

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for June 25, 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!

Brookridge Worship Today!

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

Upcoming Events –June/July

- June 25 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
- June 26 Bible Study at 10:30 am
- June 26 Centering Prayer at 1:30 pm
- June 27 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
- July 1 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
- July 3 Church Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- July 4 No Senior Men's Bible study
- July 6 10:30 am Worship at Clark Lambros Beach

July 7 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
July 8 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
July 9 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm

Beach Worship Is Back!

We're heading back to the beach this summer—and you're invited. On the first Sundays of July and August, and on Labor Day weekend, our 10:30 worship will take place at Clark Lambros Beach Park.

Mark your calendars:

• **July 6** • **August 3** • **August 31**

Bring a chair, bring a friend, and come ready to worship with sand between your toes and Lake Superior as our chancel. There's nothing quite like singing, praying, and sharing communion with the waves rolling in.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll be in the sanctuary like usual. But here's hoping for sunshine and a light breeze!

Sunday School Families – Summer & Fall

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!

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.

Messiah's Community Assistance Fund

A mid-year update on our assistance fund. Our dedicated group of volunteers - Mary Lou Bloomquist, Bill Davis, Mike Coyne, Laurel Kniskern, and Pam Christiansen - graciously give of their time throughout the week to see up to 12-15 people and help them with their needs. We most often give money for utilities, rent, medical bills, car insurance/repairs, and bus

tickets. We are six months out from Giving Tuesday where we raise the majority of the monetary resources for the assistance fund, but with our calculations and the potential of cuts to social services, we expect that we will run out of funds well before then. I am asking for you to think about contributing at this time of the year if you have some extra funds to give. This ministry is essential to our community, it not only helps people with bills but it allows us to show God's love and care to those who are most in need.

How can you help?

- Donate to the assistance fund!
 - Bring in food for our small pantry - especially things that are easy to prepare like chili, cereals, pastas and sauce, etc. When bringing canned goods, check for an easy open top.
 - Do you know of other organizations in the area that help people? Let us know so that we can expand the help each person is receiving.
 - Do you know of any grants we could apply for?
-

A Daily Guide for June

June 1 – Wonderfully Made

Read Psalm 139:14 – “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Let this truth shape how you see yourself and others today.

June 2 – Celebrate Courage

Take time to notice and celebrate the courage it takes to live with authenticity. Honor the quiet bravery in yourself or someone you know.

June 3 – Mirror Blessing

Look in the mirror and say, “*I am a child of God, created with care and purpose.*” Repeat until the blessing feels true.

June 4 – Speak Life

Reach out to someone and offer them encouragement. Let your words remind them of their sacred worth.

June 5 – Scripture of Welcome

Read Galatians 3:28 – “There is no longer Jew or Greek... slave or free... male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Reflect on God’s expansive vision of belonging.

June 6 – Be True

Take one honest step today—share a piece of your story, wear something that expresses who you are, or make space for someone else to be themselves.

June 7 – Rest is Holy

Pause for deep rest today, not because you’ve earned it, but because you are beloved. Let your soul breathe.

June 8 – Create with Heart

Make something today: a poem, a song, a sketch, a prayer. Let creativity be a way of listening to your own spirit.

June 9 – Learn and Listen

Engage with a perspective you don't usually hear—especially from people at the margins. Let your learning deepen compassion.

June 10 – Name the Good

Write down five things about yourself that are good. Speak them aloud as a prayer of gratitude.

June 11 – Remember the Brave

Give thanks for those who have made the world more just, inclusive, and kind. Their legacy continues through you.

June 12 – Celebrate Community

Take time to notice what you love about your community—your neighborhood, church, family of choice. What makes it a place of belonging?

June 13 – Encourage the Young

Offer words of blessing to a child, teen, or young adult in your life. Let them know they are seen and loved.

June 14 – A Prayer for the Margins

Pray for those who feel excluded, unseen, or judged. Ask God to bring safety, affirmation, and healing wherever it's needed.

June 15 – Love Without Conditions

Reflect: When have you experienced unconditional love? How might you offer that same grace to yourself or someone else today?

June 16 – Scripture of Steadfast Love

Read Romans 8:38–39 – “Nothing can separate us from the love of God.” Nothing. Let that promise give you strength.

June 17 – Tell Your Truth

Think of a moment when you felt fully yourself. Write or share that story with someone you trust.

June 18 – Faith that Expands

Explore a writer or teacher whose view of faith challenges and inspires you. Let your understanding of God grow bigger.

June 19 – Juneteenth: Freedom and Repair

Honor the day when enslaved people in the U.S. were finally told they were free. Reflect on the work of justice still unfinished. Pray: *“God of liberation, help me seek freedom not just for myself, but for all.”*

June 20 – Celebrate with Pride

Take joy in who you are and who you are becoming. Celebrate the dignity and worth of all people. Pride is holy when it affirms love and truth.

June 21 – Summer Solstice: Shine Fully

Let the longest day of the year remind you to live fully and freely. You don't need to shrink. Let your light shine.

June 22 – A Blessing for Belonging

Pray: *“God of welcome, draw near to all who've felt cast out or unseen. Make our communities places of love, healing, and home.”*

June 23 – Offer Your Gifts

What do you bring to the world? Share one of your gifts today—your kindness, insight, creativity, or care.

June 24 – Be Gentle with Yourself

When you speak to yourself today, use the same voice you would for a beloved friend. Let compassion guide your inner dialogue.

June 25 – Pray with Color

Use color to pray—doodles, paints, markers. Let the act of creating become a sacred offering.

June 26 – Reclaim Sacred Words

Choose a word from faith that has hurt or inspired you. Sit with it again. Ask God to restore its meaning with truth and grace.

June 27 – Build Bridges

Reach out to someone across a divide—of belief, identity, or experience. Seek understanding over agreement.

June 28 – Remember the Movement

Reflect on the people who sparked change—activists, dreamers, protestors, preachers. Give thanks, and ask: Where do I stand?

June 29 – Imagine the Kin-dom

Picture a world where every person is honored, loved, and safe. Let that vision shape how you speak and act today.

June 30 – Prayer for Sacred Worth

Pray: *“God of love, thank you for making me in your image. Help me live with courage, speak with kindness, and see your beauty in all people. Amen.”*

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 (except for Friday, July 4; no Bible study that day because it's a holiday).

Let's Finish What We Started

Three years ago, a generous anonymous donor helped spark a transformation at Messiah—a transformation in how we hear, see, and connect. That gift launched a series of much-needed upgrades to our sanctuary's audio and visual systems: clearer sound, updated wiring, improved streaming, and a stronger internet foundation.

Already, we've felt the difference. Whether gathered in the sanctuary or joining from home, our worship is more accessible, more reliable, more connected.

But we're not done yet.

As our worship life continues to evolve—and as our building continues to serve as a hub for hospitality and community—it's time to take the next faithful step.

What's Next?

We're raising funds to complete the next phase of A/V improvements, including:

- Enhancing the T-Coil hearing system to better support those with hearing aids.
- Upgrading speakers in the narthex, atrium, and nursery—and connecting them to the sanctuary system, so even those outside the main worship space can fully participate.
- Creating a centralized A/V and internet hub for stronger, simpler management.
- Rewiring outdated internet infrastructure to support streaming, communication, and day-to-day ministry.
- Refreshing the Magnuson Hall sound system so it's ready for worship, meetings, and events.
- Adding a large screen to the Atrium for overflow worship and presentations—welcoming all, even when the sanctuary is full.

It's a bold vision, grounded in a simple commitment: everyone should be able to hear, see, and feel included in worship.

Matching Gifts—Double Your Impact

To help us reach our \$30,000 goal, Church Council has approved a matching initiative from undesignated memorial funds. Every dollar you give will be matched—doubling your impact. Gifts can be made online or by check with "A/V projects" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity, your vision, and your love for this community. With your help, we can finish what we began—not just for today, but for the generations who will worship here next.

Let's finish what we started—together.

Book Study on The Ungrateful Refugee – July 14th

Monday, July 14th, 7:00 pm - Atrium

*“Every day of her new life, the refugee is asked to differentiate herself from the opportunist.” —
Dina Nayeri*

Join us for a timely and moving book study on *The Ungrateful Refugee* by Dina Nayeri. With honesty and depth, Nayeri weaves her own story of fleeing Iran with the lives of others displaced around the world—revealing what it means to seek safety, navigate suspicion, and search for belonging.

Together we’ll explore themes of identity, hospitality, resilience, and faith. This book doesn’t offer easy answers—but it does offer an invitation: to listen, reflect, and see with new eyes. Whether you read often or are picking up your first book in a while, all are welcome. Guided discussions will help us wrestle with complex questions and connect them to our call as people of faith.

Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$18 each.

What is Centering Prayer?

Centering prayer is a form of silent prayer that emphasizes resting in God's presence through silence and a sacred word. It involves finding a quiet space, sitting comfortably, and focusing on a chosen word to help maintain stillness and let go of thoughts. The goal is to cultivate a deeper relationship with God through stillness and receptivity. Several members of Messiah lead groups that practice this form of prayer throughout the week as a piece of their faith life. -
- Pr. Molly Hunter

Centering Prayer

“As the desert monastics suggest, the only way through the deserts of life is to remain in the practice of examining the self, to stay in the Divine’s presence as we unveil ourselves, to truly see and be seen...”

This past April, I attended a ten-day silent centering prayer retreat at the Norbertine Abbey in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were 20 of us that came from as far as Ireland to attend the Center of Contemplation of Snowmass, Colorado traveling intensive post retreat. We arrived in a sandstorm, which is as blinding as a blizzard but more annoying than snow with sand in your eyes nose and mouth.

We had distant views of the Jemez and Sandia mountains to the north and northeast. We heard the choral of coyotes in the evening and the morning birds. Nature was definitely not on silent retreat. The Abbey had a wonderful meditative walking trail that became an important part of my practice to be present and aware. Along the trail, I found several white bleached bones: a vertebra, a large jawbone, a whole skeleton of some small critter. I also saw prints in the sand from birds, mice, and rabbits. And some huge coyote paw prints very close to our

courtyard; probably after the many roadrunners walking fast around the courtyard (I never saw one run). There was definitely a lot going on in this stark desert.

Each day, we woke at 5:15 am for two 30-minute sits with a meditation walk in-between, and three more 30-minute sits before lunch. I loved the early mornings with spacious skies full of stars, although the temperatures were cold. We never reached t-shirt weather while I was there. We were still in the dry winter months before the summer monsoons.

It was the afternoon time that gave me problems. The unstructured time alone. That is when the thoughts that are all-pervasive came out. The ones from home that I brush away with busy work, listening to a book or talking on the phone. Anything but paying attention. In talking with the spiritual director, I found it is the afternoon time that plaques me always. The unstructured time. Something I have more of in retirement. All the thoughts boil down to one; I should be doing more – I am not enough.

I really wasn't able to deal with these hours on the retreat. I found ways to escape. They had great wi-fi. But since I have been home, I have been slower, quieter and paying more attention. Allowing myself a loving nap without retribution has helped and has restored me to be more productive later in the day. I am continuing to listen with less judgement and more love.

What this retreat has given me is the time and space to listen and pay attention. Centering Prayer is becoming more important in my life. In this practice I am continually asked to surrender or consent, whichever word you prefer, to the God within. Each time a thought comes in I do what I can to let it go, to be with God. Absolutely nothing I am thinking is important, although I like to think it is and sometimes it is a struggle to let it go. That is my practice. It is a practice of letting my false self go to be of service. So, I practice.

Laura Petrie, Co-Leader of Centering Prayer

If you are interested in practicing Centering Prayer, we meet in room 202 on the following days:

[Mondays at 5:30 pm](#) -20-minute centering prayer practice with a short reading from Divine Therapy & Addiction by Thomas Keating

[Tuesdays at 11:00 am](#) -20-minute centering prayer practice with Lectio Divina

[Thursdays at 1:30 pm](#) - 20-minute practice with a short reading from Invitation to Love by Thomas Keating

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:

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

***July** – *Deodorant – male or female*

Messiah Birthdays

June 25	Jon Magnuson, Logan Peterson, Sophia Sander
June 26	Eliisa Herman
June 27	Ellyn Delpier, Stephen Luty, Ben Taylor
June 28	Jessica Boehlke, Simeon Maclvor-Andersen
June 29	Jaime Olson
June 30	Melissa Hill, Chuck Suckow
July 1	Lincoln Gordon
July 2	Garrett Crimmins, Olivia Ruuska, Paula Taylor
July 3	Linda Bullock
July 4	Louise Anderson
July 5	Maria Flores, Charles Ruuska
July 6	Helen Johnson
July 7	Rachel Dodge, Sally Olson, Thomas Osier
July 8	Sara Kemppainen, Bronce Reece
July 9	Sara Johnson

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

Lois LaBrecque; Susi Dahlke and family upon the passing of her son, Shawn Longtine; Ellen Symons; Joy Schlais; Lois Raikko and family upon the passing of her husband, Dave; family and friends of Cary Bjork who passed away; Darlene Dreisbach; 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 call June 25 – July 2

Pastor Molly is on parental leave through August 24th

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, June 28 – 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Carol Bell

Communion Assistant: Barb Maszlewski

Provide Refreshments: Barb Salmela

Sunday, June 29 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Kathy Maynard

Reader: Brenda Blett

Ushers: Anne Rydholm, Sten Taube

Communion Assistants: Kathy Maynard, Marina Shinkarenko, Dave Blomquist, Grant Soltwisch

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, Cathy Seblonka

Nursery: Mylee Muscoe

Provide Refreshments: Karen Kimar-Johnson

Sunday, June 29 –10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Mike Hill

Reader: Josh MacIvor-Andersen
Ushers: Dave and Nancy Skoog
Communion Assistants: Marina Shinkarenko, Mike and Joan Hill,
Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, Nancy Raisanen
Projection Technician Kathy Godec

Nursery: Mylee Muscoe
Flower Delivery Kathy Godec

Announcements and Classified Ads

Stories of our Sister City Friendships – June 26

Join the Marquette Area Sister City Board for an Art Week event on June 26. Informal sharing of stories that have kept our relationships going with Higashiomi, Japan and Kajaani, Finland for decades. The event will be held in the Peter White Library, Sister City Room on June 26 from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Light refreshments and a chance to win a door prize of original artwork from one of our cities.

Support Local Lions Club

Support the Marquette Lions Club by artwork 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.

Helen Johnson Quilting Estate Sale – July 12-13

The Helen Johnson Quilting Estate Sale will be held July 12 and 13 at the Marquette Township Hall (1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette). The sale will be from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm on Saturday, July 12 and from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday, July 13. Included in the sale will be fabric (of every color, type, season, or holiday), quilting kits, supplies, and books. EVERYTHING MUST GO. For more information, contact Ernie Johnson at ejohnson@nmu.edu or 906 228-9422

Marquette County Fair – August 7-9

Come to the Marquette County Fair on August 7, 8, and 9 from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm daily; fun for all ages! The fair will feature 3 full days of fun-filled acts, amusements, vendors, livestock, equine shows, entertainment, delicious fair foods, new additions and more. The gate admission is \$7 for adults; \$4 for children, and free for those 4 yrs old and under. The fairgrounds are located 3 miles south of the crossroads. For more information, go to www.marquettecountyfair.org.

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 Prosoyon 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.

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

[Marquette County Community Resource Fair – June 26](#)

Come to the Marquette County Community Resource Fair to connect with programs and resources available to assist with your everyday life. Get onsite assistance from over 70 local community organizations with free or reduced services, This event is free and open to the public: Thursday, June 26 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Lakeview Arena in Marquette.

Grief Support Series – Loss of a loved one can look different for everyone. We will be exploring feelings, support, and tools to help guide you on your grief journey. Please join us, in a safe place to learn and share about the tender moments of grief. This series will take place every other Thursday from June 5th – August 14th from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Facilitated by Lisa Martilla, Bereavement Coordinator & Social Worker. Please call our office at 906.225.7760 to sign up no later than 6/4/2025.

Grief Support Group - Grief can be overwhelming and navigating it alone can make the pain feel even heavier. A grief support group is a safe, compassionate space where individuals who have experienced loss come together to share, listen, and heal. Guided by trained facilitators, these gatherings offer comfort, understanding, and connection through shared experiences. Whether you've recently lost a loved one or are still coping with grief from the past, attending a support group can help you process your emotions, reduce isolation, and find strength in community. Healing doesn't mean forgetting — it means learning to carry your loss with support beside you. Free & open to the public. No affiliation with our hospice is required. Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions.

Marquette

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

914 W. Baraga Ave.

June 26

4:00 pm

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 & Jon Banitt

Pianist – Jacob Schmeltzer & Jocelyn Basse