

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for September 16, 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 – September

- Sept 16 Council at 6:30 pm
- Sept 17 Bible Study at 10:30 am
- Sept 17 Global Mission at 6:00 pm
- Sept 18 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
- Sept 19/20 Installation of Transition Team at all 3 services

Sept 20	Bible Sunday for all 3-year-olds, 3 rd graders, & 7 th graders
Sept 20	Special Congregational Meeting following 10:30 am worship service
Sept 20	Confirmation Kick-off, conference-wide...at Immanuel, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Sept 21	11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:15 pm
Sept 22	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Sept 22	Publicity Team at 1:30 pm
Sept 23	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
Sept 24	Bible Study at 10:30 am
Sept 25	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Sept 27	Faith Ventures Combined Worship and Continental Breakfast at 10:00 am
Sept 27	Confirmation/Youth Hike Sugarloaf and Black Rocks at 1:00 pm
Sept 28	11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:15 pm
Sept 29	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS [August 2026 Council Meeting]

Greetings to our Messiah family from your Church Council. Stop in the office and look at our pictures on the wall to see who we are! The council meets on the third Wednesday of every month, at 6:30 pm in room 202 (the council did not meet in July). Meetings are open to all congregation members.

ACTIONS TAKEN

- ☐ Received the Financial Review report from Pastor Terry Frankenstein (former Synod Treasurer), which made only one recommendation for changes in how Messiah handles finances. The report noted that no audits had been conducted for some time; please note that the Audit Committee will be reconvening soon and this will be addressed. Bottom line; we are in good shape financially, and are doing things right!
- ☐ Review of paid staff job descriptions will begin in September; council members will work with staff to collaboratively flesh out the details of their duties and revise the job descriptions. This will not eliminate the future responsibility of the Personnel Committee.
- ☐ Approved Pr. Steve's offer to increase his pastoral hours from 20 hrs/week to 25 hrs/week to allow for more pastoral presence: teaching between services, connecting with congregation members, helping with transition.
- ☐ Approved the use of Undesignated Memorial Funds to pay Nagelkirk for some landscaping (you will have noticed the results). After several generous donations from congregants, Messiah's cost came to less than \$1,600.
- ☐ Approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to allocate up to \$6,000 in

Undesignated Memorial Funds to the Transition Team, which would cover 2026 expenses (recommended by the Synod).

□ Approved the Finance Committee's recommendation to support the Global Mission Team's request to disperse \$1,000 (of the budgeted \$1,600) to Pr. Katie Larson for support of her mission work with Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO) in Colombia. Pr. Larson led worship and gave a presentation of her mission work the weekend of 8/22-23.

□ Elevator Upgrades: Our elevator does not meet new code requirements which take effect in 2028. TK Elevator has presented a proposal to replace all obsolete equipment, improve the overall reliability of the elevator, and ensure compliance with the 2028 Door Lock Monitoring code requirements. The proposed cost for the necessary modernization & compliance work

would be \$124,599, plus an additional \$17,000 for a recommended upgrade to the power unit. Electrician services (not included in TKE's proposal) would run an additional \$5,000 - \$10,000. This proposal is good through September, 2026, at which point the price would likely increase. A down payment of roughly \$55,000 could be made by the end of September, which would keep the current promised price for upgrades (this amount currently is available in the approved 2026 budget's Capital Improvement funds).

Approved: A congregational meeting will be scheduled for September 20 after the 10:30 service, to approve the funding of elevator upgrades. Informational handouts will be distributed ahead of time, by September 13 th .

TRANSITION TEAM

The Transition Team is working together with other congregations within Cohort #2. Pr. Steve has volunteered to be a part of meetings as much as he can be, and he recently published a letter to the congregation highlighting the work of the Transition Team. The 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.

CLOSING BLESSING

Peace be with you all,

Mark Petrie,

Council President

Transition Team Installed – September 19/20

Messiah's Transition Team – Madalyn Dykema, Michael Hill, Paul Marin, Carol Steinhaus, Ron Strazzinski, and Darren Smith, who has recently joined the team as council liaison – is

being installed this weekend as they officially begin guiding our congregation through this important season of discernment. Please hold them in prayer and thank them for their willingness to serve.

Our team is part of a synod-wide cohort with Gloria Dei (Hancock), Good Shepherd (Houghton), Faith (Sault Ste.Marie), and Emmanuel (Menominee). Working alongside these congregations, our team is preparing Messiah for a season of deep listening and discovery. While the Transition Team is not yet our Call Committee, this transition process reflects widely used best practices across the ELCA.

Messiah's transition work begins in a significant way next weekend when all three of Messiah's worship services merge into one Faith Ventures worship gathering on September 27, at 10:00 AM in Magnuson Hall. This season invites us to connect with God, with one another, and with our wider community as we explore our identity, hopes, and calling while preparing to call our next pastor.

Please watch for more updates as the Transition Team continues inviting the whole congregation into this meaningful work.

Bible Sunday! – September 20

On Sunday, September 20th at our 10:30 service, we will bless all the new Bibles for our **three-year olds, 3rd graders & 7th graders.**

In baptism, parents & sponsors promise to faithfully bring children to worship God in community, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures, and to help them learn and grow. Our faithful congregation works with families to joyfully share the responsibility of these promises.

Please mark your calendars for this special date and please [RSVP by 9/17](#) to let us know if you will be present for *10:30 worship on Sept 20th*. Thank you!

Notice of Special Congregational Meeting – September 20

Messiah's Congregation Council calls a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 20, immediately following the 10:30 am worship service, in the sanctuary.

The sole purpose of this meeting, as required by Messiah's constitution, is to consider elevator upgrade & maintenance decisions needed for continued safe, reliable, and code-compliant operation. Council has been reviewing modernization options in light of aging components, the obsolescence of the DMC controller, and updated Michigan elevator rules, and is still finalizing the specific proposal it will bring to the congregation. An information handout will be available by the weekend of September 12 & 13 to help members prepare.

All voting members are encouraged to attend. Your voice matters as we discern the best path forward for accessibility and hospitality in our building.

Confirmation Kickoff – Building Community – September 20

As we begin a new confirmation year, we're reminded that faith formation starts with community. Before students open a Bible or a catechism, they need to know they belong—to one another, to their congregation, and to the wider church across our conference and beyond.

Conference-Wide Confirmation Kickoff – Sept 20

7th–9th graders will gather with youth from across the conference at **Immanuel, Negaunee**, on **Sunday, Sept 20, 5:00–7:00 PM**. Watch your emails for details.

Joanne Kingston's Obituary

Joanne Kingston is a former member of Messiah. She passed away on Monday, Sept 14th at an Assisted Living facility in Grand Haven, MI where she resided with her husband Dave.

There is a funeral planned for her at Edgewood Lutheran Church in Fruitport, MI. The link is: <https://www.sytsemafh.com/obituaries/joanne-kingston/obituary>

Her daughter Margaret has been in conversation with Messiah and asked us to share this news. If you would like Margaret's home address to share your condolences with her, please contact the office. Thank you.

Brookridge Worship - September 23

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, September 23rd at 1:30 pm. Please join us for this worship service if you are able.

Faith Ventures Combined Worship – September 27

As part of our transition process, Messiah will gather as one community for Faith Ventures this coming Sunday, September 27 at 10:00 am. We will worship around tables, share Holy Communion, dwell in Genesis 8, and listen together for God's direction in this season of new beginnings. There will be no Saturday 5:00 PM service and no separate Sunday Services that weekend. There will be Sunday School (and hopefully nursery) but we invite families to begin together in Magnuson Hall for worship. Following our table meal, Sunday Schoolers will be

invited to move to a separate space for their activities. Because this service centers on conversation, our regular radio broadcast will not be possible. The Transition Team is preparing an online virtual table for remote worshipers, as well as a reflection guide for those participating independently. Please check Messiah's website and Facebook page for more information.

Fall Fest and Quilt Auction – October 3

Come to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, MI on Saturday, October 3 for continental breakfast, draffle baskets, the Country Store, and the premier event: the LIVE Quilt Auction! Everything kicks off at 9:30 am CENTRAL, with the auction beginning promptly at 11:00 am. And, as always, if you can't make it in-person, be sure to participate in our VIRTUAL Auction, which runs September 23 – October 3.

Our Sisters of the Cloth have been busily sorting all of the beautiful quilts that have come in for Fall Fest 2026, some of which they've made, and others donated by quilters throughout our region. THANK YOU ALL.

Visit <http://fortunelake.org/make-an-impact/annual-fall-fest> for more information.

We hope to see you all at Fortune Lake on October 3 for what promises to be a beautiful day of raising funds to support the ministry of Fortune Lake!

Blessing of the Pets - Saturday, October 3

All members are welcome to bring their pets for a special blessing following the 5:00 service on Saturday, October 3rd, at approximately 5:45 pm. Pets are welcome to attend the 5:00 service, or you may bring your pet at 5:45 pm and meet outside the main doors or in the Atrium. Thank you!

- - - *Worship Planning Team*

Special Musical Guests - October 4, 8:30 am Worship

On Sunday, October 4th, we will welcome to Messiah special musical guests, Ameriikan Poijat, a Finnish style brass septet to play at the 8:30 service - including a prelude, Special Music, hymns, and a postlude. Over the years they have received the generous support of John & Pauline Kiltinen and will be performing in their memory. Thank you! *Worship Planning Team*

Marquette County CROP Hunger Walk – October 4 Virtual

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our community who need them – and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

The 2026 CROP Hunger Walk will be virtual (no in-person scheduled event).

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

To register, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/marquetteemi. Donation envelopes are available on the Welcome Table. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP. 75% of the funds raised goes to Church World Service and 25% of the funds raised will be split between Feeding America (sponsored by Silver Creek Church) and the NMU Food Bank.

Return your donation envelopes by October 9 to the church office. We will notify Crystal Swanson to pick them up.

Help Needed with Communion Set Up on Sundays

We need **1-2 more volunteers** to set up communion for both services on Sundays. If/When we get one or two more, you would only have to do this one time each month. If you can help with this, please let Jen or Kathy know. Training will be provided.

Preaching Schedule

Sept 19/20 Pastor Steve Solberg

Sept 27 Pastor Steve Solberg

Oct 3-Sat. Dave Horn, Lay Leader (*no communion served*)

Oct 4-Sun. Dave Horn, Lay Leader will preach, Christine Thomas-Echelbarger will preside for communion at 8:30 and 10:30 am

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*)

Nov 14/15 Pastor David Van Kley, *tentative*

Nov 21/22 Pastor Steve Solberg

Nov 28/29 Pastor Steve Solberg

Dec 5/6 Bishop Katherine Finegan

Dec 12/13 Dave Horn, Lay Leader (*no communion served*)

Dec 19/20 Pastor David Van Kley

Dec 24 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm Pastor Steve Solberg

Dec 26/27 Pastor Steve Solberg

New Landscaping

Have you noticed the recent Messiah make-over? Nagelkirk Gardens has replaced old, overgrown plantings with plants recommended for maximum enjoyment with minimum care. The ultimate goal is to always have something in bloom to enjoy.

This undertaking would not have been possible without several generous donors: THANK YOU! Additional thanks go out to the faithful watering folk who continue to care for the landscaping around our church. It really does take a village.

Do you like being outside around pretty plants? Would you be interested in helping water our new plantings? We would love your help. Please contact Jennifer to volunteer for watering. Thanks again to all for the many ways you contribute to this congregation.

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!

Singing Messiah’s “Top Ten” Favorite Hymns & Songs

This Sunday we will sing one more of Messiah’s “Top Ten” favorite hymns & songs. It is: September 20 “Amazing Grace” (#3 on the “top Ten” list)

The remainder of Messiah's "favorites" will be sung October-December 2026. Enjoy singing and keep your ears open and voice ready for additional well-loved hymns.

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!

Calling All Kids in 6th -12th Grade!!

We need help from you!

We would love your help loading boxes on a semi-truck for Lutheran World Relief. We invite any adults & kids ranging in school grade 6-12 to help us load all of our boxes on the semi-truck on Saturday, Oct 17th at 10:00 am. We need a lot of young, strong people to help for this to be a success. Please let the office know if you are willing to help. We only ask for one hour of your time. Thank you! Jen Dodge

Pr. Katie Larson's Visit

Pr. Katie Larson's visit was a beautiful reminder about the relevance and impact of relationships with God's people throughout the world. Our Fair-Trade Market at Messiah showcases international artisans, including Colombian congregations working with Pr. Katie. You have an opportunity to volunteer with our Fair-Trade Market! Our market will be held Nov. 21-22 at Messiah. There are still some tasks that need volunteers. Please review the sign-up sheet on the welcome table and identify if you feel called to serve at this event. The Fair-Trade Market team will contact you to arrange the next step. Thank you for your support!

Different Times --- Different Voices

Clergy are messengers. Some are called as prophets, others as teachers, some are gifted as pastors (shepherds), still others as preachers and community organizers.

They do not inherit their vocation, nor is it passed down as part of any family lineage. The Spirit finds its voice as the wind blows. The Gospel beckons folks to leadership positions with faith communities from all experiences and backgrounds.

Yet, as stars sometimes line up, it comes to pass on rare occasions, a congregation hears voices from three generations of a family. In August, Josh Magnuson, a retired Secret Service agent and now a second-year student at Wartburg Seminary, preached at three Messiah worship services. His father, a one-time university chaplain, has preached over 100 sermons at Messiah over the last 20 years. Josh's grandfather, J. Otto, served as pastor at Messiah from 1955 – 64, preaching over 500 sermons as part of a wider ecumenical ministry in the Marquette community. Following Otto Magnuson's unexpected death in 1964, 20 Roman Catholic priests joined the gathering in Messiah's sanctuary for the funeral service. - - -

Jon Magnuson

Superior Connections Recovery Community Organization

Dear Messiah Lutheran Church, As president of the board for Superior Connections Recovery Community Organization(SCRCO), I would like to express our gratitude for the grant that was made by the church toward our transportation needs for the organization. The funds were part of what we needed to be able to purchase a used, but good minivan for our participants and our projects. Many of the people we work with do not have steady transportation, and therefore miss important appointments, interviews, or are unable to attend our many chemical-free activities, such as kayaking, hiking, crafting etc.

Also a shout out to Mary Beth and Paul Carstens for donating their used van to our organization as well. These 2 vehicles have allowed SCRCO to step up dramatically our effectiveness in serving our participants.

SCRCO is a local organization that is made up of peer workers(who are themselves in stable recovery from alcohol or other substances) who help in one of our recovery houses, or in Fisher house(a transitional house). We also have peer navigators who accompany our participants who are unstable or in early recovery to help them find their way back to a stable job, a place to live, medical or substance use treatment, or any other way that puts them back on the right path. Thanks again to Messiah Lutheran, *Fred Groos*

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.

For Women of the ELCA

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I am letting you know that I have been unable to find a congregation within our conference 8 that will host a Fall gathering. Keeping this in mind, should we only have a Spring meeting? Maybe this type of gathering has outlived its purpose. Should we look at something different to bring our conference 8 churches together? I am open to suggestions.

I have found while calling churches that may do not meet as a WELCA group, but continue on with Bible studies, community activities and service within their church. As we are all aware we have aging churches and only so many people to serve on the various committees. I am looking for suggestions at how we can help our younger congregation members become involved without adding additional work to their already busy lives.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mijohnso@nmu.edu or my cell phone is 906 360-8226.

Thank you and God bless

Michelle Johnson

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

In Centering prayer or meditation, we go to the Divine and still our minds and all we think we know, to receive the guidance that we have been promised. Here is an excerpt from “Manifesting God” explaining the benefits of going directly to our Source:

Manifesting God

Contemplation is not the reward of virtue, but a necessity in order to practice it. Christian history is the poignant story of how well or poorly each generation of Christians has assimilated Christ’s Abba experience.

God’s love has been poured forth into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us. Romans 5:5

...each of us has within us the whole program of divine transformation....The spirit dwelling in each cell of the Mystical Body puts at our disposal all the spiritual gifts we need to be transformed into the mind and heart of Christ and into full participation in the kingdom of God. Our false self develops a world-view of our own inventing. The pillars on which it rests are two: the emotional programs for happiness based on the instinctual needs of survival and security, affection and esteem, and power and control—and over-identification with the group to which we belong, whether this be ethnicity, tribe, family, nation, religion, peer group, or gang. Our unwillingness to let go of the support systems that keep our false selves in place is the source of every sin.

The true self is God’s idea of who we are.

One of the Fruits of the Spirit is gentleness. Efforts to further the Kingdom are not exhausting when they proceed from the inner resource of the Divine Indwelling. The desire for success or control damages the good works of people who have not accessed this particular Fruit of the Spirit. They think mistakenly, that everything depends on them, including their own progress in the spiritual journey.

What we most despise in ourselves may be the most direct route to divine union. God wills that we forgive ourselves for our past mistakes and for whatever unwanted memories are burdening our consciousness.

Thomas Keating—Manifesting God

- - - Nancy Hamlin]

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

We have lots of JAM on the shelves right now!! Jam is \$5.00/jar for 8 oz. (half pint) jars. If you're lucky enough to find a sample 4 oz. jar, they are \$3.00/jar or two 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 supplies and fruit. Don't forget to return those empty jars! You can leave them in the jam area. Thank you, *Rebecca Ulland* (email rjulland@yahoo.com).

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Women Reaching Women Circle is 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:

- 70-80 sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Unsharpened #2 pencils
 - 2 1/2" Pink Pearl-type eraser
 - 30 cm ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one edge and inches on the other
 - Box of 16 or 24 crayons
 - Fiskars-type kids' scissors
 - Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
-

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

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

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.

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

*October – Toilet Paper (4 or 6 rolls per pack)

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

Sept 16	Ashlee Blom, Ilene Mattson, Kristen Smith
Sept 17	Emily Coyne, Hali Ziegler
Sept 18	No birthdays
Sept 19	Linda Berry, Shari Brugman, Taylor Olson
Sept 20	Lynne Hammerstrom
Sept 21	Pam Christensen, Myra Zyburt
Sept 22	Jan Julian, Mark Petrie, Helen Steinhoff
Sept 23	Jen Bleckiner, Peggy Letvenow, Kaitlin Salmela
Sept 24	Bandon Evans
Sept 25	Henry Dellangelo, Terry Keuscher, Wilho Kilpela, Andrew Stevens, Angela Weir
Sept 26	Laurie Smith
Sept 27	Brooklynn Rydholm
Sept 28	Lynda Trafton
Sept 29	Laura Tripp
Sept 30	Bob Beals, Leslie Dellangelo

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in September:

Mark & Laura Petrie	September 2
Brent & Rachel Skaw	September 2
Bill & Mary Davis	September 5
Mark & Laurie McGovern	September 5
Joe & Chris Harkness	September 8
Mark & Michelle Sellers	September 9
Paula Diedrich & her husband	September 12
Keith & Debra Abraham	September 13
David & Laura Tripp	September 14
Michael & Claire Sauer	September 17
Ron Tervo & Jan Julian	September 23
Dave & Marion DeLarye	September 28
Ron & Ruth Hill	September 28

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: Karen Gill; Jan Julian; Lynne; Paul Carstens; Milt Soderberg; Larry & Betty Brunton; Ernie Johnson; Peggy Letvenow; those who seek help from our financial assistance program; Jacelyn (pronounced Jack Lynn) Marra; Gloria Byrnes; Cassidy Eckloff; Sherry Watters; Renee Goyen; Stuart Harslah; 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 September 16-23

A Daily Guide for September

September 1 – Begin Again

Say a quiet blessing over this new month. Welcome it with open hands and a willing heart.

September 2 – The Gift of Routine

Notice one ordinary rhythm in your day—making coffee, a commute, packing lunch—and let it become a prayer.

September 3 – A Prayer for New Starts

Pray for all who are beginning something new this fall—students, teachers, caregivers, and those starting over.

September 4 – Walk with Intention

Take a short walk today. Let each step be a small act of presence. Whisper a prayer with your feet.

September 5 – Celebrate a First

What's a first you remember fondly—first day of school, first job, first friend? Let memory stir up gratitude.

September 6 – Bless the Work

Offer a blessing over your work—paid or unpaid, creative or caretaking. “God, may this labor be rooted in love.”

September 7 – Hold a Backpack Blessing

Whether it's your own, a child's, or symbolic: “God, may this carry not just books, but hope, courage, and wonder.”

September 8 – Find Beauty in Transition

Notice the light shifting, the air changing, the quiet transformation underway. Bless this in-between time.

September 9 – Pray for Educators

Lift up teachers, aides, mentors, and professors. Ask God to renew their energy and honor their calling.

September 10 – Let Yourself Be Taught

Learn something new today—however small. Receive it with childlike curiosity.

September 11 – Remember and Recommit

On this day of national memory, pray for peace. Let sorrow deepen your resolve to love.

September 12 – Practice Grounding

Place your feet flat on the floor. Breathe deeply. Say: “God, help me be rooted in you today.”

September 13 – A Mid-Month Check-In

How is your spirit? What do you need more of? Less of? Offer it honestly to God.

September 14 – Create Something Small

Draw, write, sing, cook, or build something—anything. Let it be a quiet act of joy.

September 15 – Rest in God's Presence

Turn off noise for ten minutes. Be still. Imagine God resting with you.

September 16 – Light a Candle for the Future

As the church year edges toward harvest, light a candle and say: “God, guide what is yet to come.”

September 17 – Seek Out Wisdom

Ask a question you've been holding. Listen for an answer—in scripture, conversation, or silence.

September 18 – Welcome the Stranger

Look for someone who feels on the edge and extend kindness. Invite connection.

September 19 – Pray for the Church

Pray for your congregation, pastors, musicians, children, and ministries. Ask for renewed vision and joy.

September 20 – Practice Gratitude for Community

Name five people who help you feel less alone. Offer thanks for them—perhaps even tell them.

September 21 – Bless Your Tools

Bless the instruments of your daily life—your phone, your car, your pen, your planner. May they serve grace.

September 22 – Celebrate Autumn's Arrival

As the season shifts, say: "Thank you, God, for cycles and seasons. For endings, beginnings, and all that falls in between."

September 23 – A Prayer for Courage

Say: "God, give me the courage to show up as I am, to risk love, to keep becoming. Amen."

September 24 – Declutter with Intention

Choose one area to clear today. As you do, whisper: "Make space in me, too, O God."

September 25 – Pray for Students

Remember students of all ages today. Pray for curiosity, resilience, rest, and belonging.

September 26 – Return to the Psalms

Read a psalm aloud. Let its poetry hold your own prayers.

September 27 – Share a Sacred Meal

Eat intentionally today—with someone else, or with presence. Taste. Savor. Give thanks.

September 28 – Remember Your Baptism

Touch water today—washing your hands, walking in rain, sipping tea. Remember you are beloved.

September 29 – Practice Hope

Hope can feel risky. Try it anyway. Say: "God, help me hope for what I cannot yet see."

September 30 – A Blessing for the Journey

Say: "God of every season, thank you for this month. Go with me into what's next—steady, stretching, and sustaining me. Amen."

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, September 19 – 5:00 pm in atrium

Assisting Minister: Carol Bell
Communion Assistant: Karen Kimar-Johnson

Refreshments: Karen Kimar-Johnson

Sunday, September 20 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Brenda Blett
Reader: Keegan Schmidt
Ushers: Joe and Chris Harkness
Communion Assistants: Brenda Blett, Dave Blomquist, **need 2 more volunteers**
Greeters: Penny Streeter and Sherry Labbe

Nursery: No attendant available
Refreshments: Darlene Martin

Sunday, September 20 – 10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Mike Hill
Reader: Jeanne Groos
Ushers: Jean Reynolds, Paula Diedrich
Communion Assistants: Mike and Joan Hill, Linda Chapman, **need 1 more volunteer.**
Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, Bev Evans
Projection Technician: Kathy Godec

Nursery: No attendant available
Flower Delivery: Jane Brow

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.

Why Does It Hurt? The Genesis of Grief – September 16

Greg Fircchione, MD, a psychiatrist from Harvard Medical School, will be making a public presentation on the human experience of grief as it relates to personal loss, the challenge of aging, and health. The presentation will be at Messiah Lutheran Church on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm. It is sponsored by The Cedar Tree Institute in partnership with Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine. Michael Waite, musician and songwriter, will provide music for the evening's event. This event is free and open to all.

Announcements and Classified Ads

Need for a Mobility Scooter

Lois Kampe is looking for an electric mobility scooter for a severely handicapped friend. Lois can be reached at 906 250-0740 or LMKAMPE@ATT.NET.

Find a TV – September 17, 18, and 19

The Found Space Theatre Company, the NMU Honors Program, and the NMU Department of Theatre & Dance present a staged reading of "Find a TV" (written by Anna Zimmer and Jimmy Ludwig). The staged reading will be in Jamrich 1100 at 7:30 pm. Admission is free but you need to register via the [NMU GiveCampus Event Page](#).

"Autumn Comforts" Quilt Show – October 3-4

The Marquette Area Quilters Association will hold their "Autumn Comforts" Quilt Show and Raffle October 3 & 4 at the Ojibwa Casino (105 Acre Trail in Marquette). Over 200 quilts will be on display. Admission is \$5.00 and all proceeds support community projects. Contact Julie Higbie at 906 361-1537 for more information.

Beethoven and Banjos: Music of Madagascar – October 8

2026 Beethoven and Banjos will present the Music of Madagascar on Thursday, October 8 at 7:30 pm ET at the Marquette Regional History Center (145 W Spring St.). The concert will feature Mikahely Razafy and Dave Rajaonary with Evan Premo and Laurel Premo. Tickets are \$12.51 and can be purchased at [Eventbrite.com/e/Beethoven-and-banjos-music-of-madagascar-tickets](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/Beethoven-and-banjos-music-of-madagascar-tickets). There will also be a concert at the McArdle Theatre at Michigan Tech on Saturday, October 10 and a concert at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Sunday, October 11.

Fall Craft Bazaar and Luncheon – October 24

The First Presbyterian Church (120 N. Front St.) will hold a fall craft bazaar and luncheon on Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. It will feature local crafters, church craft items and baked goods, and a luncheon. The luncheon will be served from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The luncheon is open to the public; it is free but donations will be accepted. If you are interested in being a vendor, please email fpcmgtbazaar@gmail.com or call 906 249-9111

Volunteers Needed – Meals on Wheels and Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly

Carol Steinhaus, a member of Messiah and the Transition Team writes: “ I believe we are put into this world to help each other. I volunteer for both Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly and Meals on Wheels. Both organizations need some help. I value both organizations and have found that my work with them has been very rewarding”

“Several people are ill/have moved, and Meals drivers are needed, both here in Marquette and in Gwinn. This involves picking up meals from either Lost Creek (near Red Lobster) or the kitchen in Gwinn, and delivering a route, generally to 20 or so people. I volunteer for this and donate my mileage, but you can be paid and/or have mileage paid. Due to the increase in gas costs and shortage of drivers, we are currently delivering only 3 days a week, providing frozen meals for the other days. Most routes go from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm or so, returning to the kitchens. ANY VOLUNTEER TIME, one day a week or as a backup, would be most helpful. It's possible there is a route in your own neighborhood! If you would like more information, feel free to call me at 906 458-5408 and leave a message. I don't answer numbers I don't know but would call you back and give you more information or you can call Gretchen from Meals on Wheels at 906 228-6522 ext. 303.”

The other organization that needs help now is Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly. Often, seniors in town need rides to medical appointments. The cheapest taxi fare is \$40 round trip. Door to Door MarqTran requires a lot of advance notice and gives priority to kidney dialysis patients. There is often a need for 5-10 rides a week. Ruth Robb and I both do this. Little Brothers posts an email list each week of who needs a ride, when and where, and we call the office and let them know what we are able to do. Even a single ride now and then helps! Occasionally, rides are needed from Gwinn. I've met some interesting people and made some nice friends this way. If you would like to know more or can help, call Tena at the Little Brothers office, 906 273 5575 ext. 2005.”

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

Caregiver Support Groups Marquette – September 9, 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 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: September 16 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.

Grieving...Before Goodbye? Understanding Anticipatory Grief and the Emotions that come *before* Loss.

Are you caring for someone and feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or grieving...even before a loss? You are not alone. When someone you care for is declining, grief doesn't always wait.

Presented by: Lisa Marttila, Social Worker & Bereavement Coordinator

September 16, 2026

1:00 -2:00 PM

Ishpeming Multi-Purpose Senior Center 121 Greenwood St. Ishpeming

Free & open to the public

Join us to learn: What anticipatory grief really is, why it happens before a loss, how to cope with difficult emotions, and ways to care for yourself while caring for others.

Community Memorial Service

Our Community Memorial Service is a time for anyone in our community to pause, remember, and honor someone they love. You do not need to have had a connection to Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice to attend. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, we welcome you to join us for this meaningful evening of remembrance and reflection.

If you are able to attend and would like your loved one remembered, you may contact us to have their name read and a candle lit in their honor during the service. To include a name, please call 906.225.7760 or email grief@lakesuperiorhospice.org

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Presque Isle Pavilion, 3 Peter White Drive, Marquette

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- Practical tips and tools you can use right away
- Virtual Via Zoom - 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. Thursdays from October 15 – November 19th 1:30-3:00 pm.

Registration ends on 9/15. 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