

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for May 21, 2025

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!

Need Volunteers to Bring Refreshments on Saturdays & Sundays

We need volunteers to bring refreshments for our coffee time on Sundays and for pre-worship on Saturdays. 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 for Saturdays and for Sundays. 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.

Upcoming Events – May/June

May 21 Council Meeting at 6:30 pm

May 22 Bible Study at 10:30 am

May 22	Garage Clean Out at 1:00 pm
May 23	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
May 26	Memorial Day – Church Office Closed
May 26	11-Step Centering Prayer at 6:00 pm
May 27	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
May 28	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
May 29	10:30 am Bible Study
May 30	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
June 2	11-Step Centering Prayer at 6:00 pm
June 3	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
June 4	Community Meal at 6:00 pm

Building and Grounds Worker Bee Days

We have several opportunities for you to help beautify our grounds over the coming weeks. There are sign-up sheets on the welcome table for each event but feel free to show up and help or ask Pr. Molly how you can be involved if the dates don't work for you!

May 22nd from 1:00 - 5:00 for Garage Clean out: Our garage needs a thorough decluttering. We need help to sift through and throw stuff away into the dumpster we will be renting. If you like interesting treasures tucked in the back of church garages like a bonus baptismal font or 12 thousand chairs, you'll need to show up the day of clean out to claim those.

June 19th from 2:00 - 5:00 Grounds Beautification Day: On this day we will be cleaning up around the church, weeding, sprucing up, planting and eradicating some of the mildew on the sides of the building. If you love gardening and would be willing to continue helping to tend some of our plants over the summer, we would so appreciate you showing up this day or contacting Jen in the church office.

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!

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!

2025 Messiah Directory Available for Pickup

Messiah's 2025 directory with your name, address & phone number, is available for pick up. If your information isn't included and you would like it in there, please contact Jen Dodge in the office. This is a directory for members and for visitors.

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.

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>

Jam News

It is time to clear the shelves to make them ready for 2025 fruits of the harvest. We are reducing the price to \$3.00 per jar on all remaining 2024 jam jars as a thank you for supporting the assistance fund with your purchase.

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.

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 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).

OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Weekly Walk

Spring is (hopefully) here and on Mondays at 10:00 am 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.

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)*

Messiah Birthdays

May 21	Marianne Brugman, Ralph Christensen, Ron Hill
May 22	Barb Salmela
May 23	John VanDreel
May 24	Maria Mendini-Fuller, Eliza Rector
May 25	Liam Ulland-Joy
May 26	No birthdays
May 27	Laura Goodney
May 28	Miriam Mattson
May 29	Joe Blemberg, Crystal Swanson
May 30	Jason Schilling
May 31	Conrad Jewett, Jeannie Wagner
June 1	Ron Brow
June 2	Sandy Lindberg
June 3	Gayle Mack
June 4	No birthdays

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.

In Our Prayers

Family and friends of Cary Bjork who passed away; Darlene Dreisbach; Philip Andersen and family upon the passing of Philip's mother, Marilyn; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Jan Brown; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; 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

Pastor on Call:

Pastor Andrew is on vacation May 21-28

Pastor Molly is on call May 21-28

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, May 24 – 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Chris Kotila

Communion Assistant: Barb Maszlewski

Provide Refreshments: Karen Kimar-Johnson

Sunday, May 25 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Marina Shinkarenko

Reader: Brenda Blett

Ushers: Joe and Chris Harkness

Communion Assistants: Larry Pagel, Marina Shinkarenko, Dave Blomquist, Judy Quirk

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, **need one more volunteer.**

Nursery: Mylee Muscoe

Provide Refreshments: Pat Vacilek

Sunday, May 25 –10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister Mike Hill

Reader: Jeanne Groos

Ushers: Fred and Jeanne Groos

Communion Assistants: Mike Hill, Sandy Lindberg, Gayle Mack, Bronce Reece
Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, **need one more volunteer.**
Projection Technician Inga Banitt

Nursery: Mylee Muscoe
Flower Delivery Amy Froiland

Announcements and Classified Ads

Iconography: Painting as a Spiritual Practice – October 13-18

Iconography is an ancient Christian tradition where painting becomes a form of prayer. More than just creating art, it's a spiritual practice—slow, reflective, and deeply rooted in centuries of sacred storytelling. Through color, shape, and tradition, icons invite us to see with new eyes and connect with the divine in a hands-on, meaningful way.

This 6-day workshop in October, led by a teacher from the Prosopon School, offers a unique chance to step into this sacred art form. It's open to anyone—no art experience needed. The workshop is an investment of both time and resources, but full details (including cost and registration) are available online.

The workshop will be held at St. Louis the King Catholic Church (264 Silver Creek Rd. in Marquette). For more information, contact Mary Jane Lynch 906 360-5279 or maryjanelynch62@yahoo.com.

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.

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.

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

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 participate

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

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