

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for March 27, 2024

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!*



Worship Volunteers Needed!

We still need one more volunteer to serve as a greeter at our Maundy Thursday service; one volunteer to serve as an usher at our Easter Vigil; and one more volunteer to serve as an usher at our 10:30 am Easter Sunday Worship service. If you can help with any of these, please email Kathy at kathy@messiahlutheranmgt.org or call the church office at 906 225-1119. Thanks!

Brookridge Worship Today!

Please join us for worship at Brookridge Heights today at 1:30 pm. All are welcome!

Upcoming Dates to Remember – March/April

March 27	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
March 28	Maundy Thursday Worship at 6:30 pm
March 29	Ecumenical Good Friday Worship at 6:30 pm
March 30	Easter Vigil at 5:00 pm
March 31	Sunrise Worship at McCarty's Cove at 7:00 am
March 31	Traditional Worship at 8:30 am
March 31	Contemporary Worship at 10:30 am
April 1	Church Office closed
April 2	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
April 4	Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm

Good Friday Service

This year Messiah Lutheran joins with St. Paul's Episcopal and First Presbyterian on Good Friday to hear the powerful passion narrative. Join us as we journey with Jesus to the cross in this Tenebrae service. Worship begins at 6:30 pm and lasts roughly an hour at Messiah Lutheran Church. If you would like to be a part of the ecumenical choir, join them at 5:45 for rehearsal.

April Community Meal – April 3

On Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:00 pm, Messiah will host a free community meal. The meal will include baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, and dessert. Please join us at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 3rd for a nice, warm meal!

Centering Prayer Group

Beginning in April, there will be two opportunities to meet together each week: during the day on Tuesdays, from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm or in the early evening on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 pm. A short intro to the method will precede each meeting. So feel free to come at anytime. Each meeting stands on its own. Meetings will take place at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church. All are welcome.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

- - Matthew 18:20

What is centering prayer? Centering prayer is a Christian form of meditation. Instead of talking to God, who already knows all things and all of our needs, it is a form of listening. The practice has simple steps:

The choosing of a sacred word, as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within.

When engaged with your thoughts, (and "thoughts" include body sensations, feelings, images, and reflections) return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.

At the end of the prayer period remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

After our period of centering prayer, when hearts are more open to inspiration, we will have a reading to ponder. (Lectio Divina)

Resources to learn more: *"Invitation to Love," "Open Mind, Open Heart," by Thomas Keating*
"Into the Silent Land" by Martin Laird and "The Path of Centering Prayer" by David Frenette.

Community Meal – Help Needed

We need more help with our community meal scheduled for Wednesday, April 3. We need one more volunteer to serve the meal and one or two more to clean up after the meal. If you can help, please let the church office know or sign up on the Community Meal Volunteer Sign Up sheet on the Welcome Table. Thanks.

Personal Care Kits

Ruth Circle will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits in March & April for Lutheran World Relief. People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. These kits can help refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. The kits are a reminder to those receiving them that someone cares for them.

Items needed for each kit include:

- 1 bath towel, dark color preferred
- 1 toothbrush, adult size in original wrapper
- 1 comb, large toothed preferred
- 1 metal nail clipper
- 2 bath size bars of soap

Donations can be placed in the Personal Care Kit container in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome to purchase items, just write Personal Care Kit on the check memo line. Thank you for your help!

ELCA World Hunger – What's YOUR 50??

The ELCA was established in 1987 with the merger of three church bodies, The American Luther Church (ALC), The American Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). Each of those church bodies had hunger fund drives which go back to 1974 when a major famine struck Africa and the US was hit with drought and crop failures. This year, 2024 marks 50 years since those precipitating events.

Many of us remember 1999 when the fund was 25 years old, Sunday School kids in the ELCA were encouraged to put aside 25 cents per day and the quarters were saved in plastic film cannisters (remember them?) Members were urged to give in multiples of 25, youth groups were challenged to raise funds equivalent to the cost of 25 gym shoes, etc.

This year we deal with 50 something. Is it 50 cents per day for 50 days? That's 25 dollars. How about a dollar a day for 50 days? Good Friday is 50 days before the Synod Assembly – a good time frame to focus on keeping the ELCA fund alive and well and PLANTING SEEDS* for another 50 years. This is the theme of this year's Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 18.

Additional Ringers Sought

Messiah's Bell Choir invites new and returning ringers to join the rehearsals on Monday evenings at 6:00 pm. If you can ring for the spring session, great! If you can ring for only a month or two, we would also welcome you!

Cook Team Needed for October

We are planning our community meals for this year. We have a community meal 10 months out of the year (we skip January and July) on the first Wednesday of the month. We now have cooks scheduled for every month except October. If you or you and some friends are willing to plan and cook our October community meal, please contact the church office. Thanks to all our volunteer cooks!

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Weekly Walk

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans) - usually 55 or older, but all are welcome!! Please join the OWLs on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. to walk. We walk at Lower Harbor, Mattson Park in the summer and at the dome in the winter. Please call the office for more information. No RSVP required. We'd love to have you join us!

The New Free Store Donations

The New Free Store is an inter-faith, non-profit group supporting people who express a need for free clothing, linens, and hygiene and cleaning supplies. Anyone in need is welcome. Free things are offered as "in God's economy three is always enough. There is a collection bin in our narthex at Messiah. They are currently collecting:

March – Shampoo (male/female), feminine pads & tampons

April – Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, & Bars of Soap

Overnight Emergency Shelter

Superior Connections Recovery Community Organization (SCRCO) continues to host an Overnight Emergency Shelter for homeless individuals in the Marquette area. They are renting space in Ishpeming and transporting the guests to and from Marquette. Currently about 15-20 individuals are being served.

If you are interested in providing assistance, they could use warm meals/snacks, Gatorade, paper products, hygiene products, returnable can/bottles (can be dropped off at SCRCO's office, 620 S. Lake St.) and monetary assistance. There is a box for donations in the narthex.

SCRCO has resurrected the online signup to provide dinners at the Engagement Center located at the Wonderland Motel in Ishpeming. Here is the link to the sign up to provide dinners: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4CA5AA2DA0F5C52-47144629-scrco#/for> more details.

Bowls for a Cause

Turned Wooden Bowls are available for a donation to the community assistance fund. They are located next to the homemade jams in the narthex. All bowls are homemade and are finished with a food safe finish. If you have questions about the bowls, they can be directed to Paul Carstens at pcarsten@alumni.nmu.edu.

Living Lutheran Publication

Living Lutheran is a publication that has been printed monthly for many years. They are no longer printing this publication starting in 2024. They have this announcement though to find it online: The content will now be available at livinglutheran.org at no cost to our readers. No login information is needed to access the website. Feel free to sign up at livinglutheran.org/subscribe for the magazine's free e-digest, where you can get links to stories based on your preferences delivered to your inbox weekly, biweekly or monthly.

Zoom QiGong

Zoom QiGong for Health & Wellness, Balance & Fall Prevention. Tuesdays, 12:00 – 1:00 pm – Diana Magnuson 906-362-9386/ magnusondiana@gmail.com

Messiah Birthdays

Mar 27	Ryan Voskuhl
Mar 28	Dick Balding, Jerry Godec
Mar 29	Jack Mendelin
Mar 30	Jeff Dodge, Dennis Gustafson
Mar 31	Brenton Fitzpatrick, Janet Skytta
Apr 1	Jeanne Groos, Karl Kaukola
Apr 2	Bob Hewitt, Gina Lindberg
Apr 3	No birthdays
Apr 4	Ethan Sellers, Bev Zorza
Apr 5	Barb Bergstrom, Brent Skaw
Apr 6	Steve Nelson, Quinn Tripp
Apr 7	Denise Eady, Theo Geschwindt, Les Rolig, Debby St. Onge
Apr 8	Janna Benedict, Bob Marlor, Susan Shaver
Apr 9	Andrew Banitt, Logan Ostermeyer

In the Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pr. Andrew Plocher & Pr. Molly Hunter 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

Marsha Lucas; Fred & Jeanne Groos on the passing of Fred's father, Dick; Sara Moyle & family on the passing of Sara's mother, Janet; Karen; Jean Whitman-Shelby and family upon the passing of her brother George; John & Rose Collins; Rick Castillo; Susan Shaver; Ruth Koehler; Don Hillegas; Grant; Kai Dolan; Samantha; Carl & Liz Beyne; Phyllis Champion; Ted; Bruce Lindberg; Betty; Grace Chien; Jamie; Emma; Judy Donckers; Jon Kamps; Donna; Brian; Ben; Sandy Grenke; John Kiltinen; Kathy; Evelyn; Akira Carlson; Karen Eldevick; Grace; Shannon; Billy & Kathy S.; Lu Swanson; Leesa; Jesse Wright; Marshall Lovan; Peter; David Shaver; Ken Smith; Shawn; Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Tina & her roommate; Williamson family; Wayne Hanmer; Karen Johnson; Sierra; Charlene Avery

Pastor on Call:

Pastor Andrew is on call March 27, 31 – April 3

Pastor Molly is on call March 28-30

Worship Volunteers

Maundy Thursday, March 28 – 6:30 pm in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Ushers: Anne Rydholm, Jean Reynolds

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, **one needed**

Good Friday, March 29 – 6:30 pm in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Greeters: Laurel Kniskern, Marina Shinkarenko

Saturday March 30 – Easter Vigil – 5:00 pm in sanctuary

Usher: **one needed**

Greeter: Marina Shinkarenko

Easter Sunday, March 31 – Sunrise Service – 7:00 am at McCarty's Cove

Usher: Billie Johnson

Easter Sunday, March 31 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Terry Langenberg

Reader: Larry Pagel

Ushers: Mike and Emily Coyne

Communion Assistants: Marina Shinkarenko, Larry Pagel, Kathy Maynard

Greeters: Darlene Martin, Marina Shinkarenko

Nursery: Jamie Dodge

Provide Refreshments:

Easter Sunday, March 31 – 10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Mike Hill

Reader: Mark Paulsen

Ushers: Nancy Raisanen, **one needed**

Communion Assistants: Sandy Lindberg, Karen Burkman, Kerry McGinley

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, Laurel Kniskern

Projection Technician: Inga Banitt

Nursery: Jamie Dodge

Flower Delivery: Mary Beth Carstens

Announcements and Classified Ads

Dinner with the Doctor

The Marquette Seventh-day Adventist Church, 270 East US 41, Negaunee, will host "Growing Microgreens" with Angela Castleberg, from New Leaf Farms, on Sunday April 14th at 2 p.m.

This free event includes a plant-based dinner. \$30 microgreen starter kits will be available for purchase for those who choose to do so. Please RSVP at 906-475-4488

or mqtsdachurch@gmail.com.

Liturgy and the Natural World

Join LSTC faculty member Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart for an inspiring 4-part series on nature and liturgy. Reimagine communal liturgies and daily rituals as you explore the sacredness of the cosmos, sacraments, and our bodies. Sunday sessions begin April 7 and Wednesday sessions begin April 10. To register, go to lstc.edu/events.

The LSTC Learning Communities offer no-cost spring and fall theological education programs via Zoom designed to enhance lay theological education, enrich parish learning programs, and foster a stronger relationship between the seminary and its constituent congregations.

Summer Employment at Bay Cliff

Bay Cliff Health Camp in Big Bay is now hiring for all positions for summer 2024. We are seeking camp counselors, lifeguards, leadership staff, professional and support staff. For more information, or to apply online, go to www.baycliff.org. Dates of employment for most roles are June 7-August 5, 2024.

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Events

[Community Grief Support](#) - Loss of a loved one can look different for everyone. Let our team help you on your journey to new beginnings. This group is designed to support you with education, resources, and a safe place to listen and share. Facilitated by Bereavement Coordinator and Social Worker Lisa Marttila. Free & open to the public. No affiliation to our hospice is required. [Choose the location](#) that works best for you! Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions.

[Marquette](#)

4/17/24 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice office at 914 W Baraga Ave-Marquette

[Gwinn](#)

4/10/24 2:00 -3:00 pm

Forsyth Senior Center at 165 N Maple St-Gwinn

[Caregiver Support Groups](#) – Are you feeling isolated or burnt out as a caregiver? Do you experience frustration or guilt and need a safe place to process? Join us for opportunities to share your feelings, develop friendships, receive emotional support, and to learn about available community resources. There will be occasional guest speakers for relevant topics as well. This group is free and open to the public! The group is moderated by Jamie Barbieri, RN Community Outreach Coordinator from Lake Superior Life Care and Hospice. Choose the location that works best for you! Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions.

Marquette (2nd Wednesday of every month):

4/10/24 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Office; 914 W. Baraga Ave.

Gwinn (2nd Tuesday of every month):

4/9/24 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Forsyth Senior Center; 165 N. Maple St

Ishpeming (3rd Tuesday of every month):

~~4/16/24 2:00—3:00 pm~~ CANCELED

Ishpeming Senior Center; 121 Greenwood St.

Marquette Choral Society Concert

The Marquette Choral Society presents “Divine Light” (the choral music of Eric Whitacre) on Saturday, April 27 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 pm at Reynolds Recital Hall. The conductor is Erin Colwitz with Jan Brodersen, piano and Adam Hall, cello. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 10 and can be purchased at nmu.edu/tickets.

Do you have an announcement?

Send announcements & ads to Kathy Godec (kathy@messiahlutheranmqt.org). Send concert or performance information, yard sale announcements, party invitations, requests for babysitters, yard maintenance, rooms for rent and items for sale. E-newsletter deadline is 12:00 pm on Tuesdays.

Messiah Contact Information

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

Phone: 906-225-1119

Fax: 906-225-5025

Email: office@messiahlutheranmqt.org

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

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor - Andrew Plocher

Associate Pastor - Molly Hunter

Office Staff

Parish Administrator - Jennifer Dodge

Administrative Assistant – Kathy Godec

Parish Accountant - Mike Hill

Financial Secretary – Anne Rydholm

Music Staff

Director of Music – Sara Parks

Bell Choir Director - Judy Quirk

Organist/Pianist - Kathy Strazzinski

Pianist – Jacob Schmeltzer & Jocelyn Basse