

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for August 19, 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 – August

- Aug 19 Dwelling in the Word at 12:00 pm
- Aug 19 Council at 6:30 pm
- Aug 20 Bible Study at 10:30 am
- Aug 21 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
- Aug 22 Global Mission Potluck at 12:00 pm

Aug 24 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:15 pm
Aug 25 Publicity Team at 1:30 pm
Aug 25 Transition Team at 6:30 pm
Aug 26 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
Aug 27 Bible Study at 10:30 am
Aug 27 Global Mission at 6:00 pm
Aug 28 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Aug 31 11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:15 pm
Sept 2 Community Meal at 6:00 pm

Help Needed with Communion Set Up on Sundays

We need 1-2 more volunteers to set up communion for both services on Sundays. If you can help with this, please let Jen or Kathy know. Training will be provided.

Preaching Schedule

Aug 22/23 Pastor Katie Larson, visitor from Colombia
Aug 29/30 Pastor Rell Spickerman
Sept 5/6 Judy Quirk, Lay Leader (*no communion served*)
Sept 12/13 Pastor Rell Spickerman
Sept 19/20 Pastor Steve Solberg
Sept 26/27 Pastor Rell Spickerman
Oct 3/4 Dave Horn, Lay Leader (*no communion served*)
Oct 10/11 Pastor Steve Solberg
Oct 17/18 Pastor Steve Solberg
Oct 24/25 Pastor Sharolyn Swenson
Oct 31/Nov 1 Pastor Steve Solberg
Nov 7/8 Grant Soltwisch, Lay Leader (*no communion served*)

An Update from Pastor Steve

August 13, 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord.

As we continue through this season of transition, I want to share an update on where we are, what has begun, and what lies ahead. My hope is to keep our congregation informed, encouraged, and connected as we walk this path with faith and clarity.

Transition Team and Synod-wide Cohort

Messiah's Transition Team has begun its work. The members are: Madalyn Dykema, Michael Hill, Paul Marin, Carol Steinhaus, and Ron Strazzinski. These five bring wisdom, steadiness, and deep care for Messiah's future. They will be installed at all three worship services the weekend of September 19 & 20. Please greet them, thank them, and pray for their work.

Our Transition Team is also part of a synod-wide cohort with teams from Gloria Dei (Hancock), Good Shepherd (Houghton), Faith (Sault Ste. Marie), and Emmanuel (Menominee). Their first meeting in July offered an overview of the transition process, and their second meeting this past Tuesday was their first equipping session with Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Sharolyn Swenson. These teams will support one another and learn together as each congregation moves through its transition.

The Transition Team is already exploring ways to help us reflect on where we've been, who we are now, and where the Holy Spirit is leading. Their work will invite the whole congregation into honest conversation about our hopes, dreams, questions, and identity. **Please watch for more updates as they begin inviting the whole congregation into this work.**

Why Transition Work Matters

Some members have expressed understandable urgency about calling our next pastor — concerns about drift, momentum, and attracting new members. These feelings are real and deserve to be named.

Yet for all of us in seasons of transition, urgency can easily overshadow our trust in God's timing and God's leading. The transition process helps us slow down, breathe, and listen for the Spirit's leading so that our next steps grow from discernment rather than anxiety.

Across the ELCA—and in my own experience—calling a pastor too quickly after a difficult pastoral departure often results in the next pastor's tenure becoming an unintentional interim. It's a bit like entering a new marriage too soon after a painful divorce or the death of a spouse: the relationship begins before the foundation is ready.

According to Messiah's constitution, the Congregation Council will serve as the Call Committee when the time comes—likely six months or so from now. Their work will be far stronger because of the transition work we are doing now.

Staffing Adjustments for Transition

In the meantime, your elected church leaders and I will continue discerning how best to support and equip Messiah's ongoing ministries. As one example, this past spring the council

hired Emma Olechnowicz as Messiah's Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator, serving on average 20 hours each month. Emma has greatly blessed us with her leadership in Vacation Bible School and Sunday School.

Addressing Anxious Rumors

Seasons of transition can stir up understandable worries. Let me address two directly.

“Do we have enough money to call a fulltime pastor?”

Yes. Messiah's finances are stable. Faithful financial stewardship is always part of our life together, but we are on solid footing. We are children of a generous God, and God has provided all we need to be a generous people, supporting where the Spirit may lead. My present 20-hour/week schedule simply reflects what I could offer from my own availability. Bishop Katherine has pursued several fulltime interim pastors for Messiah, but none have been able to say yes. This is a challenge across the ELCA—not a reflection on Messiah.

I will not abandon you. I am committed to walking with you through this transition.

“Is Messiah going to close?”

No. While every living thing—including congregations—has a life cycle, Messiah is far from dying. We have strong ministries, faithful people, and a future worth tending with hope and care.

Signs of Life and Ministry

There is much to celebrate at Messiah:

Our summer Vacation Bible School was filled with joy, energy, and the leadership of our children. They taught us to notice and name the ways God connects us — to faith, to one another, and to the world.

Their hashtag **#KidsConnect** has now grown into **#MessiahConnects**, a way for all of us to share stories of connection, kindness, service, worship, and everyday grace.

Our fall stewardship season is approaching, expanding our understanding of stewardship beyond finances to include relationships, forgiveness, joy, and the ways we care for one another. And, yes, our generosity of time, talent, and treasure is always invited.

Ministries continue to grow, connect, and serve. Stories of faith and community are emerging every week.

I invite you to follow and share these stories using **#MessiahConnects** — a way to see and celebrate the good work God is doing among us.

Walking Together

Thank you for your faithfulness, patience, and willingness to walk this path together. Transition is not easy, but it is holy work — and God is already ahead of us, preparing the way.

Please continue to pray for the Transition Team, the Council, and Messiah's future, including your own Spirit-led involvement. I am grateful to be walking with you.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Steve Solberg

"For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15:28)

#MessiahConnects – Noticing God's Work Among Us

Storytelling reminds us of our identity — who we are and Whose we are. We are children of a loving God, connected by grace to faith, to each other, and to the world God loves.

#MessiahConnects is a simple way to notice and name those connections.

When we gather small moments of ministry into one shared story, we begin to see more clearly how God is already at work among us. In a world where so much can pull us apart, storytelling draws us together. *#MessiahConnects* is simply a gentle way to pay attention — and to give thanks — for the connections God is creating every day.

Where this began

This summer at Vacation Bible School, our children taught us something simple and joyful. They used the phrase *#KidsConnect* to notice how God connects them with faith, with each other, and with the world. Their joy and curiosity inspired us — and now we're inviting the whole congregation to join in a similar way.

We're calling it *#MessiahConnects*.

What is a hashtag?

A hashtag is simply a social media label. When someone writes *#MessiahConnects* into a social media post, it marks a moment so it can be gathered with similar moments. It doesn't join a group, doesn't send anything to a company, and doesn't require an account. It's just a way of saying:

"This is one of the ways God is connecting us."

And if someone, somewhere else, uses the same hashtag, it doesn't affect us here in Marquette. Hashtags aren't owned or reserved; their meaning comes from the community using them. Our consistent use will define what *#MessiahConnects* means at Messiah Lutheran.

A word of care

We know some people have concerns about social media — its distractions, its overuse, and the ways it can pull attention away from real relationships. Those concerns matter.

So let's be clear... *#MessiahConnects* is not about pushing anyone toward social media. It's not about increasing screen time. It's not about replacing face-to-face relationships.

It's simply a tool for noticing and celebrating the connections God is already creating among us.

A physical, low-tech way to participate

Because this is about connection — not screens — we're also creating a *#MessiahConnects* Wall on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Think of it as a physical version of a Facebook "wall." You can:

- write a moment on a quarter sheet of paper from the basket
- add a photo
- jot down a prayer
- name a kindness you witnessed
- describe a connection you noticed
- share a memory of our church's history

And if you call or email the church office with something you've seen, we'll add it to the wall for you. Everyone can participate, with or without technology.

Why storytelling matters

#MessiahConnects helps us:

- notice and celebrate ministry
- encourage participation
- strengthen real relationships by helping us see them
- show our congregation's life to people who might never walk through our doors

These stories-digital and physical-will become the heartbeat of our life together.

Your invitation

In the weeks and months ahead, we invite you to notice connections. A handshake. A child's laughter. A prayer shared. A volunteer helping behind the scenes.

And when you notice it, name it: "*That's #MessiahConnects.*"

Share it with someone. Share it with the office. Share it online if you already use social media.

Or add it to the *#MessiahConnects Wall* in the Narthex.

Welcome to *#MessiahConnects*.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve Solberg

Brookridge Worship – August 26

Messiah has a worship service at Brookridge Heights on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Our next worship at Brookridge will be on Wednesday, August 26 at 1:30 pm. Please join us for this worship service if you are able.

Assistance Fund Update

As of the middle of July, we have distributed nearly \$40,000 which is the same amount we gave all year in 2024. Our office staff has scheduled 189 appointments and 178 have resulted in a personal interview.

A Reminder: When you purchase homemade jam or a hand-crafted wooden bowl from the Fair Trade shelves in the Atrium, you are contributing to the Assistance Fund. Thanks to Grant Soltwisch, Rebecca Ulland and Paul Carstens for making these items available to this ministry.

Food Donations Needed

Messiah now has two shelving units by the inside of the “canopy door” where food donations can be placed. Most of the food is going to people who come to Messiah and need food assistance. If Messiah has excess food, it is brought to the Salvation Army in Marquette.

Suggested food items:

- *cans of tuna, salmon, chicken, peanut butter, canned beans
- *whole grain cereals, rolled oats, rice and pasta
- *canned fruits and vegetables
- *cooking oil – canola or olive oil, pasta sauce, basic dried spices
- *applesauce, granola bars, juice boxes, baby foods (jars or pouches)
- *shelf-stable microwaveable meals

Please check expiration dates & do not bring expired items. Take a minute to look at Messiah’s food shelves and decide what you can donate. Any donations are appreciated. Thank you!

Beach Worship at Messiah

We will hold Beach Worship one more Sunday this summer during our 10:30 am worship time. At this event we will meet at Clark Lambros Beach, and we ask all those who attend to bring your own blanket or chair to sit on during worship. The date for this special outdoor service is:

Sept. 6th 10:30 worship Judy Quirk (no communion served)

Confirmation Retreats Initial Gatherings – Building Community

Confirmation is a three-year learning program, with students starting in 7th grade and finishing in 9th grade. It is a combined program with churches across our conference.

Two gatherings coming soon for confirmands and parents to put on their calendars:

The first gathering with other conference congregation youth will be at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee on Sunday, September 20, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. The schedule for the evening will include introductions of the pastors leading the program, dinner, worship, and congregational - small groups to go over expectations.

Before that, however, Pastor Steve would like to gather with confirmands and parents (including those who have participated, those who will be participating, and those who are hoping to be confirmed this fall). This will be your opportunity to touch base with each other, catch Pastor Steve up, and organize Messiah's confirmation support for the coming year. Please watch for Pastor Steve's organizing emails for specific date and time of this meeting.

UP Wild Event

Sunday, August 30 at 4:00 pm - Wild Church Service. Meeting at Presque Isle Gazebo (structure closest to break wall). Please bring your own folding chair.

Theme: Christ, the Light of Creation. We will have a wander & ponder activity for all ages.
www.upwild.org

Fortune Lake

Nature Inspired: Fall Wellness Retreat – September 10-13, 2026 - For adults; join us for either 3 days (Friday-Sunday) or 4 days (Thursday-Sunday) to refresh, center yourself, and learn more about you and your body! Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp welcomes you back to our annual Wellness Retreat in partnership with Pam Roose of Inspiring Roots, LLC. For more information or to register for this retreat, go to www.fortunelake.org.

LWR InGathering at Messiah – October 17

Messiah will have their Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Truck Loading Day on Saturday, October 17th at 10:00 am. The truck will be here for one hour only.

If your Circle/Quilting group has boxes of kits/quilts to send, please record the following information for the office and call the numbers in by 10/15:

1. Number of quilts and/or kits your Circle/Quilting group has made.
2. Number of boxes that your quilts and/or kits are in.

Thank you!

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!

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.

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

What God arranges for us to experience at each moment is the best and holiest thing that could happen to us. – Jean-Pierre de Caussade

The Welcoming Prayer is an extension of Centering Prayer often considered “Consent on the Go”. Consenting to God’s presence and action in our physical and emotional reactions to events and situations in daily life.

If you are struggling with a negative emotion, the power of this prayer method is that it offers a structured way to embrace and accept it, so you can release it and move on.

Welcome,
welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me
today, because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings,
emotions, persons, situations, and
conditions.

I let go of my desire for power
and control.

I let go of my desire for affection,
esteem, approval and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival
and security.

I let go of my desire to change
any situation, condition,
person or myself.

I open to the love and presence
of God and God's action within.

Amen.

I often practice the Welcoming Prayer by listening to the prayer on YouTube. If you would like the link to my favorite version, contact the church office.

If you would like to know more about the Welcoming Prayer or Center Prayer, join me on Mondays in room 202 @ 5:30 pm or Nancy Hamlin on Tuesdays @ 11:00 am. [Nancy H. is canceling Centering Prayer on Tuesday, August 25th & Sept 1st] - - article submitted by Laura Petrie

Electronic Giving/Purchasing

We have a new Venmo QR code set up; it is on the back of each bulletin as well as near the coffee, chocolates, tea & jam that we have for sale.

Messiah's Jam Ministry

The 2026 jam season is here and there is fresh JAM on the shelves!! Jam is \$5/jar for 8 oz. (half pint) jars. If you're lucky enough to find a sample 4 oz. jar, they are \$3/jar or 2 for \$5. You can leave your money at the office or use the convenient QR code located nearby to pay. THANK YOU to everyone who has donated rhubarb, peaches, and sugar. Your supplies made very tasty jam! If you'd like to donate fruit, sugar, or other supplies (jars, lids, rings), you can drop them off at the church office or contact me directly to coordinate. And remember, if you're interested in making jam (whether you're an expert or a novice or would like to learn),

please contact Rebecca Ulland (email rjulland@yahoo.com or text/call 906-236-3722). Thank you!

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

During August & September Women Reaching Women Circle will be collecting donations of school supplies for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. These kits are sent to children in need in our country & around the world.

A bin is available in the narthex for your donations. We also welcome cash contributions.

Thank you for your help! The following items are needed:

- 70-sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled
 - Box of 16 or 24 crayons
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Fiskars-type kids' scissors
 - Unsharpened #2 pencils
 - Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
 - 2 1/2" Pink Pearl-type eraser
 - 30 cm ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one edge and inches on the other
-

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. Please note that the Dome will not be available for walking in July, if the weather is iffy. 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 in need of the items listed below. There is a collection bin in our narthex at Messiah for The New Free Store.

***August** – *Diapers size 3-6; Baby Wipes*

***September** – *Shampoo; boxes of tampons/packages of pads*

2026 Fair Trade Market at Messiah in November!

Your Global Mission Team at Messiah is excited to begin planning for the Fair-Trade Market, to be held Nov. 21-22 at Messiah. Please note that this is an adjusted date from what we previously announced. This Market is only possible with the assistance of you - our necessary volunteers. We've compiled a list of specific tasks and the approximate time commitment

involved. Please review the list, identify how you can serve in this event, and contact the church office or sign up on the sheet at the welcome table. The Fair-Trade Market team will contact you to arrange the next step. Thank you for your support!

2026 Tasks

<i>Finance/budget</i>	Knowledge of Excel Document expenses, receipts, funds raised, donations Have cash available for change 10 hrs
<i>Publicity</i>	Post Facebook event Design flyer, post around town Marquette Monthly advertisement & blurb TV/radio/newspaper media 8 hrs
<i>Ordering items</i>	SERRV, Sharing the Dream, Jeanne (Peru), Katie (Colombia), Fair Trade Wall (jams, coffee, chocolate), Tanzania(?) 4 hrs
<i>Labeling items</i>	Color-coded & numbered price tags 2 hrs
<i>Prepare price sheets</i>	Color-coded & numbered item lists 2 hrs
<i>Set-up</i>	Friday afternoon, 3 hrs Pick up jewelry stands from Beth Wendricks
<i>Take-down</i>	Sunday afternoon, 2 hrs
<i>Cashier Saturday</i> (3-4 people)	review use of Messiah credit card machine & Venmo account x3 during AM hours, x1 during PM hours
<i>Wrapper</i> <i>Saturday AM</i> <i>hours (2 people)</i>	Pack purchased items for customers
<i>Cashier Sunday AM</i>	x1
<i>After market inventory</i>	Return items to Sharing the Dream Inventory remaining items 2 hrs

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

Aug 19	Elise Busick, Kelley Mahar
Aug 20	Kyle Smith
Aug 21	Dave Carlson
Aug 22	No birthdays
Aug 23	Karen Eldevick, Laura Petrie
Aug 24	No birthdays
Aug 25	Grayson Beaudoin
Aug 26	No birthdays
Aug 27	Jaime Davis, Susan Feldhauser
Aug 28	Dave Boehlke
Aug 29	Helen Lord Anderson, Kathy Peters, Bruce Robertson
Aug 30	Mike Coyne
Aug 31	No birthdays
Sept 1	Mary Lou Blomquist, Kate Sromalski
Sept 2	Valerie Beaudoin, Billie Johnson

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in August:

Darren & Laurie Smith	August 2
Michael Joy & Rebecca Ulland	August 3
Barb Maszlewski & Beth Wendricks	August 3
Marcia Heron & her husband	August 5
Stephen & Molly Luty	August 7
Andrew & Melissa Wilder	August 9
Paul & Linda Wainio	August 11
Dick & Lou Ann Balding	August 16
Roger & Lucy Contois	August 16
Mark & Sheryl Dellangelo	August 16
Dick & Laura Goodney	August 17
Dave & Jill Luoma	August 17
Tanner & Ellyn Delpier	August 18

Dick & Karen Oslund	August 18
Eric & Jessica Gummerus	August 20
Dave & Jessica Boelke	August 22
Mike & Cheryl Anderegg	August 23
Bruce & Joan Gauthier	August 24
Chuck & Jean Reynolds	August 26

Messiah AV Project Overview

You may have been wondering about the status of the Audio Visual Project that's been underway at Messiah for some years. Here's a quick summary of the original goals and our progress, with next steps soon to come.

*Thank you to all who have supported this project financially * otherwise!*

Operational Paradigm

- *Simple, non-complicated broadcasts.
- *Make weekly operations as streamlined as possible.
- *Be able to react to last minute changes without a lot of intervention.

Create a more interconnected experience across the building by...

- *Networking audio and video of Magnuson Hall, Narthex and Sanctuary together (in progress)
- *Broadcast both audio and video of services to these auxiliary locations (in progress)
- *Expand wireless internet access to Magnusson Hall and classrooms (in progress)

Bring Messiah's systems up to modern day standards

- *Professional audio system in Sanctuary capable of supporting professional music events (completed with final touches in progress).
- *Other aspirations (e.g, further upgraded camera system to improve streaming resolution, a more dynamic broadcast with graphics and integrated lyrics, support for sermon visual aids, a drum booth for more control and comfortable volume in the sanctuary, in-ear systems for contemporary service musicians)

A Note about radio broadcast

*Our broadcast sounds very different on the radio than in the sanctuary and online. The radio station historically gave us little agency on how our broadcast is presented on their end. It may be worth restarting a conversation there.

- - Dan Zini, *AV Specialist*

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: Cheryl Anderegg & family upon the passing of her sister, Jill; Terri Bocklund and family upon the passing of her mother, Jill; those who seek help from our financial assistance program; Jacelyn (pronounced Jack Lynn) Marra; Gloria Byrnes; Cassidy Eckloff; Sherry Watters; Renee Goyen; Stuart Harslah; Peggy Letvenow; Lisa Balko; Roger; Karen Sundeen; Linda Ruohoniemi; Charlie Blake; 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; Jamie; Donna; Brian; Ben; Evelyn; Karen Eldevick; 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 August 19-26

A Daily Guide for August

August 1 – Savor the Season

Notice what you love about summer—ripe fruit, warm sun, long days. Say thank you to God for what fills your senses with joy.

August 2 – Morning Light

Wake early enough to sit with the sunrise or morning quiet. Let the light remind you that each day begins in grace.

August 3 – Write a Thank You

Send a thank-you note or message to someone who's made your summer better, even in a small way.

August 4 – Eat with Gratitude

Slow down as you eat today. Taste each bite. Give thanks for the farmers, workers, and hands that brought it to your table.

August 5 – Let Go a Little

What are you holding too tightly? Let something go today—an expectation, a task, a worry. Trust that not everything depends on you.

August 6 – Sabbath in Summer

Set aside time today to rest. Sit outside. Take a nap. Listen to crickets or the wind. Let creation teach you how to pause.

August 7 – School Supplies Prayer

Whether you're a student, teacher, parent, or simply near a school community, say a prayer over the tools of learning and those who use them.

August 8 – Notice the Transition

Feel the air change? Are the evenings getting shorter? Welcome the turning of time with curiosity, not resistance.

August 9 – Bless the Children

Pray for the children in your life—those you know and those you don't. Ask God to surround them with care and delight.

August 10 – Practice Presence

Be where you are today. Resist multitasking for an hour. Pay attention to the world around you.

August 11 – Look Up

Spend a few moments looking at the sky. Cloudy or clear, bright or dark—lift your eyes and rest in wonder.

August 12 – A Mid-Year Check-In

We're over halfway through the year. What has surprised you? What are you grateful for?

August 13 – Back-to-School Memories

Remember your own back-to-school experiences. What feelings come up? Offer them to God—whether joy, fear, awkwardness, or hope.

August 14 – Prayer for Educators

Pray for teachers, aides, staff, and administrators. Ask God to give them wisdom, patience, and a sense of deep purpose.

August 15 – A Late Summer Walk

Take a walk and notice what's blooming, what's fading, and what's going to seed. Let the natural world remind you that change is sacred.

August 16 – Make a Gratitude List

Write down five things you're thankful for today—without overthinking. Small or big, they're all grace.

August 17 – Practice Gentleness

Approach your day with softness. Move slowly. Speak kindly. Treat yourself and others with tender care.

August 18 – Reflect on Growth

How have you grown this summer? What new rhythms or insights might you carry into the next season?

August 19 – Bless a Backpack

Bless your own bag, your child's backpack, or someone else's with this prayer: *"God, may this bag carry tools for learning, reminders of your presence, and signs of your peace."*

August 20 – A Prayer for Change

Say: *"God, help me greet change with trust. Let me carry forward what matters and release what no longer fits."*

August 21 – Savor a Summer Sound

What sounds say "summer" to you—waves, birds, fans, laughter, lawn mowers? Listen deeply. Give thanks.

August 22 – Say Goodbye Well

Name something you're saying goodbye to—vacation, a slower pace, a place. Honor it. Thank God for it. Let it go.

August 23 – Bless the Threshold

If you or someone you know is on the edge of something new, say: *"God, bless this threshold. Give courage, joy, and rootedness in love."*

August 24 – Clean with Intention

Tidy or clean a small space. As you do, offer a quiet prayer: *"Prepare me for what's ahead."*

August 25 – Gratitude for Play

What has brought you joy or fun this summer? Celebrate it. Play again if you can.

August 26 – Pray for Students

Pray for those beginning or continuing school—at any age. Ask for wisdom, belonging, resilience, and curiosity.

August 27 – Light a Candle

As the days shorten, light a candle and say: *"God, be the light that steadies me in all seasons."*

August 28 – Notice the Details

Take 10 minutes to observe a single thing—an insect, a leaf, your hands, a photo. Let awe rise.

August 29 – Share a Meal

Eat with someone today. Whether at home or out, savor the connection. Thank God for nourishment and companionship.

August 30 – Give Thanks for the Season

Say a simple prayer: *“God, thank you for this summer—for what it offered, what it taught, and what it became.”*

August 31 – Blessing for What’s Ahead

Pray: *“God of all seasons, walk with me into what’s next. Let me bring gratitude, wonder, and peace with me. Amen.”*

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, August 22 – 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Chris Kotila
Communion Assistant: Barb Salmela

Refreshments: Karen Kimar-Johnson

Sunday, August 23 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Marina Shinkarenko
Reader: Brenda Blett
Ushers: Linda Berry, Sten Taube
Communion Assistants: Al Edgar, Dave Blomquist, Beth Krznarich, Dan Rabine
Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, **need one more volunteer.**

Nursery: Maddie Dykema
Refreshments: Karen Kimar-Johnson

Sunday, August 23 – 10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Marina Shinkarenko
Reader: Mark Paulsen
Ushers: Amy Diedrich, Paula Diedrich
Communion Assistants: Gayle Mack, Linda Chapman, Mike and Joan Hill
Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, **need 1 more volunteer.**
Projection Technician: Kathy Godec

Nursery: Maddie Dykema

Flower Delivery: **Need a volunteer.**

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

Beginning String Class for Adults – August 22

Have you always wanted to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass? These sessions are for you! Classes will take place at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (201 E Ridge St.) in Marquette from 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm, one Saturday a month. The Saturdays we meet are August 22, September 26, October 24, November 21, and December 19. To register, email mqtcountysos@gmail.com.

Memorial Park Dedication – September 5

The Barnes-Hecker Memorial Park will be formally dedicated on Saturday, September 5 at 11:00 am at the historic mine site in Ely Township. The ceremony will include a ribbon cutting and thoughtful remarks reflecting on the legacy of the men, the families, and the community that have carried their memory forward for a century.

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.

Safe Firearm Storage Study

The Marquette County Health Department is partnering with the University of Michigan on a safe firearm storage study for families. This is open to parents or guardians anywhere in the Upper Peninsula with children under 18 years old who have at least one firearm in their home or on their property. Parents should have regular access to the internet and an electronic device in order to participate. Anyone who is eligible and takes part in the project will be compensated up to \$170 for the surveys they complete. If you are interested, please contact the study email at storesafely@med.umich.edu

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

Drop-in Grief Support: Marquette – August 26th, 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.

Telephone Based Caregiver Support Group: August 19th 2:00 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.

Finding Hope Together: Grief Support Series - You don't have to walk through grief alone. Join us for our **4-part Grief Support Series**, designed to provide a compassionate space for both learning and sharing. Each session combines practical tools and strategies for coping with grief with supportive group discussion, allowing participants to connect with others who understand the journey of loss.

When: Every other week, on Thursdays, beginning August 20th

Time: 10:30–11:30 am

Where: Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Office 914 W Baraga Ave - Mqt

Whether your loss is recent or occurred some time ago, this series offers encouragement, understanding, and meaningful ways to navigate the grieving process. **Registration is required.** Space is limited, so please register in advance to reserve your spot. Join us as we learn, share, and support one another through the challenges of grief. Call Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice to register.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers - Are you caring for a spouse, parent, relative, or friend? Join our Powerful Tools for Caregivers in person class and gain practical skills to help you reduce stress, communicate more effectively, set healthy boundaries, and take better care of yourself while caring for others.

This engaging, in-person program provides caregivers with proven tools, helpful resources, and support from others who understand the caregiving journey. Whether you're new to caregiving or have been providing care for years, you'll leave with strategies to help you feel more confident and empowered.

- No cost to attend
- In-person class
- Practical tips and tools you can use right away
- Supportive and welcoming environment

Space may be limited—sign up today and invest in your well-being while continuing to provide the best care possible. Takes place at the Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center every Thursday from August 13th – September 17th 1:30-3:00 pm. Call 906.225.7760 for more information and ask to speak to Jamie Barbieri or call 2-1-1 to register. Can also register online at www.Upcap.org.

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

Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator – Emma Olechnowicz

Music Staff

Director of Music – Sara Parks

Bell Choir Director - Judy Quirk

Organist/Pianist - Kathy Strazzinski & Jon Banitt

Pianists – Jacob Schmeltzer & Daniel Cipriano