

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for May 20, 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!



Upcoming Events – May/June

- May 20 Ruth Circle Packing Kits at 11:00 am
- May 20 Dwelling in the Word at 12:00 pm
- May 20 Council at 6:30 pm

May 21 Bible Study at 10:30 am
May 22 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
May 25 Memorial Day – Church Office closed
May 25 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
May 26 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
May 26 Publicity Team at 1:30 pm
May 27 Dwelling in the Word at 12:00 pm
May 27 OWLs Visit to Trillium House for Lunch at 12:00 pm
May 27 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
May 27 VBS Meeting at 4:30 pm
May 27 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at 6:00 pm
May 28 Bible Study at 10:30 am
May 29 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
May 31 High School Graduation Recognition at 9:30 am
June 1 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:30 pm
June 2 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
June 3 Dwelling in the Word at 12:00 pm
June 3 Community Meal at 6:00 pm

Pastor Steve Invites You...

To meet WEDNESDAYS at NOON for “DWELLING IN THE WORD.” Bring your lunch, if you wish, to Messiah's Atrium and dwell in God's Word with fellow disciples and seekers. Pastor Steve is reserving the whole Noon hour but come for the time & times you're able. Together we'll reflect using the story of God's people led by the Holy Spirit in Acts.

What is “Dwelling in the Word”? It is a simple, prayerful practice many congregations use to listen more deeply to Scripture and to one another. A short passage is read aloud slowly – usually more than once – with time for quiet reflection. Participants are invited to notice a word or phrase that stands out and to share what they hear God stirring in them. Over time, this shared listening helps us grow in trust, imagination, and clarity about where the Spirit may be leading next.

Interested, but can't make this day and time? Please contact the church office.

OWLs Visit to Trillium House – May 27

The OWLs plan to visit Trillium House for lunch on Wednesday, May 27 at noon. There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table if you plan to attend. The address of Trillium House is 1144 Northland Drive in Marquette. Please consider bringing an item from the Trillium House

wish list. A copy of their wish list is on the Welcome Table and also on their website trilliumhouse.org.

Brookridge Worship – May 27

Messiah has a worship service on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Brookridge Heights (1901 Division St., Marquette). Our next worship at Brookridge will be on Wednesday, May 27 at 1:30 pm. Please join us for this worship service. All are welcome.

Women of the ELCA Day of Renewal – May 30

Join the Women of Prince of Peace (555 Riverside Street, Marquette) on Saturday, May 30 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for a Pilgrimage.

We are inviting all women to attend a morning of fellowship and lunch to learn about various types of Pilgrimages. A pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place that can lead to personal transformation or have moral significance.

Registration is at 9:45 am. The cost is \$5.00 (checks payable to NGLSWO). If you plan to attend, please sign up by Monday, May 25. The sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table.

High School Graduates' Recognition – May 31

We would like to congratulate the following seniors upon their graduation at the end of May: Sarah Bleckiner, Elise Busick, Devin Fortin & Esme Ulland-Joy. We will be celebrating this achievement on Sunday, May 31st at our 10:30 am worship service. We will enjoy a cake in their honor at our coffee hour that morning starting just after 9:30 am. Please join us in the celebration of our graduates.

Light the Fire for Fortune Lake – May 31

The Board of Directors invites you to our 3rd Annual Light the Fire for Fortune Lake, a community-centered evening of friends, family, faith, and fellowship around the campfire as we raise funds for Fortune Lake! We are excited to kick off the summer camp season and to celebrate the work of God through our beloved camp. All are welcome and there is no fee to participate. There will be an invitation in support of Summer Camp at Fortune Lake.

There are 7 churches around our synod who will be hosting simultaneous campfire events. It will also be on Facebook LIVE. In our conference, Bethany Lutheran Church in Ishpeming (715 Mather Ave.) is hosting the campfire at 6:30 pm on Sunday, May 31. If you are joining in person, please bring an outdoor chair or blanket to sit on.

2026 Messiah Directory

Messiah's 2026 phone/address directory for members & visitors alike, is available in the office.

Hymn/Song Tabulation

The top ten hymns are in. There will be more information on this list soon.

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School 2026

Mark your calendars—Vacation Bible School is coming to Messiah!

June 22–26, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Please note the NEW afternoon time!)

This summer we'll be using Shine Curriculum's #kidsconnect, a creative and justice-centered VBS experience that helps kids explore how we are connected—to God, to one another, and to the world around us. Through storytelling, music, art, movement, and hands-on activities, kids will discover how faith calls us into community, compassion, and courageous love.

Our afternoon schedule is a change from previous years, so be sure to make note of the 1:00–4:00 pm time frame. We hope this new time will make VBS accessible for even more families! VBS at Messiah is a joyful, inclusive space where all children are welcomed, celebrated, and invited to grow in faith. Whether your family is part of Messiah or new to our community, there is room for you.

Please check the church website for registration information!

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!

Global Fair-Trade Market

In 2023 & 2024, members of the Global Mission Team hosted a Fair-Trade Market in November, here at Messiah. This Market is a sustainable way to directly support artisans from around the world, some of whom our congregation has cultivated direct relationships. The shopping experience supplies you with unique gift items, funds fair-trade communities, and highlights the beliefs of Messiah Lutheran within the Marquette community. However, orchestrating the logistics of the Market requires volunteers from our church. We are currently evaluating the feasibility of continuing with the Fair-Trade Market. Volunteers are needed to order and label items, assist with the market budget, and help on market day with set-up, take-down, and cashier stations. If you have any interest in volunteering with the Market, please contact 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 Jane Phillips for more information.

Community Meal Cook Team

We are in need of one more cook team to make our community meal program a success. Have you ever considered doing this? Do you have questions regarding our community meals? If so, please do not hesitate to inquire in the office. You can cook with a friend or two or you and your spouse/partner could cook... the options are endless. Please consider participating in this ministry!

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

OPEN MIND, OPEN HEART *by Thomas Keating—Centering prayer*

The chief thing that separates us from God is the thought that we are separated from Him. We hesitate to believe this until personal experience gives us the confidence to believe in it. This involves the gradual development of intimacy with God. God constantly speaks to us through each other as well as from within. The interior experience of God's presence activates our capacity to perceive Him in everything else—in people, in events, in nature. We may enjoy union with God in any experience of the external senses as well as in prayer.

God's presence is available at every moment, but we have a giant obstacle in ourselves—our world view. It needs to be exchanged for the mind of Christ, for His world view. The mind of Christ is ours through faith...to take possession of it requires a discipline that develops the sensitivity to hear Christ's invitation: Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone opens I will come in and sup with him and he with me. (Revelations 3:20)

Our ordinary preoccupations involve unconscious value systems. Some thoughts are attractive to us because we have an attachment to them springing from the emotional programming of our early childhood. When such thoughts go by, all our lights start flashing because of our heavy emotional investment in the values that they stimulate or threaten. By training ourselves to let go of every thought, we gradually develop freedom from our attachments and compulsions.

Centering prayer is not just sustained attention to a special word or image or to one's breathing, but the surrender of one's whole being to God. Centering prayer is not a relaxation exercise although it may bring relaxation. It is the exercise of our personal relationship with God.

When the presence of God emerges from our inmost being into our faculties, whether we walk down the street or drink a cup of soup, divine life is pouring into the world. The effectiveness of every action depends on the source from which it springs. If it is coming out of the false self, it is severely limited. If it is coming out of a person who is immersed in God, it is extremely effective. The contemplative state brings Christ into the world.

Opportunities to practice centering prayer: Here at Messiah (see calendar) and also online via Zoom at www.meditationchapel.org or online with Minnesota Contemplative Outreach.

Messiah's Jam Ministry

Rebecca Ulland is the sole jam-maker in this endeavor and is wondering if you, YES YOU, would like to be a part of the jam ministry. There are all levels of support, from donating bags of sugar to picking or supplying berries and other fruit. However, the biggest need is for more

jam-makers. Are you an expert and want to share what you have with our community? Have you ever thought about making jam but don't know where to start? In both cases, YOU ARE WELCOME to join the jam ministry. I love to teach jam-making and would be happy to help you get started. Please contact me if you're interested in supporting Messiah's Jam Ministry. All support is welcome! Thank you! Rebecca Ulland (906.236-3722)

Youth News

CONFIRMATION

Our confirmation ministry is being lived out together with partner congregations of our Northern Great Lakes Synod Conference 8. Each month our confirmands gather with youth from these partners at our various church sites. The final confirmation gathering for this school year will be Saturday, May 9th (9:00 am – Noon) at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming. What gift these young people are to us! Thank you for your support and encouragement of each one, currently Kayleigh Beaudoin, Evan Busick, Adelyn Davis, Brooklyn Fortin, William Kaurala, Violet Rector, Bronce Reece, Sophie Sander, and Emma Ziegler.

Confirmation ministry is a three year journey in which young people explore the basics of Christian faith, Scripture, and Lutheran identity, supported by caring adults and the life of the congregation. Its purpose is to help students grow in trust in God, ask real questions, and prepare to affirm their baptism in community.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

- BOWLING & PIZZA – Sunday, June 7th (4:00 – 6:00 pm) at River Rock Lanes in Ishpeming (1011 North Rd). A \$5 donation is requested.

DID YOU KNOW?

In July around 25 young people & adults from around our synod will be going to North Carolina to help with the ongoing work of Hurricane Helene cleanup. This includes one of Messiah's youth, Adelyn Davis. Thank you for your support of Adelyn and the others venturing out in service.

The group will arrive at their NC base camp on a Sunday afternoon and do some team building and learning about the disaster areas in which they will be serving. Monday through Wednesday will be spent at sites in need of recovery work, in partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) Carolinas. All tools and supplies will be provided by LDR Carolinas. Each day will end back at camp with a time to debrief the day and worship together. On Thursday, the group will have an Adventure Day. The week ends with worship on Friday before departing.

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

It appears that spring has arrived so the OWLs will start walking at the Lower Harbor Mattson Park. We meet on Mondays at 10:00 am and we walk at our own speed. If the weather is iffy, plan on walking at the Dome. All are welcome. After walking, we go to Provisions for coffee. Meet us for coffee if you don't feel like walking. 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:

***May** – *Diapers size 3-6 and Baby Wipes*

***June** – Razors (male/female)

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

May 20	Elmer Moisio, Josh Sundman
May 21	Ralph Christensen, Ron Hill
May 22	Barb Salmela
May 23	John VanDreel
May 24	Maria Mendini-Fuller, Eliza Rector
May 25	Liam Ulland-Joy
May 26	No birthdays
May 27	Laura Goodney
May 28	Miriam Mattson, Michael Peterson
May 29	Joe Blemberg
May 30	No birthdays
May 31	Conrad Jewett, Jeannie Wagner
June 1	Ron Brow
June 2	Sandy Lindberg
June 3	Gayle Mack

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in May:

Michael & Jenny Broadway	May 16
Conrad & Renee Jewett	May 20
Elmer & Marie Moisio	May 20
Jim & Carrie Ketchem	May 21
John & Rose Collins	May 22
David Echelbarger & Christine Thomas-Echelbarger	May 25
Barry & Ann Johnson	May 26
David Johnson & Karen Kimar-Johnson	May 26
Bruce & Sandy Lindberg	May 26
Daniel & Anna Rector	May 27
Andrew Sander & Leslie Dellangelo	May 29

In the Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. 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 pastor 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: Scott Krah and his family upon the passing of his father, Bill; Lori Nelson and family upon the passing of her mother, Deanna; John Kiltinen; Lisa Balko; Roger; Faith Downs; Vicki Wicklund; Karen Sundeen;

Linda Ruohoniemi; Charlie Blake; Rick; Sam Elder; Doug Morton; Jackie Greising; Art Ortlieb; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Katie; 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 Steven Solberg is on call May 20-27

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, May 23 – 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Chris Kotila

Communion Assistant: Barb Salmela

Provide Refreshments: Shari Brugman

Sunday, May 24 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Brenda Blett

Reader: Karen Eldevick

Ushers: Joe and Chris Harkness

Communion Assistants: Marina Shinkarenko, Dave Blomquist, Al Edgar, **need 1 more volunteer.**

Greeters: Tom and Amy Froiland

Nursery Sarah Bleckiner

Provide Refreshments: Penny Streeter and Sherry Labbe

Sunday, May 24 –10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Mike Hill

Reader: Nancy Raisanen

Ushers: Ruth Robb, Jeanne Groos

Communion Assistants: Mike and Joan Hill, Sandy Lindberg, Marina Shinkarenko

Greeters: Laurel Kniskern, Marina Shinkarenko

Projection Technician: Abby LaForest

Nursery: Sarah Bleckiner
Flower Delivery: Amy Froiland

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

Lions Club Fundraiser

The Marquette Lions Club is asking for your support with our annual Flag Rental Fundraiser. For a donation of \$35 or more the Marquette Lions will place a flag in your front yard over the summer holidays. Flags will be put out before Memorial Day weekend, 4th of July, and Labor Day weekend, and then picked up shortly after each holiday. All proceeds will be used for support of community needs involving childhood cancer, vision, and hunger. If you are interested in supporting our club, please call or text Lion Kerry McGinley at 231-250-1092.

Nick's Run for Recovery – May 30

Dear Messiah Lutheran community,

Every family has a story. Substance use disorder and mental illness impact almost all of us, in many different ways. Coming together to share stories, resources and support can help.

If you have family members or loved ones affected by addiction and/or mental illness, if you are in recovery or would like to be in recovery from substance use, or just want to support the community: Please join Superior Connections Recovery Community Organization (SCRCO) on May 30, 2026 as we host the 4th annual Nick's 5K Run/Walk.

This 5K event honors local Nicholas Suardini who lost his life to suicide due to substance use and mental illness. Our goal is to push back against the hopelessness, isolation and stigma of addiction and mental illness. People struggling with mental health and addiction issues can and do recover with help and hope.

SCRCO is a local, non-profit organization that serves to accompany people in the UP on their walk of recovery as they try to get back on their feet. We operate two recovery residences for men, one in Marquette, and the other in Ishpeming. The men can stay in these houses for 6-12 months as they heal, find jobs, get the helping services they need, and transition to their own housing. It is an important half-way step, after receiving substance use treatment and before reentering everyday life. We also operate Fisher House in Marquette which serves a vital need in providing transitional and structured housing for men. We are currently hoping and planning for an addition of a women's recovery residence in the Marquette area. That will depend on securing grants for the funding.

SCRCO furthermore has a team of peer navigators who are men and women trained to walk step-by-step with participants in our recovery programs. The secret sauce of this service is a mix of compassion, non-judgement, harm reduction and accompaniment. We strive to keep people alive, break the stigma, bring in community partners like yourselves, and create connections for participants and families.

Another important role we perform is to offer sober events which are alcohol and drug-free fun events in the community on a regular basis where people in recovery and their families can enjoy and spend relaxing time together. Pushing back against the ubiquitous alcohol and cannabis culture in Marquette is a job we take seriously.

So, if this sounds at all interesting or fun to you, please join us at Nick's Run for Recovery! Pre-registration ticket purchase (less expensive than race-day) till 5/14/2016 to guarantee shirt size. Registration and shirt pick-up the day of the race from 8:45-9:30am at Elizabeth's Chop House.

The run/walk starts at the Lower Harbour bell tower in Marquette at 10:15am on Saturday, May 30th. Free food and the chance to win door prizes!

To preregister or for more info go to: givebutter.com/NicksRun4, or Superiorconnectionsco.org.

Thank you,

Fred Groos

Messiah parish member & president of the Board of Directors of Superior Connections Recovery Community Organization.

Discovery Central Forest School ½ Day Preschool Enrollment

The Discovery Central Forest School is enrolling preschoolers (2.5 to 5 yrs old) in their ½ day Pine classes. They offer 2 options: 9am to noon or 1pm to 4pm. Email now to save your spot. smisale@discoverycentral.org.

Lake Superior Village Summer Program for Kids

The Lake Superior Village Youth and Family Center (1901 Longyear Ave.) is offering a summer program for kids. Fun, friendship, and adventure await – from outdoor games to creative crafts. Let the summer stories begin! You can sign up at the mandatory parent meeting on Tuesday, June 2 at 6:00 pm. If you can't make it to the meeting, please call 906 458-7550 or email rcook@mqthc.org.

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/non-profit, so donations are tax deductible. But I cannot emphasize enough....to CALL if you need help.

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

Interim 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