

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for November 26, 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!



Upcoming Events – November/December

- Nov 26 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm (weather permitting)
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed
- Dec 1 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm

Dec 2	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 2	Giving Tuesday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm
Dec 3	Holden Evening Prayer Service at 5:30 pm
Dec 3	Community Meal at 6:00 pm
Dec 4	Bible Study at 10:30 am
Dec 4	Centering Prayer at 1:30 pm
Dec 5	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Dec 7	Advent Crafts and Pizza following 10:30 am worship service
Dec 8	11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
Dec 8	Book study at 7:00 pm
Dec 9	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 9	Ruth Circle at Brookridge at 1:00 pm
Dec 9	Sunday School meeting at 4:00 pm
Dec 10	Age UP Age Well Workshop at 12:00 pm

10:30 am Worship – Help Needed for Sunday, November 30

We still need a volunteer to serve as an usher and another volunteer to serve as a communion assistant at our 10:30 am worship service this Sunday, November 30. And, we need someone to provide refreshments for our coffee time. Please let Kathy know if you can help. Thanks.

Help with Communion Setup

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to set up communion for the 8:30 am service and then reset for the 10:30 am service on Sundays. Larry Pagel did this every week for many years, but he has moved to Iowa. We will provide training. We would set up the schedule for the month and ask a different volunteer to do communion set up each Sunday. It takes 10-15 minutes to set up communion before the 8:30 am service and 10-15 minutes to reset after the 8:30 am service is over. If you are interested in helping out or if you know someone who might, please let me know. Thanks. Kathy

Community Meal – Help Needed

Our next community meal will be Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm. We need volunteers for serving and cleaning up. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table if you can help.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School students have been working hard on the music they'll perform on December 14th during the 10:30 worship service so come and support them and enjoy this joyful moment.

A reminder that there will be no Sunday School on the 30th of November, the 28th of December and the 4th of January. Sunday School resumes on the 11th of January. Parents look for a letter with the winter/ spring schedule.

UP Wild December Events

Fri. Dec. 5 6-8pm: Holiday Crafting in Community - Bring a project, share a project, write your Holiday cards. DIY makers space. Candles, twinkle lights & mellow music for a calming atmosphere. This event will be held at St. Paul's Church@ 201 E Ridge. St. in Marquette.

Tues. Dec. 16 Noon: Christmas Coffee in Community - An invitation to get to know each other more over a cuppa and a piece of pie! Our annual Christmas celebration- bring a wrapped gift for our White Elephant exchange (under \$20). We will meet at Peace Pie Company, 1501 Division St. in Marquette.

Note: *This is a special one time, new date & location for December*

Thanksgiving Potluck – November 27

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will have its 3rd Annual Thanksgiving potluck at 1:00 pm on Thursday, November 27 (Thanksgiving Day). All are welcome.

They will provide the turkey and ham, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, and rutabaga. Coffee, tea, and water, too. They are asking for the following: other sides, desserts, salads, bread/rolls.

An Invitation to Advent – November 30 (1st Sunday in Advent)

Advent begins Sunday, November 30

"Even one step with shaking knees is a step toward home." — Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed
As the nights stretch longer and the world quiets down, Advent returns — not with answers, but with an invitation: to pay attention. To notice where fear meets longing, where grief brushes against hope, where something holy still flickers in the dark.

This is a season for honest faith. We won't pretend all is calm or bright - we know better than that. The headlines, the heaviness, the heartache are all real. And yet, so is the promise that love takes flesh even in the most unlikely places.

So, we will gather — not to escape the world, but to face it with open eyes and open hearts.

To light candles precisely because the night is long.

To tell old stories that still have power.

To listen for angels, even if they sound more like our neighbors.

To practice courage, joy, and tenderness in community.

Come as you are:

with your doubts and your to-do lists,

your questions and your quiet hopes,

your yearning for something more whole, more just, more true.

Come and walk with us toward the manger —

toward the mystery that God is still showing up in this world,

still choosing human form,

still whispering, *“Do not be afraid.”*

Advent begins the weekend of November 29/30. Let's make room — for hope, for each other, for the holy — together.

Giving Tuesday at Messiah: Support the Community Assistance Fund - December 2

Tuesday, December 2 from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

This Giving Tuesday, December 2 from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm, we invite you to stop by Messiah for a day of generosity, community, and compassion in action. We'll have lunch and snacks available, and all are welcome to stay, connect, and enjoy fellowship as we come together to support our Community Assistance Fund.

This vital fund—entirely supported by donations and a few small grants—is not part of our church budget, yet it is one of the most impactful ways we serve our neighbors. By year's end, it will have provided over \$50,000 in emergency assistance to more than 500 individuals & families right here in our community.

These funds help people caught in the gaps—those facing urgent needs like rent, utilities, medical bills, transportation, and more. When no other help is available, the Community Assistance Fund often becomes a lifeline.

Your presence and your gifts help ensure that this ministry of mercy and justice continues.

Whether you stop by for a bite, drop off a donation, or stay and visit—we're grateful to be in this work with you.

Additionally, if you cannot join us on the 2nd, gifts can also be made online at messiahlutheranmqt.org/give or via Venmo @messiahlutheranmqt.

Let's give generously. Let's give hope.

Community Meal - December 3

Our next Community Meal will be on Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm. Our cooks will be making breakfast for dinner. They will have cheese omelets, sausage, fruit & french toast sticks. Please join us for an evening of food & fellowship. We look forward to seeing you & sharing a meal with you!

Book Study: Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools – December 8

What - An Invitation to the Wonder and Mystery of Prayer

When - Monday, December 8th, 7:00 pm in the Atrium

In a world that often feels chaotic, prayer can begin to feel like a distant or fragile practice. Tyler Staton's Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools invites us back to the heart of it—not as a task to master, but as a relationship to enter. Drawing on ancient Christian practices and everyday experiences, Staton helps us rediscover prayer as both wonder and grounding presence.

We'll gather for a conversation exploring how prayer can meet us in seasons of weariness, uncertainty, and hope. This is not a lecture but an open, honest space to reflect, question, and imagine new rhythms of prayer together.

All are welcome—whether prayer is a daily practice or something that feels far away right now. Books are available in the church office for \$10.

Age UP Age Well: Workshop on Aging – December 10

SENIOR MOMENTS...have you ever walked into a room and not remembered why? How about going to the grocery store and walking out without the one thing you went in for? Do you think this only happens to us as we get older? What if there was another explanation? Would you like to learn the difference between healthy aging and identify the risks associated with dementia? Join us in Magnuson Hall on Wednesday December 10th from 12:00 to 2:00 for an Aging U.P. presentation with Chris Harkness, Messiah member speaking on strategies to stay safe, sharp and strong. As a Speech-Language Pathologist with over 40 years of experience and specializing in cognition she is dedicated to shifting attitudes and perspectives about getting older. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table if you plan to attend.

Superior Conference Youth Group Event – December 14

Youth (grades 6-12) are invited to Faith Lutheran Church (180 Co Rd PPO, Ishpeming) from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm for an evening of Christmas Fun! There will be food, fellowship, and

festive holiday activities. We will craft or paint Christmas ornaments. All supplies will be provided. Please RSVP to Abbey at 906 235-4169 or anjhollinshead@gmail.com by December 11.

OWLS Christmas Party—December 16

You are invited to the OWLS Christmas party on *Tuesday, December 16th from 12:00 to 3:00 pm* in the atrium. Please bring a drink & a sandwich cut in half for trading/sharing, and Christmas cookies if you have some. We will also have a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped or bagged inexpensive gift if you would like to participate. We look forward to this time together.

This Advent: Preparing Your Heart for Hope

This year we will explore how we work our way through fear and prepare our hearts for the hope of the gospels in this season leading up to Jesus' birth. Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope? We've crafted an Advent series that takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. – Taken from "A Sanctified Art"

Mark your calendars for Advent events and be sure to grab a devotional from the welcome table outside of the church office.

November 30 *First Sunday in Advent*

December 3 Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 5:30 pm followed by the community meal

December 7 *Second Sunday in Advent*, Pizza & Advent crafts in Magnuson Hall following 10:30 worship

December 8 Book Study with Pr. Andrew "Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools" at 7:00 pm

December 10 Age UP Age Well: a workshop on Aging with Chris Harkness – 12:00 pm in Magnuson Hall

- December 13** Confirmation Caroling the community is invited to join the confirmation students as they carol at various nursing homes 9:30 am
- December 14** *Third Sunday in Advent*, Sunday School Program during the 10:30 worship service followed by a soup potluck
- December 17** Organ Recital at 12:15 pm in the sanctuary
- December 19** Marquette Choral Society Carol Sing
- December 20** Longest Night Service at 5:00 followed by a soup supper
- December 21** *Fourth Sunday in Advent*
- December 24** Christmas Eve Worship services-4:00, 7:30, and 10:00 pm
-

Mitten Box

We are now in our winter season & it is time for us to help our neighbors in need by donating warm winter wear. Hats, mittens, cowls, earmuffs, head bands, gloves, scarves, etc. are needed. You can help by purchasing items or knitting or crocheting them. There are boxes of yarn under the Welcome Table available for you to use to make items. Special note: we usually need more gloves and mittens than are donated. The donation box is out and ready! All donated items will be distributed on December 3rd. Thank you!

Giving Back in December with LSS

This Advent we will collect items for Lutheran Social Services. We are looking for hygiene items- especially travel sized - any hygiene item that can be used for those who dwell in homeless shelters. (soaps, shampoos, deodorants, combs, lotions, etc.) Look for the bin in the Narthex to donate.

Sweatshirts For Sale

We have 6 Messiah sweatshirts left for sale. Five are size XL; one is size XXL. The cost is \$20 and goes to our Global Mission Team and its work with our sister congregations. The sweatshirts are in the church office.

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.

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.

Knotty Knitters

The Knotty Knitters will continue to meet at Messiah on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month. The knitters typically meet in Magnuson Hall but occasionally meet in the atrium. They do join one another for lunch at Vangos prior to coming to Messiah. Please contact Shelly Johnson for more information.

Shelving Unit Needed

We would like to add another shelving unit to our food pantry and hope that someone might have one to donate for that purpose. Our food pantry consists of 4 shelves and is located near the drive-through entrance. We would prefer something similar to what we have. Our current shelving unit is 4 shelves; 54 inches tall; 30 inches long, and 13 ½ inches wide. It has to be sturdy since many of our food donations are cans. If you can help with this, please let Jen or Kathy in the church office know. Thanks.

A Daily Guide for November 2025

November 26 – Make Space for Gratitude

Prepare for Thanksgiving by making room—clearing clutter, softening your heart, pausing long enough to notice.

November 27 – Thanksgiving Day

Pause. Breathe. Give thanks—to God, to those around the table (or screen), to the land beneath the snow. Prayer: *“Generous God, thank you for grace that finds us in winter’s chill, in warm hands, and in bread we share.”*

November 28 – Rest in the Quiet

The day after a holiday can feel still and heavy. Don’t rush to fill it. Let quiet be a gift, not a void.

November 29 – Begin Again

As Advent nears, ask: *What hope am I carrying into the new season?* Write it down. Keep it close.

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

Light the first candle. Pray: *“God of hope, awaken us again. Let your light rise in the darkness, and in us.”* We wait together—not for easy answers, but for the light that always comes.

A Daily Guide for December 2025

December 1 – Begin in Hope

Light a candle and say aloud: *“Even now, I believe light is coming.”*

Write one hope you carry into this month. Post it where you’ll see it daily.

December 2 – Make Space

Declutter a drawer, shelf, or calendar slot. Let go of what’s no longer needed.

Pray: *“Make room in me for peace, joy, and presence.”*

December 3 – Fear Isn’t the End

Write down one fear that’s been speaking loudly.

Now, below it, write what hope says back.

December 4 – Reach Out

Text or call someone who feels far away. Let them know you’re thinking of them.

December 5 – Find the Warmth

Wrap yourself in a blanket. Sip something hot.

Name three things that make you feel safe and held.

December 6 – Light in the Window

Place a candle or light in your window tonight. Let it be a sign—for your neighbors, for yourself—that love is near.

December 7 – Pray While You Walk

Take a short walk, even in the cold. Let each step be a prayer: “God, walk with me. Walk with us.”

December 8 – Feed Another

Make a meal or snack for someone else. Drop it off, invite them in, or pack a lunch for someone who needs it.

December 9 – Choose Beauty

Do one thing that makes your space or day more beautiful—light a candle, hang a string of lights, or display something meaningful.

December 10 – Remember the Lonely

Write a card or letter to someone who might feel alone this season. Mail it today.

December 11 – Mid-Advent Check-In

What has surprised you this month? What still feels tender?

Give thanks for both.

December 12 – Practice Hope

Hope is a practice, not a feeling. Do something today that leans toward healing or change—even if you don't feel ready.

December 13 – Give a Gift, Just Because

Wrap something simple and leave it for someone—homemade bread, an ornament, a poem, a pack of cocoa.

December 14 – Pray for the Children

Lift up children in your life and community. Pray: *“God of gentleness, protect their joy and grow their dreams.”*

December 15 – Take One Brave Step

Do one small thing today that scares you a little but leads toward life: a hard conversation, a new habit, or an honest word.

December 16 – Let Go of Perfect

Cross one thing off your to-do list without doing it. Let peace matter more than productivity today.

December 17 – Shelter and Solidarity

Donate a warm item—socks, gloves, coat—or volunteer at a shelter.

Pray for those seeking safety this winter.

December 18 – Give Thanks for Ordinary Goodness

Thank someone who shows up consistently: the custodian, the grocery clerk, the neighbor who always waves.

December 19 – Watch for Wonder

Look for something today that catches you off guard—a child laughing, snow falling, the sky shifting. Wonder is everywhere.

December 20 – Be Someone's Warmth

Bring warmth to someone else today—through your presence, your words, your help.

Say: *“Even now, love shows up.”*

December 21 – Longest Night, Deepest Light

On the solstice, light a candle in the dark and say:

“The light is coming. I will not give up hope.”

December 22 – Listen Generously

Have a conversation today where you mostly just listen. Make space for someone's story without needing to fix or respond.

December 23 – Deliver Joy

Drop off cookies or treats for someone nearby—a neighbor, teacher, bus driver, or postal worker. Include a simple thank-you note.

December 24 – Christmas Eve: Love Breaks In

Read Luke 2:1–20. Light a candle. Sit in stillness. Say:

“Even now, Christ is born. Even now, good news lives.”

December 25 – Christmas Day: Joy is Here

Bundle up and step outside, even for five minutes.

Look around and whisper: “God is with us. Joy to the world.”

December 26 – Rest Well

Give yourself permission to rest today. Breathe deeply. Be gentle with your body. Light a candle and do nothing.

December 14 – Pray for the Children

Lift up children in your life and community. Pray: *“God of gentleness, protect their joy and grow their dreams.”*

December 15 – Take One Brave Step

Do one small thing today that scares you a little but leads toward life: a hard conversation, a *new habit, or an honest word.*

December 16 – Let Go of Perfect

Cross one thing off your to-do list without doing it. Let peace matter more than productivity today.

December 17 – Shelter and Solidarity

Donate a warm item—socks, gloves, coat—or volunteer at a shelter.

Pray for those seeking safety this winter.

December 18 – Give Thanks for Ordinary Goodness

Thank someone who shows up consistently: the custodian, the grocery clerk, the neighbor who always waves.

December 19 – Watch for Wonder

Look for something today that catches you off guard—a child laughing, snow falling, the sky shifting. Wonder is everywhere.

December 20 – Be Someone’s Warmth

Bring warmth to someone else today—through your presence, your words, your help.

Say: *“Even now, love shows up.”*

December 21 – Longest Night, Deepest Light

On the solstice, light a candle in the dark and say:

“The light is coming. I will not give up hope.”

December 22 – Listen Generously

Have a conversation today where you mostly just listen. Make space for someone’s story without needing to fix or respond.

December 23 – Deliver Joy

Drop off cookies or treats for someone nearby—a neighbor, teacher, bus driver, or postal worker. Include a simple thank-you note.

December 24 – Christmas Eve: Love Breaks In

Read Luke 2:1–20. Light a candle. Sit in stillness. Say:

“Even now, Christ is born. Even now, good news lives.”

December 25 – Christmas Day: Joy is Here

Bundle up and step outside, even for five minutes.

Look around and whisper: “God is with us. Joy to the world.”

December 26 – Rest Well

Give yourself permission to rest today. Breathe deeply. Be gentle with your body. Light a candle and do nothing.

December 27 – Remember Who Carried You

Write down the names of three people or communities that supported you this year. Give thanks—and maybe reach out.

December 28 – Pay It Forward

Buy coffee for a stranger, support a mutual aid fund, or offer a ride. Let your generosity ripple.

December 29 – Look Toward the New

Begin asking: *What do I want to carry into the year ahead?*

Make a list of three values you want to live by in 2026.

December 30 – Make a Way

Read Matthew 2:12 – *“They went home by another way.”*

What new way might God be opening in your life?

December 31 – End With Hope

Light a candle one last time this year. Say:

“Even now, even still, God is with us. And I will keep hoping.”

Advent Devotional Ideas

What Do You Fear? Advent Devotional – A Sanctified Art (free on the Welcome Table)

This year’s devotional offers honest, artful reflections for Advent that name our collective fears while nurturing courage and hope. With powerful poetry, visceral artwork, and soul-stirring questions like “What if it’s beautiful?”, this daily guide helps readers move through uncertainty with faith — not by avoiding fear, but by listening for God’s voice within it.

[Other wonderful resources:](#)

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas (Orbis Books)

This classic anthology gathers daily reflections from writers like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, and Dorothy Day. It invites honest prayer, deep waiting, and quiet

hope when the world feels heavy. Each reading helps us notice God's quiet work in the shadows and prepares our hearts for the light of Christ.

The Meaning Is in the Waiting by Paula Gooder

Paula Gooder explores Advent through the stories of Abraham, Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary—people who trusted God in uncertain times. This short, accessible book helps us see waiting not as passive, but as a spiritual practice that opens us to God's presence, even when it's hard to see.

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*

Becoming A Mystic

"A mystic is someone who skips over the intermediaries and goes straight to God; someone who experiences the divine as an intimate encounter, rather than an article of faith. A mystical experience may or may not be connected to established spiritual traditions. Mysticism is not about concepts—it's about communion with ultimate reality.

When we make a pact with ourselves to show up for reality, just as it is, reality rewards us by revealing its hidden holiness." from "Ordinary Mysticism" by Mirabai Starr.

In Centering Prayer, we learn to let go of our concepts of what life is about, who God is, who we are, and be still. Silence is God's language and we attempt to receive what it is that God wishes for us to know.

You can practice centering prayer on your own, but it is greatly enhanced by practicing with others. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

You are welcome to join us in person here on Tuesday mornings from 11-noon. Other opportunities to meditate with others: Meditate Marquette every Tuesday evening at Peter White Public Library from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Or online at www.meditationchapel.org via zoom.

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

The OWLs meet on Monday morning at 10:00 am at the Dome. Afterwards they go to Provisions for coffee. They walk at different rates and welcome everyone to join them. If you're not interested in walking, join us for coffee. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Little 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:

***November** – *Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental Floss & Denture Cleaner*

***December** – *Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Bar Soap*

Fortune Lake News

Fall Fest 2025 Fundraising Total Great News!

The final contributions are in, and we have an updated Fall Fest 2025 fundraising total to report to you...

\$33,000 was raised for outdoor ministry needs at Fortune Lake!

We are so grateful to all who quilted, bid, baked, prayed, crafted, feasted, and supported this event in all ways! Thanks be to God for the abundant generosity that exists within this organization! We couldn't do this work without you.

Summer Camp 2026 Preview

Our Summer Camp 2026 preview is ready! Take a look at the amazing options being offered, talk to your friends and family members, and mark your calendars with your favorite programs! Registration opens January 5, 2026.

Here is what you'll notice for 2026:

*Between Victory Camp, loads of Youth Camps, Evergreen Camp, and Intergenerational Camps, there is something for everyone!

*Due to popular demand, there are now 3 options for Intergenerational Camp. Two 5 night options, and one 3 night option. We anticipate they will fill quickly.

*To accommodate the growing need, Jr. High Night Owls is being offered twice!

*Returning for its 2nd year, Dungeons & Dragons Camp is sure to be a hit!

For additional information and pricing, go to www.fortunelake.org. We look forward to seeing you at camp!

Devotions Link

www.prayfaithfully.org is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.

Messiah Birthdays

Nov 26	Linda Chapman, Kerry Wiese
Nov 27	Leonard Beaudoin, Becky Blom, Bill Davis
Nov 28	Anna Rector
Nov 29	Kayle Dennis-Benam, Molly Hunter, Kerry McGinley
Nov 30	Darlene Martin
Dec 1	No birthdays
Dec 2	No birthdays
Dec 3	Jane Brow, Mark McGovern
Dec 4	Nora Dellangelo, Andrew Sander
Dec 5	No birthdays
Dec 6	Eric Hammerstrom
Dec 7	Brad Crimmins, Eric Gummerus
Dec 8	Barb Avery, Sarah Bleckiner, Michael David, Molly Luty, Lydia Tripp
Dec 9	Tom Froiland, Grant Soltwisch
Dec 10	No birthdays

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 are unable to notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

Your Prayer Requests at Messiah

At every Saturday & Sunday 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 requests are prayed for every Tuesday morning 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 or Jen know. We will need to get permission before we include anyone's name in the worship prayers.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Charlie Blake; family and friends of Tom Osier upon his passing; family and friends of Bill Maki upon his passing; Rick; Jan Brown; Former and current CDC employees; Sam Elder; Ken and Jan Vickstrom; Doug Morton; Tom Osier; Jackie Greising; Art Ortlieb; Christine and Jason; Darlene Dreisbach; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jeremy; Sally Olson; Charlie Blake; Carol Bell; Dorothy; Lynne Robertson; Karen; Rose Collins; Don Hillegas; Grant; Kai Dolan; Samantha; Ted; Bruce Lindberg; Grace Chien; Jamie; Donna; Brian; Ben; Evelyn; Akira Carlson; Karen Eldevick; Grace; Shannon; Marshall Lovan; Peter; Shawn; Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Tina; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Sierra; Charlene Avery

Pastor on Call:

Pastor Andrew is on call November 26, 30 – December 1-3

Pastor Molly is on call November 27-29

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, November 29 – 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Chris Kotila

Communion Assistant: Barb Salmela

Provide Refreshments: Pastor Molly

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

Assisting Minister: Marina Shinkarenko

Reader: Brenda Blett

Ushers: Anne Rydholm, Sten Taube

Communion Assistants: Marina Shinkarenko, Mike Coyne, Al Edgar

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, Chris Harkness

Nursery: Maddie Dykema

Refreshments: **Need a volunteer.**

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

Assisting Minister:	Marina Shinkarenko
Reader:	Nancy Hamlin
Ushers:	Nancy Raisanen, need one more volunteer.
Communion Assistants:	Gayle Mack, Marina Shinkarenko, need one more volunteer.
Greeters:	Marina Shinkarenko, Ellen Symons
Projection Technician:	Inga Banitt

Nursery	Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery:	Need a volunteer.

10:30 am Worship Volunteers

We need more volunteers for our 10:30 worship service. Specifically, ushers and communion assistants. If you are interested in either of these roles or if you have questions, please visit Jen or Kathy in the office and they will let you know what is involved. Thank you!

Radio Broadcast & Livestream Sponsorship

We need sponsors for weekly/ongoing radio broadcasts & livestream. If this is something you would like to support, please contact the office & share what you would like written for your sponsorship; it can be in honor or in memory of a loved one.

You can reach us by phone at 225-1119 or email at office@messiahlutheranmqt.org. The cost of the Radio Broadcast or Livestream sponsorship is \$110.00 each.

Announcements and Classified Ads

Food Drive for Those in Need

Messiah is once again joining the TV6 Can-A-Thon and collecting non-perishable food items for our greater food pantry for those in need in our community. If you are able to contribute to this worthy cause, please do. We will collect food for the month of November. Look for our grocery cart out for display to fill up!

Food Pantry-St. Vincent de Paul

As most are aware, the government shutdown has affected the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program funding. This, in addition to the rising cost of food, has resulted in an increased demand on our pantry in Marquette.

Items most in demand, in our pantry include:

Canned pasta sauce	Large cans of baked beans
Spaghetti noodles or elbow macaroni	Canned pasta
Various cans of soup	Saltine crackers
Canned fruit	Cereal
Canned vegetables	Canned tuna
Canned chicken	

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. These donations allow us to purchase USDA or donated items from Feeding America West Michigan at a much-reduced cost compared to the grocery store. To donate funds for St. Vincent's food pantry, simply mail or drop off a check (please write "SVDP Food Pantry" on the memo line) to:
SVDP Food Pantry, 2119 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

Thanksgiving Dinner for Seniors – November 27

Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly invites Marquette County seniors (age 60+) to enjoy a free Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, November 27, 2025.

Dine-In at the Marquette Elks Lodge at 1:00 pm.

Home Delivery is available between 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm.

To reserve a meal, call 906 273-2575.

We are also seeking volunteers to help with meal prep, delivery, and hospitality, as well as sponsorships to support this special event.

To get involved, please call or visit littlebrothers.org.

Let's make sure no one spends the holiday alone!

Caroling, Caroling Now We Go! – November 30

Caroling, Caroling Now We Go!: a celebration of the musical legacy of the Rev. Bates and Alfred Burt and Abbie Burt Betinis will be held on Sunday, November 30 at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (201 E Ridge). The concert is free but donations will be accepted.

Christmas Choral Concert – December 6

The Negaunee Male Chorus proudly presents their annual Christmas Choral Concert on Saturday, December 6 at 7:00 pm in the W.C. Auditorium at the Ishpeming High School. Tickets are \$15 for adults. Age 17 and under, with an adult are free. Tickets are available from any Chorus or from Super One Foods, Negaunee; Country Village Ace Hardware, Ishpeming; Jubilee Foods, Ishpeming; TruNorth Credit Union, Ishpeming. Tickets are also available online at negauneemalechorus.com.

Marquette Choral Society Concert – December 6 and 7

The Marquette Choral Society presents Hallelujah! (highlights from “Messiah” by C.F. Handel along with other holiday classics). The concert will feature Keri Lee Pierson, soprano; Ava-Fett, mezzo-soprano, and Tony Beacco, tenor with Erin Colwitz, Conductor and Jan Brodersen, collaborative pianist. The concerts will be on Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 pm in the Reynolds Recital Hall at NMU. General admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 12 years of age. To purchase tickets, go to nmu.edu/tickets.

Tuba Christmas – December 7

The Tuba Christmas concert will be held on Sunday, December 7 at 1:30 pm at the Marquette Regional History Center (145 W Spring St). The concert is open to the public and admission is free.

Manna: Spiritual Nourishment for the Journey – December 14

The First Presbyterian Church (120 N Front St. Marquette) invites everyone to worship and a community meal on December 14. Join them at 4:30 pm for a modern worship service (including music by Porter’s Gate, The Many, Sandra McCracken & others). A community meal will follow the worship service. The meal will be served at 5:30 pm and is free for all seeking food and friendship.

St. Paul’s Creative Aging Lunch and Learn – December 17

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (201 E Ridge in Marquette) will host a “Creative Aging Lunch and Learn” on Wednesday, December 17 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. The topic will be “Drivers Licenses: Senior Driving Presentation and How to Know When It Is Time to Stop Driving” presented by Trooper Tom Kinnunen.

Holiday Brass Choir Concert – December 21

The Holiday Brass Choir Concert will be held on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 pm at the Marquette Regional History Center (145 W Spring St.) The concert is open to the public and admission is free.

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly – Holiday Sponsorships

Share the gift of joy and friendship this holiday season.

As the snow begins to fall and families gather around warm meals, many of our elderly neighbors face the holidays alone. But with your help, we can change that.

At Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly, we believe no one should feel forgotten, especially during the holidays. With the help of our compassionate volunteers, we deliver more than just food – we deliver, love, laughter, and connection.

Each meal is lovingly prepared, decorated with handmade crafts and cards, topped with a fresh flower, and delivered by a volunteer who brings warmth and companionship to the doorstep. For those who can join us in person, we offer transportation to our festive meal site at The Marquette Elks Lodge where hugs and heartfelt conversations are always served.

Your sponsorship helps ensure that no Marquette County senior spends the holidays alone. It's not just a meal, it's a moment of joy, a reminder that someone cares.

Holiday Sponsorship Opportunities

Option 1: Thanksgiving Elderly Meal \$25 each

Option 2: Christmas Elderly Meal \$25 each

Option 3: Christmas Food Box \$40 each

Option 4: Christmas Gifts \$35 each

Payment Methods

*Check payable to LBFE 131 W Washington St. Ste C., Marquette, MI 49855. Memo: MQT Holidays.

*Credit card online: lbfemichigan.org *DONATE* Comment/note: MQT Holidays

Questions? Contact Danielle Berg 906 273-2575

Grandparent-Aged Allies for LGBTQ+ Community: Book and Conversation Club for 2025-2026

What is the Idea? A small group of grandparent-aged individuals gather eight times between October 2025 and May 2026 to explore the terrain of being an ally to the LGBTQ+ community in the Upper Peninsula.

What is Expected? To read two books which contain LGBTQ+ themes and using the books as a catalyst for conversation, to talk openly about the LGBTQ+ experience.

How often, where, and when will the meetings be? Gathering will be on the third Tuesday of the month at St. John's Episcopal Church in Negaunee from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. January's gathering and May's gathering will be at a different time and place and will involve a larger group of folks reading the same book. Details concerning these meetings are yet to be determined.

What is an Ally? An ally is someone who walks beside and stands up for another person. Allies continue to be curious and naturally seek out ways to be and stay informed. Allies are motivated by compassion. ALLYSHIP is something that can be learned.

What else do I need to know?

1. It only takes one caring and accepting adult to decrease an LGBTQ+ youth's risk for suicide by 70%. It is possible to learn how to be that caring adult.
 2. This Grandparent-Aged Ally group is part of the new iteration of last year's LGBTQ+ book conversation group. It is being spearheaded by Equality Michigan. Our partnership this year includes ELCA Lutheran Churches in Ishpeming St. John's Episcopal Church in Negaunee, and Equality Michigan.
 3. There will be delicious soup for lunch at each of these meetings.
 4. Our first meeting on October 21st will be a meet and greet: no reading will be necessary in advance of that meeting.
 5. Who do I contact to say that I am interested or for more information? You can contact Marna Franson: marna@upepiscopal.org or 906 458-6395.
-

Lake Superior Village Youth and Family Center

Do you struggle with before and after school care? Does your job have an unreliable schedule? Do you only need help a few days a week? Do you need an emergency back up plan for the unexpected? We have a free program to help. Visit us at 1901 Longyear Ave. in Marquette or call us at 906 225-1900 ext. 5 (cell/text 906 458-7550) or email us at jbeard@mqthc.org.

Medication Help Available

If you have questions or concerns regarding your medications, you can contact retired pharmacist, Barb Salmela. Contact the office to get her number. All inquiries are confidential. She can help find discounts for medication, ways to possibly obtain them for free, or suggest less expensive alternatives.

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.

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

Drop-in Grief Support: Marquette – ***Cancelled this month related to it falling on 12/24** 4:00 pm* Grief doesn't follow a schedule - and neither do we. Our drop-in grief support group offers a safe, welcoming space for anyone navigating the loss of a loved one. Join us to share, listen, or simply be among others who understand. No registration required. Come as you are when you need it most. It takes place on the 4th Wednesday of every month. No registration or affiliation to our hospice is required. 914 W. Baraga Ave. Marquette.

Caregiver Support Groups Marquette – 12/10/2025 2:00 – 3:00 pm 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. Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Office, 914 W. Baraga Ave.

Telephone Based Caregiver Support Group: 12/17/25 2:00 – 3:00 pm 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 our new phone-based support group. For family, friends, and other caregivers who are caring for a person with a chronic illness or disability. This group is a great opportunity for caregivers who are unable to leave the person they are caring for. Please call Jamie Barbieri at 906.225.7760.

Coping Through the Holidays: Ways to Navigate the Season -The holiday season can be especially difficult for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. You are not alone. Join us for a supportive afternoon of comfort and practical strategies to help you navigate the season. Take a moment for yourself, connect with others who understand, and find ways to honor your loved ones while creating meaningful holiday experiences. Pie and beverages will be provided. Together we'll find support and a comforting treat. Sponsored by Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice. A limited number of grief totes will be available.

Big Boy-Marquette	Registration is encouraged, but not required
December 4th	906.225.7760 or Outreach@lakesuperiorhospice.org
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Free & open to the public

Find Your Balance — and Keep It!

Informational Presentation: “A Matter of Balance”

Worried about falls or avoiding activities because of balance concerns? A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program that helps older adults reduce fall risk and stay active through practical strategies and gentle exercises.

Registration is open and required for this program.

Class begins January 8th

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice, 914 W. Baraga, Marquette

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Who should attend:

- Anyone concerned about falls and are 60+
- Those wanting to improve balance, flexibility, and strength
- Individuals who have fallen or limited activities due to fear of falling

Take control and keep moving safely!

Call Jamie at 906.225.7760 or email at Outreach@Lakesuperiorhospice.org

Mindful Aging - Aging U.P. Learning Series. Shifting attitudes and perspectives as they relate to getting older. Have you ever walked into a room and forgotten why you are there? You're not alone! Join us for a 4-part Virtual Zoom workshop series that explores the everyday

“Senior moments” we all experience. We’ll guide you through understanding how our brains work, what sets us up for forgetfulness, and — most importantly — practical strategies to strengthen memory and cognitive connections. Walk away with tips you won’t forget and plan to turn those senior moments into senior momentum! Registration is Open but limited.

Date & Time: Wednesdays, January 14th - February 4th, 10:30–11:30 am

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Cost: Free, Open to the community

Note: Participants must have a device with internet connection & an email address to attend

Register now by calling Jamie Barbieri at 906.225.7760 or

Outreach@LakeSuperiorHospice.org.

Personalized Ornament Request: Forever in Our Hearts

A Tree to Remember, a Season to Celebrate

This holiday season, Lake Superior Life Care and Hospice invites you to honor your loved ones as part of the 2025 Winter Solstice Art Exhibit at the Peter White Public Library. Our Remembrance Tree will be adorned with personalized ornaments, each one a heartfelt tribute to those we’ve loved and lost. You’re invited to share the name of someone special, and we’ll create an ornament in their memory to shine among the trees.

Submit your loved one’s name by November 30, 2025

906.225.7760 or Outreach@LakeSuperiorHospice.org

Ornaments will be available for pick-up from our Marquette office in 2026. Details of the Peter White Library Tree Exhibit will be in December’s newsletter. Join us in celebrating love, memory, and the light our loved ones leave behind.

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