

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG

Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

(with Nursery)

Sunday 10:30 am

(with Nursery)

8:30 am broadcast on 101.9 fm & livestream on facebook at
www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt

10:30 am livestream on Facebook

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www.messiahlutheranmqt.org E-mail: MarquetteLutherans@gmail.com

Member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



November 23, 2025

24th Sunday after Pentecost

- Flowers:** **To the Glory of God & In Honor of...**
* Transgender Day of Remembrance from Susy Swanson
- Radio:** **To the Glory of God...**
* from our Messiah family
- Livestream:** **To the Glory of God & In Honor of...**
* Sophie Sander from her family

The original title of our Advent devotional was “What do you fear?: Insisting on hope this Advent.” Our small committee that planned the activities and agreed upon the resources for this Advent season was in consensus - we didn’t like the title. Sometimes things hit a little too close to home. I’m writing to you on the day after the government shutdown ended and if you asked me yesterday, what do I fear? I’d have said, people out of work, babies without Head Start, hungry people losing their SNAP benefits, on and on. But, if you ask me today, I’d say, I’m afraid that this isn’t the end. It’s already been revealed that the government has the power to strip away the benefits of those who need and rely on them the most. They have the power to make us scared and uncertain and angry and afraid. And so, that title did hit too close to home and I didn’t want to have to dwell in the despair of it all. I didn’t want to have to bear witness to the parallels between our lived realities and the uncertainty of the political world that Jesus was born into. I’d much rather focus on the light, the joy and the Christmas decorations (which yes, I have already put up as of Nov. 10th). Even if I’m reluctant, it might be important to ask: if we admit what we fear, how does that open up space for Jesus to be born into the anguish of it. I recently was thinking about Martin Luther’s theology of the cross. It’s a theology that proclaims, God experienced the worst that the world holds, a painful and humiliating death, and therefore, God understands the suffering that we bear. I wonder if this theology of the cross holds true for our political climate as well. Jesus was born into an uncertain time. To put it very briefly, the Jewish people were living under empire, Herod was a puppet king whose goal was to keep the peace and there were uprisings of the Jewish people that were quickly and violently squashed by the Romans. Turbulent times indeed. But the very times that needed Jesus’ message. Likewise, we are living in a time that also clearly needs Jesus’ message. We need to know that suffering, fear and violence don’t have the last word. We need to know that even when it seems futile, there is still a reason to insist on hope. Not the hope that’s a pipedream,

but the type of hope that keeps us awake at night thinking about inviting a neighbor to Christmas dinner or that contemplates the letter written to a senator or takes stock of our coats that can be donated. Hope that pushes us forward. Because we bear the hope of Christ, the knowledge that things can be different, we carry that hope with us. Maybe that’s a huge piece of who we’re called to be as Christians and what we need to be reminded of this Advent season. We must remember that we are people who insist on hope but who aren’t afraid to name the fear because we trust that Jesus can come into it all. So let us welcome Jesus into it all this Advent season, into the joy and hope and into the pain and darkness, trusting in the promise that He shall be born to us on Christmas day.

Yours in Christ,
Pr. Molly

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

This Giving Tuesday, December 2nd 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 messiahlutheranmq.org/give or via Venmo@messiahlutheranmq.

Let’s give generously. Let’s give hope.

Messiah Calendar

Monday, November 24

10:00 am OWLs Walk
3:30 pm Christmas Tree Setup
5:30 pm 11-Step Centering Prayer
5:45 pm Handbells
7:00 pm AA

Tuesday, November 25

11:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Centering Prayer
1:00 pm Knotty Knitters
5:30 pm Superior Handbells
6:30 pm Cub Scouts

Wednesday, November 26

nothing scheduled

Thursday, November 27

Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, November 28

nothing scheduled

Saturday, November 29

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, November 30

8:00 am Senior Choir Rehearsal
8:30 am Worship-Traditional
10:30 am Worship-Contemporary

In The Hospital

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

[Pr. Andrew Plocher is on vacation Dec. 28 - Jan. 9]

On-Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: December 1-3, 7-10, 14-17, 21-24
Pr. Molly Hunter: December 4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-31

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our January newsletter is **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**.

Messiah's Newsletter

November 23, 2025
Volume 107, Issue 12

Articles for
Weekly Announcements
are due by 6:00 pm
each Wednesday

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 omlets, 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!

Santa & All of His Helpers Love JAM!

Don't forget to stock up on JAM for the holidays! The small jars (\$3) are perfect stocking stuffers. Large jars (\$6) make perfect holiday gifts, especially paired with fresh bread, biscuits, you name it! There is a convenient QR code located near the jam section for payment. Or simply use one of the available envelopes to pay. If you have questions, please contact Rebecca Ulland.

Mitten Box

It is getting colder & it is time for us to help our neighbors in need by donating warm winter wear.

Hats, mittens, cowls, ear muffs, head bands, gloves, scarves, etc. are needed. You can help by purchasing items or knitting or crocheting them. There are boxes/bags of yarn under the Welcome Table that are 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 & ready to be filled. Thank you!

Items will be donated on December 3rd.

Evening of Thanks – November 25

The Marquette Interfaith Forum will present an Evening of Thanks on Tuesday, November 25 at 6:00 pm at the Marquette Hope Connection Center (927 W Fair). A service of thanks for spiritual connection will be offered through shared readings, chanting, music, and prayer. The evening's program will include selections from Anishinaabe, Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, and Baha'I traditions. Following the service there will be a sharing of breads, spreads, and beverages from various traditions. Attendees are encouraged to please bring something to share! Gluten and dairy free options will be available. All are welcome! For information, contact: David Arnold, DavidArnold-Mqt@gmail.com.

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). 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. All are welcome!

Messiah's Birthdays

December 2025

Monday 1	No birthdays
Tuesday 2	No birthdays
Wednesday 3	Jane Brow, Mark McGovern
Thursday 4	Nora Dellangelo, Andrew Sander
Friday 5	No birthdays
Saturday 6	Eric Hammerstrom
Sunday 7	Brad Crimmins, Eric Gummerus
Monday 8	Barb Avery, Sarah Bleckiner, Michael Davis, Molly Luty, Lydia Tripp
Tuesday 9	Tom Froiland, Grant Soltwisch
Wednesday 10	No birthdays
Thursday 11	No birthdays
Friday 12	Tristan Luoma, Sullivan Sander, Linda Wainio
Saturday 13	No birthdays
Sunday 14	Jamie Spickerman, Jim Winkler
Monday 15	Marie Moisio
Tuesday 16	Jenny Broadway, Linda Ruohoniemi
Wednesday 17	David Tripp, Anne Weaver
Thursday 18	Evan Busick, Sharon Fluette, David Johnson
Friday 19	Stella Rector
Saturday 20	Jackson Boehlke
Sunday 21	No birthdays
Monday 22	Carol Steinhaus
Tuesday 23	No birthdays
Wednesday 24	Lucy Dellangelo, Holly Sundman
Thursday 25	Carol Stevens
Friday 26	Diane Adams
Saturday 27	No birthdays

Sunday 28	Michael Broadway, Larry Pagel
Monday 29	Abby LaForest, Aliina Maki-Warne, Tim Weir
Tuesday 30	Carol O'Neill
Wednesday 31	Jerry Cory, Beth Wendricks

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in December:

Gina Fortin & her husband	December 12
Jerry & Alison Cory	December 17
Jerry & Kathy Godec	December 22
Milt & Boli Soderberg	December 27
Tom & Amy Froiland	December 30
Jeremy & Alesia Braund	December 31

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!

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	<i>First Sunday in Advent</i>
December 3	Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 5:30 pm followed by the community meal
December 7	<i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> , 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	<i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> , 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	<i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship services-4:00, 7:30, and 10:00 pm

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.

Lectionary Readings - December 2025

December 7

First Reading
Gospel

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Matthew 3:1-12

December 14

First Reading
Gospel

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 21

First Reading
Gospel

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25

December 28

First Reading
Gospel

First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9
Matthew 2:13-23

Quilting

If you would like to work with Messiah's quilting group, please contact the 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 Ministry is meeting every Friday at 9:00 am in room #202. We meet for about an hour. Please join us on Fridays!

Financial Update: A Note on Year-End Giving

As 2025 draws to a close, we want to thank you for your continued generosity, commitment, and faithfulness to the mission we share at Messiah. Your giving sustains everything from vibrant worship and faith formation to community outreach, justice initiatives, and the daily work of hospitality and care.

As of mid-November, our giving is approximately \$34,000 *behind* our budgeted income. We anticipate that gap narrowing somewhat before year's end, thanks to seasonal generosity and the Spirit's movement among us. Even so, this is an important time for us to come together and help close that gap.

Every gift matters. Whether it's a one-time year-end contribution, a regular pledge fulfilled, or a thoughtful gift from a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from a retirement account, your giving fuels our shared ministry. If you're 73 or older and have an IRA, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) may be a tax-smart way to give before December 31—and fulfill your RMD while supporting Messiah's mission.

Let's finish the year strong—with gratitude for what we've accomplished together and hope for what God is calling us into next. Thank you for all the ways you give—from your finances to your time, your presence, and your prayers. You are making a difference.

With gratitude and hope,

The Finance Committee & Church Council

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*

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.

Book Study: Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools

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 will be available in the church office for \$10.

Brookridge Worship

Our worship service at Brookridge is held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm. Some of our members live there & attend our service regularly. Our service includes hymns, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, psalms, scripture, a homily, Apostles' Creed and Holy Communion. It is a real worship service.

Worshipping with these folks is a blessing. The singing is beautiful, the prayers are from the heart, communion and forgiveness is truly felt and the fellowship is sincere.

Passages

In Celebration of:

* new members Michael & Linda Chapman and Lucas & Krista Theys and their children Ella & Sylvie.

* newly confirmed students on Reformation Sunday (October 26th), Isabelle & Grayson Beaudoin

In Sympathy to:

* Terry Keuscher and family upon the passing of her step-father, Bill Maki, who passed away on November 13, 2025. Bill Maki's visitation will be at Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral home on Tuesday, November 25th at 11:00 am. The funeral service will follow at the same location at 1:00 pm

Endowment Committee News

The Endowment committee has been meeting this past year to develop guidelines to administer the Robert Malette Endowment fund for sustaining growth and to create a method to distribute funds as grants to support the mission of Messiah. These documents including applications forms for grants have been reviewed by Messiah's Finance Committee and Messiah's legal support and they are being submitted to Council for approval. The regulations governing the endowment fund needs to be presented to the entire congregation at two meetings before these documents can be voted on and adopted.

In anticipation of approval, applications for grant funding along with directions should be available by January 1, 2026. The completed applications will need to be returned by February 1, 2026 so that they can be reviewed and submitted to Council for action.

More information about the Endowment Fund & how to apply for project funding will be presented through Messiah's various communications & a Temple Talk. -- *Grant Soltwisch, a member of the Endowment Committee*

Food Pantry-St. Vincent de Paul

As you know, the government shutdown that recently ended, 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

Worship News

There will be only one service on the weekend of the 28th - the 8:30 service. No 5:00 or 10:30 service that weekend.

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.

Age UP Age Well: A Workshop on Aging

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 pm 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.

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.

Thanksgiving Potluck at Prince of Peace - Nov. 27

Prince of Peace will be having its 3rd Annual Thanksgiving potluck at 1pm on Thursday, Thanksgiving day, November 27th. All are welcome to this meal. We will provide the turkey & ham, dressing, mashed potatoes/gravy and rutabaga. Coffee, tea and water will be provided also. Please feel free to bring one of the following: side-dishes, desserts, salads, bread/rolls.

**To view our calendar,
updated daily, please go to
messiahlutheranmqt.org**

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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)

Every Monday at 10:00 am the OWLs walk at the Dome. After their walk, they go to Provisions for coffee. They walk at different rates and all are welcome. If you're not interested in walking, join them for coffee. Questions? Please contact Betsy or the church office.

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.

Entering Advent Together

An Invitation to Slow Down, Show Up, and Be Renewed

Advent is a sacred invitation—not to do more, but to be present. To slow down in a season that rushes by. To make space in our hearts for the holy. To gather with others as we wait, wonder, and hope together.

This year at Messiah, there are many ways to enter into the beauty and depth of the season. You don't have to do it all. Just choose a few things that speak to your spirit—something that nourishes your soul, helps you connect with others, or simply offers you rest in the presence of God.

You might join us for...

- Holden Evening Prayer and a warm community meal on a dark December evening.
- A pizza lunch and Advent crafts with kids and families after worship.
- A book study or aging workshop to grow in faith and wisdom.
- Caroling with confirmation students as they bring joy to local care homes.
- A quiet Longest Night service, especially if the season is hard.
- A lunchtime organ recital, the choral society carol sing, or simply one of our beautiful Christmas Eve services.

Whatever you choose, know that you are welcome. This community is made richer by your presence. And however you enter this season, may it lead you gently toward the peace, hope, and joy of Christ.

O come, O come, Emmanuel.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Family and friends of Bill Maki upon his passing; Rick; Jan Brown; former and current CDC employees; Sam Elder; Jan Vickstrom; Doug Morton; Tom Osier; Jackie Greising; Al 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

You may call the office if you would like a person listed in the prayers. Please obtain permission from the person to list his/her name. We also appreciate updates as to how people listed are progressing. Thank you!

A Smart Way to Give... IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

Did you know that you can give through your IRA?

This is a wonderful giving opportunity for those over 70½: Federal legislation allows you to make tax-free distributions from your IRA directly to a charity, such as our church. This distribution means no increased income or payment of additional tax. This opportunity may be used for your annual stewardship gift or a planned gift to our church.

Some of the details of the IRA Rollover:

- Donors must be age 70½ or older at the time of transfer.
- Distributions must be made (1) directly from the trustee (2) to the qualified charity, such as our church.
- This qualifies toward the IRA owner's Required Minimum Distribution.
- Distributions are not included in the owner's adjusted gross income.
- No taxes are paid on qualified charitable distributions.
- Please consult your qualified professional advisers on how this gift would fit into your overall plans and your eligibility for tax benefits.

We are grateful for your generous giving and want to assist in any way we can. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our financial secretary, Anne Rydholm (anne@messiahlutheranmqt.org).

The New Free Store Donations

The New Free Store is in need of the items listed below. There is a collection bin in our narthex at Messiah for The New Free Store.

December Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Bar Soap

January Dental Floss, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes (adult & child size)

Upcoming Events in November, December & January

November 26	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
November 27	Thanksgiving Day - church office closed
November 29	5:00 pm worship in the Sanctuary
December 2	Giving Tuesday! from 11am - 6pm
December 3	Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 5:30 pm followed by the community meal
December 7	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	Sunday School Program during the 10:30 worship service followed by a soup potluck
December 16	OWLs Christmas Luncheon at 12:00 pm
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 pm in the sanctuary followed by a soup supper
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship services-4:00, 7:30, and 10:00 pm
December 28	Sunday School does not meet
January 5	Sunday School does not meet

Radio Broadcast & Livestream Sponsorship

We are in need of 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.

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.

No cash or checkbook? No problem
You can donate through Venmo
or on our website at:
messiahlutheranmqt.org/give

If you wish to designate your
donation to a specific fund, please be
sure to do so. Any undesignated
donations automatically go to our
general fund which supports the
entirety of our ministry.

Thank you for your generosity!

Messiah Evangelical
Lutheran Church
[@messiahlutheranmqt](https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org)



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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 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.”

Subscribe to Messiah's ENewsletter

Messiah publishes an electronic newsletter every Wednesday which is sent to subscribers via email. Receiving the ENews is a good way to stay abreast of church news and activities. If you are interested in subscribing, contact Kathy at Messiah's office. And, you can access the ENews through Messiah's website.

10:30 am Worship Volunteers

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

Quilting Needs

The Quilters are in need of sheets for the quilts they make. The sheets need to be clean (no stains), colored (not white), cotton or cotton blend (no micro-fiber). It is ok if elastic bands on fitted sheets are stretched or cut. The cost of sheets at the thrift stores has really gone up. We would appreciate any donations. Thank you!

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. 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
December 4th
2:00 – 3:00 pm

Registration is encouraged, but not required
906.225.7760 or Outreach@lakesuperiorhospice.org
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, Mqt

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

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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.

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! These items will be picked up by the Salvation Army on Wednesday, December 3rd.

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 & 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!

2025 Christmas Poinsettias - If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for Christmas, please fill out the following information & submit it to the office by *Sunday, December 21st*.

In Loving Memory of:

In Honor of:

From: _____

Phone # _____

Suggested cost is \$20.00

December 2025 Worship Volunteers

Saturday, December 6 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell
Communion Asst 1 Barb Salmela

Sunday, December 7 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Harkness
Reader 1 Louise Reichert
Ushers 2 Bruce Robertson, Sam Elder
Communion Assts. 3 Beth Krznarich, Judy Quirk, Dave Blomquist
Greeters 2 Al and Gail Edgar

Sunday, December 7 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Nancy Hamlin
Ushers 2
Communion Assts. 3 Bronce Reece, Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman
Greeters 2 Marina Shinkarenko, Gayle Van Osdol
Projection Technician 1 Abby LaForest

Saturday, December 13 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell
Communion Asst 1 Barb Salmela

Sunday, December 14 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Fred Maynard
Ushers 2 Joe and Chris Harkness
Communion Assts 3
Greeters 2 Tom and Amy Froiland

Sunday, December 14 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Josh MacIvor-Andersen
Ushers 2
Communion Assts. 3 Bronce Reece, Gayle Van Osdol, Sandy Lindberg
Greeters 2 Milt and Boli Soderberg
Projection Technician 1

Saturday, December 20 - 5:00 pm - Longest Night Service

Communion Asst 2
Usher 1

Sunday, December 21- 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Brenda Blett
Reader 1 David Echelbarger
Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka, Anne Rydholm
Communion Assts. 3 Beth Krznarich,
Greeters 2 Penny Streeter, Sherry Labbe

Sunday, December 21-10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Marina Shinkarenko
Ushers 2
Communion Assts. 3 Sandy Lindberg,
Greeters 2 Ellen Symons,
Projection Technician 1

Wednesday, December 24 - 4:00 pm – Christmas Eve

Communion Assts 3
Ushers 2
Projection Technician 1

Wednesday, December 24 - 7:30 pm – Christmas Eve

Communion Assts 3
Ushers 2
Projection Technician 1 Lesley Williams

Wednesday, December 24 –10:00 pm – Christmas Eve

Communion Assts 3
Ushers 2

Saturday, December 27 - 5:00 pm – No Service

Sunday, December 28 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Brenda Blett
Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka,
Communion Assts 3
Greeters 2 Chris Harkness, Marina Shinkarenko

Sunday, December 28 –10:30 am – No Service

Messiah's Church Staff:

Pastoral Staff:

Senior Pastor.....Andrew Plocher
Associate Pastor.....Molly Hunter

Support Staff:

Parish Administrator.....Jennifer Dodge
Administrative Assistant ..Kathy Codec
Parish Accountant.....Mike Hill
Financial Secretary.....Anne Rydholm

Music Staff:

Music/Choir Director.....Sara Parks
Organist/Pianist.....Kathy Strazzinski
Bell Choir Director.....Judy Quirk
Pianist.....Jocelyn Basse

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

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