custodian:  
Kevin McGrath

### **Music Staff**

Music Director:  
David Dagenais

Bell Choir Director:  
Judy Quirk

Organist:  
Kathy Strazzinski

Pianist:  
Lynne Lanczy