

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for March 25, 2026

On the web... go to messiahlutheranmqt.org for more information about our congregation and "like" us on Facebook to receive updates and information there.

Messiah Lutheran Church seeks to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion.

We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant and eternal life.

We may not always be as welcoming as we should be, but this is our intention—all are welcome!



Brookridge Worship Today!

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

Upcoming Events – March/April

Mar 25 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
Mar 26 Bible Study at 10:30 am
Mar 27 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Mar 28 First Communion Class at 10:00 am
Mar 30 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
Mar 31 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Apr 1 Community Meal at 6:00 pm
Apr 2 Bible Study at 10:30 am
Apr 2 Building and Grounds at 5:00 pm
Apr 2 Combined Choir Rehearsal at 6:00 pm
Apr 2 Maundy Thursday Worship Service at 6:30 pm
Apr 3 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Apr 3 Good Friday Worship at First Presbyterian Church at 6:30 pm
Apr 4 Easter Vigil at 5:00 pm
Apr 5 Easter Sunrise Service at McCarty's Cove at 7:00 am
Apr 5 Easter Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am
Apr 5 NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday
Apr 6 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
Apr 7 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Apr 8 Stewardship Meeting at 1:00 pm

Messiah's 2026 Directory

Please stop in the office to check our 'draft' directory for 2026. Check all of your household information and make any necessary changes. If you review your household information and everything is the same, please write OK by your name. This directory is for members as well as visitors. We will have this draft out for edits through March 29 (a week's extension because of the blizzard).

Maundy Thursday Radio Sponsorship

We will have a radio broadcast for our Maundy Thursday worship service on April 2nd. We are hoping to get someone to sponsor this broadcast for our radio listeners. Would that be you? Can you help? Thank you for considering.

Potluck Luncheon for Pr. Andrew – April 12

On Sunday, April 12, we'll gather to celebrate Pastor Andrew & his family and give thanks for his 7 years of ministry among us at Messiah. Pastor Andrew is leaving and while we will miss him, we are grateful for the many ways he has shaped our life together with care, faith, and steady presence.

We'll celebrate with a potluck following the 10:30 am worship service (around 11:45 am). Please bring a dish to pass. The church will provide chicken and cake. Come help us celebrate Pastor Andrew.

Going Away GIFT for Pr. Andrew

If you would like to contribute to a going away gift for Pr. Andrew, please bring your monetary donation to the church office. If you are giving by a personal check, please make it payable to Messiah and in the note/memo area write Pr. Andrew gift. If you would prefer to give him a gift on your own, that is fine too.

Thank You for Financial Assistance

"Thank you for being so kind to me today when I was seeking help for my hot water heater. I was dreading the event but after raising 5 children, I've learned that I have to do many unpleasant things in order to keep a home for them. You were a joy to talk to and you made the job very tolerable. Thank you again." From Sue.

Bell Choir - Members Needed

The bell choir needs some additional players. The Easter season will be here soon and the bell choir has a need for players. Join us for rehearsal on Monday evenings from 5:45-6:45 pm. When we play we gather Sunday morning at 7:30 am so the senior choir can rehearse at their usual time. We usually play at both Sunday services.

God Gives the Growth (1Corinthians 3:6-7)

The theme for our Synod Assembly this year is "God Gives the Growth". This will also be the theme for Messiah's ELCA World Hunger appeal this year as God uses us to **GROW** our commitment to feeding the hungry.

We traditionally begin our World Hunger focus during Lent. This year we are challenged to get 100 people to each pledge \$40.00 to kick off the appeal. This represents \$1.00 a day for each of the 40 days of Lent.

Cards are on the table to the right of the office to pledge support to this effort. Write your name on one and the amount of your pledge and put it in the basket on the table. Let's watch our fund **GROW** between now & the month of May when we deliver our gift to the Synod Assembly.

UP Wild March Event

Sunday, March 29 3:30pm: Wild Church Pine Sunday Service

Outdoor Bonfire area TBA. Check website www.upwild.org

The Way of the Dream, God's Forgotten Language

A Lenten Opportunity - A series of three workshops on the role of dreams in Scripture and the appropriation of listening to one's own dreams as part of personal spiritual practice.

Led by Jon Magnuson, Barb Ojibway, Will Sharp, and Ken Kelley. Saturdays, February 28, March 21 and March 29 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal's Morgan Chapel, 201 E Ridge St. Participants are invited to consider making a donation of \$25 per workshop to cover meal and resource materials. To Register call: 906-228-5494 or email:

jonwmagnuson@gmail.com

Sponsored by The Cedar Tree Institute in partnership with the NGLS Lutheran Synod of the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

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.

Personal Care Kits

In March and April donations will be collected for personal care kits. These kits are sent by Lutheran World Relief where needed around the world. Donations can be brought to the church and will be assembled by Ruth Circle.

Items needed for each kit include:

- 1 bath size towel, dark color preferred
- 1 toothbrush, adult size in original packaging
- 1 comb, large toothed preferred

1 metal nail clipper

2 bath size bars of soap

Items can be placed in the container provided in the narthex.

Monetary donations are also welcomed to purchase needed items - just write "personal care kits" in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity!

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!

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 Jane Phillips for more information.

Wanted - Nursery Staff

Messiah is in need of another staff person or two for our nursery. This is a paid position. Any person interested needs to be 18 years of age or older. Please inquire in the office if this is something you might be interested in. Thank you!

A Daily Guide for March 2026

March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent

Read Luke 7:36–50. A woman brings what she has. Jesus protects her dignity.

Today, show love in a way that fits your capacity: Draw a picture for someone. Make a phone call. Pray for someone by name. Say, "I'm sorry." Give a small gift.

Prayer: *God of mercy, help me love with what I have. Amen.*

March 2 – Say Thank You

Write, text, or say thank you to one person. If writing is hard, simply speak it aloud in prayer.

March 3 – Practice Receiving

When someone helps you today, don't wave it away. Smile and say, "That means a lot."

March 4 – Share Something Small

Share a cookie, a story, a memory, or a joke. Goodness grows when shared.

Prayer: *Generous God, open my hands. Amen.*

March 5 – Stay Present

Sit with someone for five full minutes — in person or on the phone — without multitasking. If you're alone, sit quietly with God.

March 6 – Feed Someone

Bring soup to a neighbor. Donate canned goods. If mobility is limited, pray for those who prepare meals for others.

March 7 – Rest Without Guilt

Take a nap. Read a chapter. Sit in sunlight by a window. Lent is about honesty, not exhaustion.

March 8 – Third Sunday in Lent

Read Mark 6:32–44. The disciples think it isn't enough. Jesus says, "Bring it." Make a list of what you do have: Time, Prayer, Encouragement, Creativity, Experience, Energy (even a little). Choose one to offer this week.

Prayer: *God of abundance, use even my small offering. Amen.*

March 9 – Ask for Help

Call someone and say, "Can you help me with this?" Or offer help to someone else.

March 10 – Donate Something Useful

Clean out one drawer and give away something in good condition.

March 11 – Encourage the Young

Tell a child or young person something you admire about them.

March 12 – Learn a Name

If you encounter someone regularly — nurse, cashier, custodian — learn or use their name.

March 13 – Eat Simply Together

If possible, share a simple meal. If alone, pray for others eating at the same time.

Prayer: *God, thank you for daily bread and daily people. Amen.*

March 14 – Share a Story

Tell someone a story from your life that shaped you. Passing on wisdom is holy work.

March 15 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Read Matthew 19:13–15. Jesus moves toward children others dismiss. Today, move toward someone easily overlooked: A shy person, an elder, a newcomer, or someone who feels different. Offer simple attention.

Prayer: *God of welcome, teach me to notice who is missing. Amen.*

March 16 – Gentle Words

Lower your voice in one tense moment. Tone matters.

March 17 – Pray for Protection

Pray for children, elders, and those living without stability.

March 18 – Write a Card

Send a note to someone in a nursing home, hospital, or far away.

March 19 – Practice Patience

In a line, in traffic, in conversation — breathe instead of reacting.

March 20 – Offer Warmth

Shovel snow. Drop off tea. Call someone as winter lingers. If you cannot go out, pray for those who are outside.

Prayer: *God, make me someone's warmth today. Amen.*

March 21 – Invite Participation

Ask someone, "What do you think?" Make space for another voice.

March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Read Matthew 23:23. Jesus names what carries weight: justice, mercy, faithfulness. Choose one word for your week. Write it somewhere visible.

Prayer: *God of justice and mercy, anchor me in what matters most. Amen.*

March 23 – Practice Justice

Learn one local issue affecting your community. Pray for wisdom and courage.

March 24 – Practice Mercy

Let go of one small irritation. Say, "It's okay."

March 25 – Practice Faithfulness

Keep one small promise — take medication on time, show up to worship, follow through on a task.

March 26 – Repair

Mend clothing. Fix something broken. Repairing is an act of hope.

March 27 – Budget with Intention

Look at one area of spending. Does it reflect who you want to be?

March 28 – Show Up

Attend worship, a community event, or call into an online gathering. Presence builds community.

Prayer: *God, help me keep showing up. Amen.*

March 29 – Palm / Passion Sunday

Read Mark 11:1–11. The crowd made hope visible. Where can your faith be visible this week? Kindness in public, a word of truth, standing with someone, wearing a symbol of welcome.

Prayer: *God of courage, give my hope hands and feet. Amen.*

March 30 – Choose Peace

In conversation or online, refuse sarcasm and cruelty. Let your words build rather than break.

March 31 – Slow Down

Holy Week begins tomorrow. Remove one unnecessary task so you can pay attention.

Prayer: *God who walks toward the cross, steady me for what is ahead. Amen.*

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. -

Centering Prayer

“But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:6

“Meditation, it is said, is a way to evoke the relaxation response. Meditation, others say, is a way to train and strengthen awareness; a method for centering and focusing the self; a way to halt constant verbal thinking and relax the body-mind; a technique for calming the central nervous system; a way to relieve stress, bolster self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and alleviate depression.

All of those are true enough; meditation has been clinically documented to do all of those things. But I would like to emphasize that meditation itself is, and always has been, a spiritual practice.” From “Grace and Grit” by Ken Wilber

Centering prayer is meditation with the intention of accessing the God within, or the Holy Spirit, or the Christ within, or whatever you identify with as the “God of your understanding.” In order to do that, one must release all one’s concepts about God. In other words: Be still. It does not mean that we won’t feel emotions or have thoughts or desires or expectations...it only means we do not allow those things to distract us for too long from our quiet listening for the Voice for God.

There are “fruits of the spirit” to be received from a regular meditation practice. Those “fruits” help us to discern how close we are to doing God’s Will. Those fruits also help us become peaceful, more compassionate, less judgmental, firmer in faith and trust, and remind us that our happiness lies in serving our Creator. We serve our Creator when we treat everyone as though they are the Christ. “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” *Matthew 25: 40*

- - *Nancy Hamlin*

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 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:

***March** – *Shampoo (male/female), Feminine pads & tampons*

***April** – *Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Bar Soap*

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

Mar 25	Herb Grenke, Allan Johnson
Mar 26	Darren Smith
Mar 27	No birthdays
Mar 28	Dick Balding, Janice Gebeau, Jerry Godec
Mar 29	Jack Mendelin
Mar 30	Jeff Dodge, Dennis Gustafson
Mar 31	Brenton Fitzpatrick, Janet Skytta
Apr 1	Jeanne Groos, Karl Kaukola
Apr 2	Robert Hewitt
Apr 3	No birthdays
Apr 4	Ethan Sellers, Beverly Zorza
Apr 5	Barbara Bergstrom, Brent Skaw
Apr 6	Quinn Tripp
Apr 7	Denise Eady, Theo Geschwindt, Les Rolig
Apr 8	Janna Benedict, Robert Marlor

In the Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pr. Andrew Plocher & Pr. Steve Solberg 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: John Kiltinen and family upon the passing of his wife, Pauline; the Osier family upon the passing of their mother, Kathy; Fred Maynard; Laura Goodney; Karen Sundeen; Linda Ruohoniemi; Charlie Blake; Rick; Jan Brown; Sam Elder; Doug Morton; Jackie Greising; Art Ortlieb; 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 Magnuson; Peter; Shawn; Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Sierra; Charlene Avery

Pastor on Call:

Pastor Andrew Plocher is on call March 25, 29 – April 1
Pastor Steven Solberg is on call March 26-28

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, March 28– 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Chris Kotila

Communion Assistant: Kathy Godec

Provide Refreshments: **Need a volunteer.**

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

Assisting Minister: Chris Harkness

Reader: Judy Quirk

Ushers: Cathy Seblonka, Chris Harkness

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

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, **need 1 more volunteer.**

Nursery Maddie Dykema

Provide Refreshments: **Need a volunteer.**

Sunday, March 29 --10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Mike Hill

Reader: Jeanne Groos

Ushers: Paula and Amy Diedrich

Communion Assistants: Bronce Reece, Gayle Mack, Mike and Joan Hill

Greeters: Nancy Raisanen, Marina Shinkarenko

Projection Technician: Inga Banitt

Nursery Maddie Dykema

Flower Delivery: Bev Evans

10:30 am Worship Volunteers

We are in need of more volunteer ushers & volunteer communion assistants for our 10:30 worship service. 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 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

Poetry Without Borders – March 25

On Wednesday, March 25 at 5:30 pm, join us at the UNITED Conference (Northern Center Ballrooms 3 & 4) for an evening of poetry in many languages to celebrate the linguistic diversity of NMU! English translations, appetizers, and refreshments will be provided. Please contact Dr. Anna Zimmer at anzimmer@nmu.edu with any questions.

"Find a TV" — A Staged Reading at NMU – March 26-28

On the morning of September 11, 2001, someone wrote on a classroom board at NMU: "Class is canceled. Find a TV."

Anna Zimmer (Pr. Andrew's wife) and Jimmy Ludwig have built a staged reading around that moment. As the 25th anniversary of the attacks approaches, the Found Space Theatre Company is bringing to life oral history interviews collected from Upper Peninsula residents — real people reflecting on where they were, what they felt, and what, if anything, has stayed with them since.

The production asks a question worth sitting with: when tragedy is public and shared, how do we carry it? And what does the answer tell us about where we are now?

Performances at NMU Jamrich 1100:

March 26 & 27 at 7pm

March 28 at 2pm

Open to all. No tickets required. Donations accepted. Each performance is followed by a conversation with the cast, crew, and writers.

Swimming Suffragettes – April 22

Swimming Suffragettes: The Evolution & Revolution in Women's Bathing Suits will be presented on Wednesday, April 22 at 5:30 pm at the Marquette Regional History Center (145 W Spring St.). This is a fundraiser for the League of Women Voters of Marquette County. Carrie Moon-Dupree, Director of Development for the League of Women Voters of Michigan, showcases her wonderful collection of vintage to modern swimwear, tracing the style changes as a mirror of the changing history of women's rights in the United States. There will be light snacks and mocktails. Tickets are \$45 each (\$5 more at the door or over the phone).

Magnificent Mozart Concert – April 25-26

The Marquette Choral Society will present Magnificent Mozart on Saturday, April 25 at 7:30 pm and on Sunday, April 26 at 3:00 pm. Both concerts will be in Kaufman Auditorium. Soloists are Keri Lee Pierson, Erin Sura, Tony Beacco, and Alexander Romero Wilson. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased at nmu.edu/tickets.

Habitat for Humanity – Lunches Needed

Habitat for Humanity is asking for help providing lunches to their volunteers for the 2026 building season. They need anywhere between 4 to 25 lunches on any given day. They always give advance notice to lunch donors regarding the number of lunches needed. You can volunteer in several ways. Call 906 228-3578 or 906 235-4925. . Select a date online via <https://www.yoopersunited.com/agency/detail/MCHFH>. Email volunteers@mqthabitat.org. Visit the office at 2354 US 41 South in Marquette.

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 – *March 25 at 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.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers – Virtual Workshop: Caring for a loved one can be deeply meaningful—and incredibly demanding. If you're feeling stretched thin, overwhelmed, or just in need of practical support, our Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop is here for you. Beginning March 19, 2026, this 6-week virtual workshop meets weekly from 1:30–3:00 pm via Zoom and is designed for unpaid family caregivers. Participants will learn proven tools to help reduce stress, improve self-care, communicate more effectively, and feel more confident in their caregiving role—all while connecting with others who truly understand.

This evidence-based program offers a supportive, judgment-free space to:

- Manage caregiver stress and emotions
- Set boundaries and solve problems
- Build confidence and resilience
- Take better care of yourself while caring for others

Workshop Dates: March 19 – April 23, 2026

Time: 1:30–3:00 pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Registration Deadline: March 2, 2026

To register, call 2-1-1. Registration is required and space is limited.

You don't have to do caregiving alone—let us walk alongside you.

Advance Directive Presentation

Have you shared your healthcare wishes with the people who matter most? An advance directive is important for every adult, not just during times of illness. This free presentation introduces The Five Wishes, a simple and easy-to-understand tool that helps you express your healthcare wishes and medical preferences. Learn how planning ahead can ensure your wishes are honored and reduce stress and uncertainty for your loved ones in the future. Each attendee will receive a free advance directive.

Marquette

Monday, April 29, 2026

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Marquette Senior Center

300 W Spring St.

Gwinn

Monday, April 20, 2026

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Forsyth Senior Center

165 N Maple St.

Questions? Contact Jamie Barbieri at 906 225-7760.

Do you have an announcement?

Send announcements & ads to Kathy Godec (kathy@messiahlutheranmgt.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@messiahlutheranmgt.org

Website: <https://www.messiahlutheranmgt.org/>

Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor - Andrew Plocher

Interim Associate Pastor – Steven Solberg

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 and Jon Banitt

Pianists – Jacob Schmeltzer and Daniel Cipriano