

# Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Answering God's call to love

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## Messiah ENewsletter for April 30, 2025

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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### Need Volunteers to Bring Refreshments on Sundays

We need volunteers to bring refreshments for our coffee time on Sundays. It can be cookies, bars, cheese and crackers, donut holes, fresh fruit, and just about anything else that would serve as a snack. It does not have to be homemade. There is no need to do any set up or clean up; just put the refreshments on the table in the atrium. There is a signup sheet on the welcome table (the pink sheet titled "May 2025 – Sunday Refreshments.") All four Sundays in May need volunteers for refreshments. You don't have to put down what you are bringing; just sign your name on the Sunday you plan to bring snacks. Thanks to everyone who volunteers.

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### Help Needed for Community Meal

We could use 1-2 more volunteers to help with cleaning up after our community meal on Wednesday, May 7. If you can help, please sign up on the community meal volunteer signup sheet on the welcome table or let the church office staff know. Thanks!

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### **Upcoming Events – May**

May 1	Bible Study at 10:30 am
May 2	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
May 2	Male Chorus Concert at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary
May 5	11-Step Centering Prayer at 6:00 pm
May 6	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
May 7	Funeral service for Marilyn Andersen at 1:00 pm followed by refreshments in the atrium
May 7	Community Meal at 6:00 pm
May 8	Bible Study at 10:30 am
May 9	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
May 10	Confirmation at Bethany Lutheran in Republic from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
May 12	11-Step Centering Prayer at 6:00 pm
May 13	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
May 14	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm

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### **Community Meal – May 7**

We will have a community meal on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 pm. The cooks will be serving brats, chips, baked beans, pickles, and ice cream sandwiches. There will be a vegetarian option served as well. Please join us for food & fellowship

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### **Mothers' Day Bake Sale – May 10 & 11**

The Global Mission Team will hold a bake sale on Mother's Day weekend of breads & other goodies with donations for these baked goods added to the Synod World Hunger offering. BAKERS - please bring your goods to the office by Thursday, May 8 (between 9:00 am & 4:00 pm) or to the worship service you attend that weekend. The baked goods will be sold before and after each worship service on Saturday and on Sunday. NON BAKERS - please come prepared to buy the good stuff and "***Cast our bread upon the waters***" - to help Mothers in need in our world.

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## **Sunday School Families – Summer & Fall**

A reminder that May 18th is the last day of Sunday School. We will be having an ice cream party and also honoring our teachers at the end of worship. Have your student make a thank-you card for their teacher to give to them on this day!

This summer there will be a fun gathering at the home of Jen Bleckiner, who teaches 3 year olds through kindergarten. Join our teachers and other families for a fun evening with a bonfire, swimming, dinner and s'mores at their house. July 25th from 5:00 – 7:30 at 545 Fisher Street. Rain date will be August 1st. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Sunday School for the fall begins on Rally Sunday – September 7th. Mark your calendars!

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## **Senior Men's Ministry**

Messiah's Senior Men's Bible Study has been meeting every Friday morning at 9:00 am in room #202. Please join them on Friday morning!

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## **Cast Your Bread Upon the Waters**

*"Cast out your bread upon the waters, for after many days, you will get it back. Divide your means seven ways, or even eight, for you do not know what disasters may happen upon the earth." --- Ecclesiastes 11:1-2*

This is the theme for our World Hunger gathering at our synod assembly in May. When we cast our bread upon the waters we are sharing food with one another with a mindset of boundless grace. We are strengthening our world to face whatever disasters may come. The needs are greater than ever.

The Synod Assembly is May 15-17 at NMU. You are invited to "Cast Your Bread" into the offering which will be taken for ELCA World Hunger at that time. Our congregation has generously supported this ministry in the past. Let's keep it up!

Look for the World Hunger offering envelopes in the Bread Box on the table by the office and make your contribution to Messiah – with "Synod Offering" noted. - - - Mary Lou Blomquist, for the Global Mission Committee

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## **Bringing Sound and Vision to Life: Help Us Complete Our A/V Upgrades**

Three years ago, a generous and anonymous donor helped launch a much-needed transformation of our audio and visual systems at Messiah. That initial gift sparked exciting progress: a clearer and more reliable speaker system in the sanctuary, upgraded sanctuary audio wiring, improved projection and streaming capabilities, and much needed initial updates

to our internet infrastructure. These changes have already made a big difference in how we gather, worship, and connect—both in person and online.

But there's more work to do.

As our worship life evolves and our building continues to serve as a home for community and connection, it's time to finish what was started. We're now raising funds for the next phase of A/V improvements that will help us better serve everyone who comes through our doors.

Here's what's next:

- Improving the T-Coil hearing system for those with hearing aids, to make worship more accessible for all.
- Refreshing the speakers in the narthex, atrium, and nursery—and connecting them to the sanctuary system so that spaces like the nursery and Saturday evening worship can fully participate in sound.
- Creating a centralized A/V and internet closet near the sanctuary and office for better management and reliability.
- Rewiring outdated internet infrastructure throughout much of our building to support streaming, communication, and day-to-day operations.
- Upgrading the Magnuson Hall sound system so it can be a reliable space for worship, meetings, and events.
- Adding a large screen TV to the Atrium for overflow worship and presentations—welcoming all into the experience, even when the sanctuary is full.

It's a bold vision, but it's rooted in the same spirit that launched these improvements years ago: a commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and excellence in how we gather as the body of Christ.

To help reach our goal of nearly \$30,000, Messiah's Church Council has approved a matching initiative using undesignated memorial funds—so every dollar you give will be matched, doubling the impact of your generosity.

You can give by check or online, noting "A/V projects" in the memo line.

Thank you for all the ways you support Messiah—with your time, your gifts, and your love.

Together, we can make sure our worship and community spaces serve us well—not just today, but for years to come.

Let's finish what we started—together.

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## **Vacation Bible School at First Presbyterian Church – June 16-19**

First Presbyterian Church (120 N Front Street in Marquette) is holding Vacation Bible School June 16-19 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Children from Messiah are welcome to register and

attend. Dinner is provided for all participants starting at 5:30 pm every evening. It is for children ages 5-13 years and there is no charge. This year's theme is Harry Potter, "Let God's Light Be Your Lumos".

To register, go to:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6OfM1ZHNwx8NpgJYT65UcjOyp1Y6cKDiykO1AJYvMmYQPUA/viewform?usp=header>

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### **NMU Gender Fair Thank You**

Thank you so much for participating in NMU's 8th Gender Fair this year. We had over 400 people participate in this year's event. We hope in the future to continue the generosity between the community of Marquette and the campus of Northern Michigan University. We appreciate everything you do for the community and taking the time to help one another. This event was a major success and we hope to work together again next year. Sincerely,  
Penelope G. & Grey B.

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### **Help Wanted: Church Sign Virtuoso**

Have a way with words? Enjoy a good pun? Ever dreamed of wielding the power of a marquee? We're looking for a brave soul (or team of souls) to take on the sacred and slightly mischievous task of updating our church sign!

Qualifications? A willingness to swap out letters in all seasons, an appreciation for pith and wit, and a knack for crafting messages that make people smile—and maybe even think a little.

Previous experience in dad jokes, wordplay, or holy humor is a plus but not required.

If you're up for the challenge (or just want to know what happens behind the scenes), contact Pr. Andrew.

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### **Are You a Pianist?**

Do you play the piano? Are you free occasionally during the day? Would you like to volunteer as a pianist once or twice a month at an intermittent service that we might hold? If this interests you, please contact the church office.

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### **Centering Prayer**

What is the purpose of centering prayer? Simply to consent to God's Presence and action within. You can practice it yourself at home, or you can join others in the practice. Not all

knowledge comes from books, or words, or others. We were promised an Advocate but in order to hear the guidance of that Advocate, we must go into a private place and listen. The practice is this:

With the intention to consent to God's Presence and action within—

Choose a sacred word, as a symbol of consent to God's presence and action within. It should be a simple word or phrase which keeps reminding us of our intention to seek God's guidance. Sit or lie comfortably, and close your eyes. Gently introduce your sacred word.

Whenever you find yourself distracted by thoughts, emotions, bodily sensations (and you WILL find this happening)--ever so gently return to your sacred word. Repeat this step about 10 million times.

At the end of your prayer time, sit briefly to allow yourself to come back to the physical moment.

Traditionally, most centering prayer teachers recommend two silent sittings of 20 minutes, twice daily. This is often too much for beginners. Better to begin with a short amount of time—3 to 5 minutes—when you are establishing your practice. The most important thing is to keep at it and if you make it too onerous, you won't keep at it. YouTube has videos about centering prayer; opportunities to practice with others online can be found at [www.meditationchapel.org](http://www.meditationchapel.org) Books that are helpful by Thomas Keating are: "Open Mind, Open Heart" and "Invitation to Love."

You are invited to join us on Tuesdays from 11-12. No need to commit to every meeting. Come when you can. We sit together in silent practice for 20 minutes and follow our prayer time with Lectio Divina (readings that have inspired or supported God's command to love God and love one another).

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### **OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Weekly Walk**

Spring is (hopefully) here and on Mondays at 10am we will be walking at the Lower Harbor Mattson Park if it's not raining. If the weather is rainy, we'll walk at the Dome. Afterwards we go to Provisions for coffee. We walk at different rates and all are welcome. If you are not interested in walking, join us for coffee. Questions? Please contact Betsy or the church office.

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### **Choral Award Recipient**

Rick Beyers is the recipient of the 2025 Choral Leadership Award, given to Rick for his outstanding support of choral music in the area.

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### **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, hygiene & 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 for The New Free Store. They are currently collecting:

\***May** – *Diapers, size 3-6 and/or Baby Wipes*

\***June** – *Hand Sanitizer and/or Razors (male/female)*

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## **Messiah Birthdays**

Apr 30	No birthdays
May 1	Alex Geschwindt, Max Geschwindt, Carol Pfannenstiel
May 2	Paul Carstens, Emmett Claybaker
May 3	No birthdays
May 4	Emily Fitzpatrick, Delaney Parks
May 5	Liam Boehlke
May 6	Sarah Balding, John Dahlke, Joan Hill, Peter Kotila, Levin MacIvor-Andersen
May 7	Jeff Olson, Deb Rolig, Boli Soderberg
May 8	Addie Davis, Thomas Matthews, Clare Sauer
May 9	Jon Hill
May 10	Mark Sellers
May 11	Sue Hewitt
May 12	Madison Balding, Anna Zimmer
May 13	Traci Busick, Chris Kotila, Scott Krah

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## **In the Hospital**

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pr. Molly Hunter & Pr. Andrew Plocher would like to visit you while you are there. If you are unable to notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

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## **In Our Prayers**

Philip Andersen and family upon the passing of Philip's mother, Marilyn; Bob and Sue Hewitt and family upon the passing of Sue's brother, Michael Orhanen; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Jan Brown; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jimmy Anderson; Jeremy; Owen; Sally Olson; Charlie Blake; Carol Bell; Dorothy; Lynne Robertson; Karen; Rose Collins; Rick Castillo; Don Hillegas; Grant; Kai Dolan; Samantha; Ted; Bruce Lindberg; Grace Chien; Jamie; Donna; Brian; Ben; Sandy Grenke;

Evelyn; Akira Carlson; Karen Eldevick; Grace; Shannon; Billy & Kathy S.; Leesa; Jesse Wright; Marshall Lovan; Peter; Shawn; Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Tina; Williamson family; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Sierra; Charlene Avery

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### **Pastor on Call:**

Pastor Andrew is on call April 30, May 4-7

Pastor Molly is on call May 1-3

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### **Worship Volunteers**

#### **Saturday, May 3 – 5:00 pm in atrium**

Assisting Minister: Carol Bell

Communion Assistant: Barb Salmela

Provide Refreshments: **Need a volunteer.**

#### **Sunday, May 4 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook**

Assisting Minister: Dave Blomquist

Reader: Mary Lou Blomquist

Ushers: Bruce Robertson, Sam Elder

Communion Assistants: Dave Blomquist, Larry Pagel, Marina Shinkarenko

Greeters: Tom and Amy Froiland

Nursery: Maddie Dykema

Provide Refreshments: **Need a volunteer.**

#### **Sunday, May 4 –10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook**

Assisting Minister Marina Shinkarenko

Reader: Mark Paulsen

Ushers: Dave and Nancy Skoog

Communion Assistants: Gayle Mack, Marina Shinkarenko, Evan Busick

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko and Marcia Heron

Projection Technician Kathy Godec

Nursery: Maddie Dykema

Flower Delivery Bev Evans



## **Announcements and Classified Ads**

### **Marquette Male Chorus – Spring Concert – May 2**

The Marquette Male Chorus will present their Spring concert titled “Imagine – Music of the Beatles” on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, 305 W. Magnetic. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 at the door. For further information, please contact Wayne Hanmer at 906 249-9867.

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### **Negaunee Male Chorus Concert – May 3**

The Negaunee Male Chorus and The Kingdom Kids present “Music Through the Decades” on Saturday, May 3 at 7:00 pm. The concert will be at W.C. Peterson Auditorium, Ishpeming High School. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults; age 17 and under with an adult are free.

Ticket outlets are: Super One Foods, Negaunee; Country Village Ace, Ishpeming; Jubilee Foods, Ishpeming; TruNorth Credit Union, Ishpeming; or any Male Chorus member.

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### **Nick’s Run for Recovery – May 17**

It’s time for Superior Connections Recovery Community Organization’s (SCRCO) 3rd Annual “Nick’s Run for Recovery”, to be held in downtown Marquette. This run is held to bring awareness to the growing issue of substance use and mental health in our area and is held in honor of the late Nicholas Suardini, who lost his life to these crises.

Funds from this fun run/walk will be used to support Superior Connections mission of cultivating a culture of long-term recovery by creating connections and reducing barriers for those affected by substance use by supporting our Recovery Residence program. We currently have two homes (Marquette & Ishpeming) that house four men each and add programming to function at NARR (National Alliance of Recovery Residence, Inc.) Level 3 standards.

This year’s run will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025 and will follow the same 5k route as last year. Pre-race check-in will be held at Elizabeth’s Chop House on Front St at 9:00am; participants will receive local resource information, a race number, & Nick’s run merch (including a T-shirt). Participants will then make their way to the clock tower for a word from Nick’s sister, Sarah Suardini, before our event begins. The event will follow the bike path along Lake Superior to just past Picnic Rocks Park before returning to the clock tower to finish.

Tickets will be available on race day for \$35.

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### **Muppets and Masters Concert – May 18**

Superior Handbells will present their Muppets and Masters Concert on Sunday, May 18 at 3:00 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church (305 W Magnetic St. in Marquette). It will include the music of movies, The Beach Boys, Pops, and others. A free-will offering will be taken.

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### **Support Local Lions Club**

Support the Marquette Lions Club by renting a 3 x 5 American Flag for your front yard for Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. Flags will be delivered prior to each holiday and picked up after the event. The minimum donation requested is \$35. If interested, please contact Kerry McGinley at 231-250-1092. Make checks payable to Marquette Lions Club. Thank you for your support.

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### **Financial Help for Cancer Patients**

If you or someone you know is going through any financial hardships while going through cancer treatment, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Poirier of Cancer Care of Marquette County (CCMC). 906-362-9226 / poirph@msn.com or Barb Salmela 906-250-1016.

There are no income guidelines. Assistance can be for travel expenses, insurance co-pay, medical bills & medications related to cancer care. This organization is all volunteer based. Money to support is from fundraising, grants and donations. This organization is a 501c3 group so donations are tax deductible. But I cannot emphasize enough....to CALL if you need help.

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### **Queer Conversation Book Club**

The Queer Conversation Book Club meets on the first Saturday of every month from October 5 through May 3 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Join us to read LGBT+ books and graphic novels to learn and build community! The book club meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 E. Ridge St. in Marquette. Snacks and materials are provided. This is a supportive and inclusive space for LGBT+ folks and Curious allies, for tweens, teens, and adults. Presented by Lav-YAC, Equality Michigan, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. For more information:

[www.Equalitymi.org](http://www.Equalitymi.org) or EQMI at 906 458-8322 or St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 906 226-2912.

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## 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. Free & open to the public. No affiliation to our hospice is required. Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions. *Meet at the Forsyth Senior Center at 165 N. Maple St in Gwinn on May 14th from 2:00-3:00 pm.*

Caregiver Support Groups – Are you feeling isolated or burned 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. Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions.

### Marquette:

2nd Wednesday of every month

May 14 from 2:00-3:00 pm

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

914 W. Baraga Ave

participate

### Telephone Based:

3rd Wednesday of every month

May 21 from 2:00-3:00 pm

Call 906.485.5527 to register

Landline or Cell phone required to

### Live & Learn: Savvy Senior Finances

Tips for everyday Banking every Senior Citizen should know! Join us for an informative session on smart and secure banking tips tailored just for seniors! Learn how to avoid scams and fraud, learn safe banking practices and tips, what to do if you are scammed, and how to properly secure your accounts. This presentation will be presented by the Marquette Community Federal Credit Union in partnership with Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice. Free and open to the public. It will be held on May 28th from 3:00-4:00 pm. Please call 906.225.7760 to register.

If you have any questions about these events, please don't hesitate to contact Jamie Barbieri (Community Outreach Coordinator) at 906.225.7760 or [jbarbieri@lakesuperiorhospice.org](mailto:jbarbieri@lakesuperiorhospice.org)

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**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.

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## **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](mailto: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