

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for December 10, 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!*



Help Needed – Soup Lunch and Soup Supper

We need volunteers to help with our soup luncheon this Sunday, December 14 at noon; following our 10:30 am worship service. So far, we have one volunteer bringing vegetarian soup, one bringing bread, and two volunteers to help with cleaning up.

We also need volunteers to help with our soup supper on Saturday, December 20 following our 5:00 pm worship service. So far, we have one volunteer bringing soup.

For both events, we need more volunteers to bring soup and bread and to help with cleaning up. Please let the church office know if you can help with any of this. Thanks!

Help Needed – Christmas Eve

We need volunteers to help at our Christmas Eve worship services. For the 4:00 pm service, we need two volunteers to serve as ushers and one more volunteer to serve as a communion assistant.

At our 7:30 pm service, we need two volunteers to serve as ushers and two more volunteers to serve as communion assistants.

At our 10:00 pm service, we need two volunteers to serve as ushers and three volunteers to serve as communion assistants.

Please let the church office staff know if you can help. Thanks!

Upcoming Events – December

Dec 10	Age UP Age Well Workshop at 12:00 pm
Dec 11	Bible Study at 10:30 am
Dec 11	Centering Prayer at 1:30 pm
Dec 12	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Dec 13	Confirmation Caroling at 9:30 am
Dec 14	Sunday School Christmas Program during our 10:30 am service
Dec 14	Soup Luncheon following the 10:30 am service
Dec 15	11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
Dec 16	Rachel Circle at 9:00 am
Dec 16	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 16	OWLs Christmas Party at 12:00 pm
Dec 17	Organ Recital at 12:15 pm
Dec 17	Council at 6:30 pm
Dec 18	Centering Prayer at 1:30 pm
Dec 19	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Dec 19	Marquette Choral Society Carol Sing at St. Michael's Church at 5:00 pm

Dec 20 Longest Night Worship at 5:00 pm followed by Soup Supper
Dec 22 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
Dec 23 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 24 Christmas Eve – Church Office Closes at Noon
Dec 24 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services at 4:00 pm, 7:30 pm, and 10:00 pm

Giving Tuesday Updates

We received donations of \$27,875.00 through December 8. It was a good day for those needing Community Assistance from us. Thank you everyone for all your help with this event.
– Anne Rydholm

Donations for the Child Advocacy Center

Rachel Circle is collecting donations for Northern Lights Child Advocacy Center through December 19. Northern Lights CAC provides a safe space for kids and teens who are victims of sexual abuse, neglect, and human trafficking and help them and their families navigate through the legal system.

Suggested donations are:

- *Blankets (given to victims)
- *Circle K gas cards (so families can get to interviews and court)
- *Individually wrapped packs of cookies, crackers or chips
- *8 oz bottled water or juice packs/boxes
- *Fruit snacks
- *Kleenex

There is a collection box outside the sanctuary and an envelope for the gas cards in the office. Rachel Circle appreciates your contributions to this effort and thank you in advance for your generosity.

Thanks for Mitten Box Donations

The donated items from the Mitten Box were brought to The Harbor House, The Free Store, and Room at the Inn. We had 56 hats, 17 pairs of mittens, 9 pairs of gloves, 7 scarves, 3 pairs of earmuffs, 4 pairs of socks, and 2 pairs of slippers. Thank you for your general donations to help keep our neighbors warm!

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 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

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 on- time, new date & location for December*

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.

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

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.

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.

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 need 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*

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.

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.”

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:

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

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

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.

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

<https://nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully/> is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.

Messiah Birthdays

Dec 10	No birthdays
Dec 11	No birthdays
Dec 12	Tristan Luoma, Sullivan Sander, Linda Wainio
Dec 13	No birthdays
Dec 14	Jamie Spickerman, Jim Winkler
Dec 15	Marie Moisio
Dec 16	Jenny Broadway, Linda Ruohoniemi
Dec 17	David Tripp, Anne Weaver
Dec 18	Evan Busick, Sharon Fluette, David Johnson
Dec 19	Stella Rector
Dec 20	Jackson Boehlke
Dec 21	No birthdays
Dec 22	Carol Steinhaus
Dec 23	No birthdays
Dec 24	Lucy Dellangelo, Holly Sundman

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; Rick; Jan Brown; Former and current CDC employees; Sam Elder; Ken and Jan Vickstrom; Doug Morton; 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; Carol Bell; Dorothy; 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 December 10, 14-17

Pastor Molly is on call December 11-13

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, December 13 – 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Carol Bell

Communion Assistant: Barb Salmela

Provide Refreshments: Shari Brugman

Sunday, December 14 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Marina Shinkarenko

Reader: Fred Maynard

Ushers: Joe and Chris Harkness

Communion Assistants: Marina Shinkarenko, Mike Coyne, Dave Blomquist

Greeters: Tom and Amy Froiland

Nursery Maddie Dykema

Refreshments: Diane Adams and Linda Berry

Sunday, December 14 –10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Jeanne Groos
Reader: Josh MacIvor-Andersen
Ushers: Amy Diedrich, Jean Reynolds
Communion Assistants: Bronce Reece, Sandy Lindberg, Gayle Van Osdol
Greeters: Milt and Boli Soderberg
Projection Technician: Kathy Godec

Nursery: Maddie Dykema
Flower Delivery: Kathy Godec

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

Help Needed

Louise Anderson needs occasional help with heavy lifting, climbing, and odd jobs; probably not more than ½ hour at a time. She will pay. If you are interested in helping, you can get Louise's contact information from the church office.

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

Sounds of the Holidays – December 13 and 14

The Marquette Symphony Orchestra will present "Sounds of the Holidays" on Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 pm. Both concerts will be at Kaufman Auditorium (611 N Front St in Marquette). Tickets are on sale now at NMU Ticket Outlets: general public starting at \$20 and students starting at \$13.

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 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

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