Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for November 25, 2026

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

Messiah Lutheran Church seeks to be a welcoming community for all people.
This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion.
We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image
and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant and eternal life.
We may not always be as welcoming as we should be,
but this is our intention—all are welcome!

Brookridge Worship Today!

Messiah has a worship service at Brookridge Heights today (Wednesday, November 25) at 1:30 pm. Please join us for this worship service if you are able. All are welcome!

Upcoming Events – November/December

Nov 25 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm

Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed
Nov 27	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Nov 29	The Bible's Big Story at 9:45 am
Nov 30	11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:15 pm
Nov 30	Messiah Bells Rehearsal at 5:30 pm
Dec 1	Worship Planning Team at 9:00 am
Dec 1	Giving Tuesday at 10:00 am
Dec 1	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 2	Senior Choir Rehearsal at 5:00 pm
Dec 2	Community Meal at 6:00 pm
Dec 2	Advent Evening Worship at 6:30 pm
Dec 3	Bible Study at 10:30 am
Dec 3	Transition Team at 5:00 pm
Dec 3	Building & Grounds at 5:00 pm
Dec 4	Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Dec 5	Youth Trip Fundraiser: Child Care and Gift Wrapping
Dec 6	Collage Christmas Card Making at 9:30 am
Dec 6	The Bible's Big Story at 9:45 am
Dec 7	11-Step Centering Prayer at 5:15 pm
Dec 7	Messiah Bells Rehearsal at 5:30 pm
Dec 8	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 8	Ruth Circle at Brookridge at 1:00 pm
Dec 8	Transition Team at 7:00 pm
Dec 8	Christmas Sing Rehearsal at 7:00 pm
Dec 9	Senior Choir Rehearsal at 5:00 pm
Dec 9	Soup Supper at 5:30 pm
Dec 9	Advent Evening Worship at 6:30 pm

Help Needed for Community Meal

Our next community meal is Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 pm. We still need 2 more volunteers to serve and 4 more volunteers to help with cleaning up. The community meal volunteer sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Table, or you can let the church office staff know if you can help. Thanks!

Congregational Vitality Survey – Complete by November 30

Dear Messiah,

The Messiah Transition Team would like to invite every member to complete a Congregational Vitality Survey. The survey is done online, and you can access it using the survey hyperlinks available from the church office. It should take you about 15 minutes to answer the 36 questions. **There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested in your perceptions and your experience of Messiah.** Please be aware that all questions need an answer. If an answer doesn't exactly fit your perception, choose the closest one to your thoughts. We are keeping the survey open from **November 7 to November 30.** All survey responses are anonymous.

If you don't have access to a computer or a smartphone, call the church office to receive a paper copy of the survey. Your Transition Team is also making sure **that members on our homebound list** will have surveys mailed to them with stamped return envelopes included.

In order to reach as many members as possible, you may experience duplicate announcements about the survey. We are sending out announcements via email and in the weekly bulletins.

Why a survey? This is another good way for your Transition Team to hear what you are thinking. Through this survey, we can **identify shared ideas, concerns, and trends that can help us move forward in our mission.** The results of this survey will be shared with you either through a letter from us, or we may hold a discussion time as a large group.

We thank you again for taking part in the process. The main benefit of this will be insights we discover so we can begin more serious conversations about our ministry here at Messiah. Working together will bring us strength, love, and continued growth in living out our baptismal promises to God, each other, our community, and the world.

God bless!

Your Transition Team

Madalyn Dykema, Mike Hill, Paul Marin,

Carol Steinhaus, Ron Strazzinski, and Darren Smith

The Story You Were Made For: A Bible Overview – November 25 - December 20

Have you ever opened your Bible and felt a little lost?

You're not alone. Many faithful Christians know bits and pieces of the biblical story but wonder how it all fits together. How does Genesis connect to Jesus? Why do some books feel inspiring while others feel confusing? And what do ancient stories have to do with our lives today?

Beginning in November, Messiah Lutheran Church invites you to explore The Bible's Big Story, Our Story, an eight-week journey through Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Together, we'll trace the great arc of the biblical story: Creation, Promise, Covenant, Jesus Christ, the Church, and God's promised future.

As we continue our season of transition at Messiah, this feels like a fitting next step. Before asking where God may be leading us in the future, we begin by remembering the story of the God who has faithfully led His people through every generation.

And let's be honest: some parts of the Bible raise difficult questions. Some passages inspire us immediately. Others challenge us. Some comfort us. Others leave us wrestling. Faithful Bible study is not about checking our

brains at the door. It is about bringing our questions, curiosity, experiences, and insights into conversation with God's story.

The Bible is not a collection of perfect people getting everything right. It is the story of God's faithfulness amid human weakness, failure, doubt, and renewal. Which is one reason it remains our story as well.

You don't need a seminary degree to attend. You don't need to know the difference between the Old and New Testaments. All you need is curiosity and a willingness to show up.

Whether you join us in person or online, you'll be part of the conversation. We plan to make participation available through Zoom for those who are traveling, homebound, or simply unable to be on campus. The same Zoom link and Meeting ID and Passcode will be used from week to week through the Sunday bulletin, e-News, the church website, and Messiah's Facebook page.

By the end of these eight weeks, you'll have a clearer understanding of how the Bible fits together, greater confidence in reading Scripture for yourself, and a deeper appreciation for the story that continues to shape our lives as followers of Jesus.

Course Details:

• What: The Bible's Big Story, Our Story (8 sessions)

• When: Sundays, now through December 20

• Time: 9:45 am between services

• Location: Magnuson Hall and online via Zoom*(QR code)*

Join Zoom Meeting

https://zoom.us/j/98174636141?pwd=4z4Q1yNn8eFyf7d0Y5GPkg69MJhjSA.1

Meeting ID: 981 7463 6141 & Passcode: 031349

• Cost: $12 for the companion book (recommended but not required)

To register, visit the church website or contact the church office. You're also welcome to simply show up. Come & discover the story you were made for.

#MessiahConnects *- - Pr. Steve Solberg*

Giving Tuesday is December 1

Deuteronomy 15: 11

“Since there will never cease to be some in need, open your hand to the needy neighbor in your land”

This verse captures the essence of Messiah’s Assistance Fund and is the heart of the Gospel. This is how we open our hand to our neighbors. Our Giving Tuesday event began in 2017, and 2026 marks our 9th year of fundraising for this ministry. The needs never cease! Between Jan 1 and October 31, 2026 we have distributed $67,421 to families and individuals who come to us for help not offered by other agencies. These funds are not part of our church budget – we rely on contributions and a few grants we can attract. Please join us on Tuesday December 1 between 10 and 6 pm to learn about this ministry and to help keep this fund going for 2027. We will have food, chances to win door prizes and music by Inga and Jon Bannit from 12-1:00. Consider making a gift in honor or memory of someone.

Thanks to Thrivent for their support of this event. Tee shirts will be available!

Messiah's Assistance Fund Volunteers

Support Our Youth — and Have Some Fun!

There's plenty happening as our young people prepare for upcoming youth ministry trips, and you'll have several opportunities to support them along the way!

Saturday, December 5 — "Santa's Little Helpers": Christmas Shopping Help!

Need a little kid-free Christmas shopping time? From**9:00 am to Noon,** families can drop off their children at Messiah while they get some holiday shopping done. Then from **Noon to 2:00 pm**, bring your Christmas gifts by and let our youth help with gift wrapping!

Also coming: Watch for our **Rada Cutlery fundraiser** beginning before Christmas and save the date for an early **"Souper Bowl Sunday & Pie Auction" on January 31.**

Thank you for supporting Messiah's young people as they grow in faith, build relationships, and take part in these experiences together!

OWLs Christmas Gathering – December 9

Calling all OWLS (generally 55 and older but all are welcome!): You are invited to the OWLS' Christmas party on Thursday, December 10, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm in Messiah's atrium. Please bring a drink & a sandwich cut in half for trading/sharing. If you have some cookies to bring along to share, that would be great!! Coffee & cider will be available.

As always, please bring a friend or two along. We love seeing new folks at our gatherings. Dave Horn has agreed to come and play music for us. We will also have our white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped or bagged inexpensive gift (used or regifts are fine) if you would like to participate. Should you have any questions, feel free to call the church office.

Seeking Youth Performers for Christmas Eve!

This Christmas Eve we are seeking youth performers, ages 18 and under, to perform during the 15-minute Prelude before the 4:00 pm service. Both vocal and instrumental solos, duets and group numbers are welcome. Songs can be anywhere from 1-3 minutes in length. Please email Sara Parks, Director of Music at sarparks17@gmail.com if you are interested in sharing your gift of music with Messiah this Christmas!

ASSISTANCE FUND BY THE NUMBERS

As of October 31 - $67,421 distributed

Categories of Assistance

Rent – 58%

Utilities – 23%

Transportation – 10%

Miscellaneous – 9%

We have 2 more months to go and are on schedule to run out of funds as needs are increasing.

GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 1.

*Thanks to Michael Sekely for compiling this data.

Sunday School

We are already preparing Christmas music! Sunday School students will have a special musical performance on Sunday, December 20th during the 10:30 am service. If your child will be present on December 20th, please register online *(Messiah's website or Facebook Page)*. This will help our music teachers prepare for this special performance.

Anyone pre-k through 5th grade is welcome to join us for Sunday School during the 10:30am service. Online registration is appreciated but not required! We will be focusing on Abraham and Sarah in November. If you have questions or would like a fall schedule, please email Emma at Emma@messiahlutheranmqt.org

Collage Christmas Card Making:

Calling crafters of all ages! On Sunday, December 6th, join us between services to craft a custom Christmas card. This intergenerational event is a great time to slow down & connect with our Messiah family this holiday season. All crafters (and snackers) are welcome!

We are looking for old Christmas cards, scrapbooking paper, and stickers for this event. Please drop off any supply donations to the office by Tuesday, December 1st. - - Emma Olechnowicz, *Interim Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Waiting in Hope: Midweek Advent Worship

Advent is a season of waiting, watching, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. This year, Messiah invites you to join us for three midweek Advent services on Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, from 6:30 to 7:15 pm in the sanctuary.

Using the beloved Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, these services will provide a peaceful opportunity to pause amid the busyness of the season and focus on God's promises. Pastor Steve will lead a series of scripture reflections and messages centered on the theme "Waiting in Hope."

A meal and fellowship time will precede each service. On December 2nd, Messiah's Community Meal will begin at 6:00 pm. We will offer a soup supper at 5:30 pm on December 9th & 16th, providing an opportunity to gather around the table before worship.

Whether Advent is a familiar season for you or you are experiencing it in a new way, we encourage you to join us as we wait together in hope, prayer, and anticipation of Christ's coming.

Midweek Advent Worship:

• Wednesdays: December 2nd Community Meal at 6:00 pm, December 9th Soup Supper at 5:30 pm & December 16th Soup Supper at 5:30 pm

• Worship at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary

• Holden Evening Prayer

• Theme: Waiting in Hope

Come for the meal, stay for worship, and prepare your heart for the joy of Christmas.

- - Pr. Steve Solberg

Superior Conference Youth Events (Grades 6–12)

Our next event for students in grades 6–12 is coming soon — and we're excited to gather again as a wider community of faith in the Superior Conference of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

These events help our youth see that their faith journey is not limited to one congregation — they belong to a wider community of peers, mentors, and leaders across the Upper Peninsula.

All youth in **grades 6–12** — whether active in confirmation, youth group, or simply looking for connection — are warmly invited. Friends are welcome.

The full 2026-2027 calendar of events are available from the church office, including the next up:

Youth Lock-In at Messiah — December 11–12

Parents, please mark your calendars and encourage your youth to participate. These gatherings help our students grow in faith, build friendships, and experience the joy of being part of the wider church.

NOTE: *If you haven't yet turned in your **Parent Consent Form**, please do so.*

Together for Good. #MessiahConnects

Preaching Schedule

Nov 28/29	Pastor Steve Solberg
Dec 5/6	Bishop Katherine Finegan
Dec 12/13	Dave Horn, Lay Leader – communion WILL be served at all 3 services
Dec 19/20	Pastor David Van Kley
Dec 24	4:00 pm and 8:00 pm Pastor Steve Solberg
Dec 27	Pastor Steve Solberg

Messiah's Mitten Box

With the cooler, fall weather, it is time to start filling the Mitten box. There is yarn available under the Welcome Table. I would encourage our knitters and crocheters to use a wool or wool blend for mittens, so they are warmer. I will add wool yarn to the stash of yarn. Please label 100% wool items as such , so they are washed properly and do not shrink. The items will be distributed in late November/early December to our local charities who help those in need. Any questions, contact Kate Sromalski at 906 226 6682. 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.

Youth Ministry Update

Our youth ministry continues to bring together students from across Superior Conference 8 for faith, friendship, service, and fun. All students in grades 6-12 are invited to participate, and friends are always welcome.
Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our Youth Lock-In at Messiah Lutheran Church on December 11-12, beginning at 6:00 pm Friday evening and concluding at 8:00 am Saturday morning.
In addition to our conference events, we are beginning to form a Youth Ministry Planning Team. We are looking for parents, grandparents, mentors, young adults, and other interested members who have a heart for helping young people grow in faith and connection. This team will help dream about future events, support youth gatherings, encourage participation, and shape the direction of youth ministry at Messiah. Whether you have years of experience working with youth or simply a desire to help, your voice and gifts are welcome. Please contact Pastor Steve if you would like to learn more or become involved.
One of the greatest gifts we can give our young people is a church community that knows them, encourages them, and walks alongside them in faith. Thank you for helping us build that kind of community together.

Together for Good. *#MessiahConnects*

- - - Pr. Steve Solberg

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. -

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Centering Prayer

The purpose of centering prayer is to temporarily suspend what we think we know, and still ourselves, let go of our judgments and open ourselves to the Advocate that Jesus told us God has provided us with. The mystics share the insights they receive from such practice. Here is a excerpt from someone who had an awakening experience:

You do not become good by trying to be good, but by finding the goodness that is already within you and allowing that goodness to emerge. But it can only emerge if something fundamental changes in your state of consciousness.

What is stirring now is not a new belief system. The change goes deeper than the content of your mind, deeper than thoughts. At the heart of the new consciousness lies the transcendence of thought, the ability of rising above thought, of realizing a dimension within yourself that is infinitely more vast than thought.

You no longer derive your identity from the incessant stream of thinking, that in the old consciousness you took to be yourself. Ego is no more than this: identification with form, which primarily means thought forms. This results in a total unawareness of our connectedness with the whole, our intrinsic oneness with every “other” as well as with the Source.

- *A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle* Submitted by Nancy Hamlin

Bell Choir – Members Needed

The bell choir needs some additional players. If you have played an instrument in school and want to reclaim that feeling of belonging and making music, this is the place for you. If you have never played an instrument but can count to at least four, there is a place for you too. We have bells for 4 octaves so we can use many people. Please join us for rehearsal on Monday evenings from 5:45 to 6:45 pm. When we play we gather Sunday morning at 7:30 am so the senior choir can rehearse at their usual time. We usually play at both Sunday services.

Santa and all of his helpers love JAM!

Check out the new jam flavors on the shelves and don't forget to stock up on JAM for the holidays! Jam makes a perfect holiday gift, especially paired with fresh bread, biscuits, you name it! There is a convenient QR code located near the jam section for payment. Or simply use one of the available envelopes to pay. Questions? Contact Rebecca Ulland (rjulland@yahoo.com or 906-236-3722)

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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.

***November –** *Dental floss, toothpaste & toothbrushes (child & adult)*

***December –** *Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Bars of Soap*

Devotions Link

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

Messiah Birthdays

Nov 25	John Bleckiner, Sally Davis
Nov 26	Linda Chapman, Kerry Wiese
Nov 27	Leonard Beaudoin, Becky Blom, Bill Davis
Nov 28	Anna Rector
Nov 29	Kayla Dennis-Benam, Kerry McGinley
Nov 30	Darlene Martin
Dec 1	No birthdays
Dec 2	No birthdays
Dec 3	Jane Brow, Mark McGovern
Dec 4	Nora Dellangelo, Barb Hellman, Andrew Sander
Dec 5	No birthdays
Dec 6	Eric Hammerstrom

Dec 7	Brad Crimmins, Eric Gummerus
Dec 8	Barb Avery, Sarah Bleckiner, Mike Davis, Molly Luty, Lydia Tripp
Dec 9	Tom Froiland, Grant Soltwisch

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in November:

Peter & Cindy Kotila	November 4
Bob & Mary Beals	November 9
Jim & Julie Elder	November 9
Andrew & Sarah Stevens	November 13
Rick Beyers & Wayne Hanmer	November 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: Steven; Ashley; Peter and Cindy; Betsy Little; Crystalee; Cheryl; the Helsel family; Karen Gill; 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; Sherry Watters; Renee Goyen; Stuart Harslah; Lisa Balko; 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

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Pastor on Call:

Pastor Steven Solberg is on call November 25 – December 2

A Daily Guide for November

November 25 – Practice Contentment

Pause before seeking more. Give thanks for what you already have.

November 26 – Thanksgiving Day

Before a meal today, pray: "Giver of every good gift, thank you for your abundant grace."

November 27 – Remember Those Who Grieve

As celebrations continue, hold in prayer those who are lonely, grieving, or struggling this season.

November 28 – Pray for Hope

Ask God to renew your hope and help you trust what you cannot yet see.

November 29 – Enter Advent with Expectation

As Advent begins, light a candle and pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Prepare my heart."

November 30 – Look Toward the Light

As November ends, thank God for His faithfulness through every season and for the promise of Christ's coming light.

#MessiahConnects

Editor's Note: Several of this month's daily reflections connect with our new study, The Bible's Big Story, Our Story, as we journey together through Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Join us Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Magnuson Hall or online via Zoom.

A Daily Guide for December

Waiting in Hope

December 1 – Begin with Hope

As December begins, pray: “God of hope, meet me in my waiting and teach me to watch for you.”

December 2 – Wait Through the Night

Read Psalm 130:5–6. What are you waiting for right now? Entrust it to God, remembering that morning will come.

December 3 – Notice the Light

As evening comes, notice a light shining in the darkness. Let it remind you that darkness does not have the final word.

December 4 – Make Room for Quiet

Spend five minutes without a screen, music, or conversation. Simply breathe and rest in God’s presence.

December 5 – Serve Someone

Look for one simple way to make another person’s day easier. Let your service become a prayer.

December 6 – Remember St. Nicholas

On this traditional day for remembering St. Nicholas, practice quiet generosity. Give something today without expecting recognition.

December 7 – Pray for Peace

Bring before God a place in the world, your community, or your own life where peace is desperately needed.

December 8 – Watch for Something New

Ask yourself: Where might God be doing something new that I have not yet noticed?

December 9 – Remember God's New Thing

Read Isaiah 43:18–19. Pray for the courage to loosen your grip on what has been and recognize what God may be bringing to birth.

December 10 – Encourage Someone Who Is Waiting

Think of someone waiting for news, healing, reconciliation, or a decision. Send a note or make a call simply to say, "I'm thinking of you."

December 11 – Pray for Our Youth

As young people gather at Messiah tonight, pray that they may know they are loved by God and have a place in the church.

December 12 – Practice Joy

Do something today simply because it brings wholesome joy: sing, walk, bake, create, play, or spend time with someone you love.

December 13 - Rejoice

Pause today to notice one sign of grace. Give thanks for joy that can exist even when life is unfinished.

December 14 – Pray for Those Who Are Weary

Remember those carrying heavy responsibilities, difficult diagnoses, family concerns, or simply exhaustion. Ask God to sustain them.

December 15 – Hope for What You Cannot See

Name one hope you carry whose fulfillment you cannot yet see. Place it gently into God's hands.

December 16 – Wait for the Promise

Read Romans 8:24–25. Remember that Christian hope is not certainty about what will happen next. It is trust in the God who holds our future**.**

December 17 – Give Thanks for Companions

Who has walked beside you during a difficult season? Give thanks for that person. If possible, tell them.

December 18 – Open the Scriptures

Read John 1:1–5 slowly. Linger over the promise: "The light shines in the darkness."

December 19 – Pray for Our Confirmands

As our confirmands gather with young people from neighboring congregations, pray that Scripture may become for them not simply words on a page, but a living witness to Jesus Christ.

December 20 – Make Room

Christmas is drawing close. Ask: What can I set aside today so there is more room for Christ and for the people around me?

December 21 – The Longest Night

On the longest night of the year, remember those for whom Christmas carries sorrow alongside joy. Pray for those who grieve, those who are lonely, and those who find this season difficult. Remember: we do not wait alone.

December 22 – Give Something Away

Offer something today: food, money, time, attention, forgiveness, encouragement. Receive generosity itself as a gift from God.

December 23 – Slow Down

Christmas is almost here. Resist the urge to fit in one more thing. Take a few quiet minutes and pray simply: "Come, Lord Jesus."

December 24 – Hear the Good News

Christmas Eve has come. Amid candles, carols, worship, meals, travel, or quiet at home, hear the promise personally: Christ is born for you.

December 25 – Receive the Gift

Merry Christmas! You do not need to accomplish anything for God today. Receive again the gift of Emmanuel: God with us.

December 26 – Let Christmas Continue

Christmas is not over. Carry some Christmas grace into someone else's life today through kindness, patience, or generosity.

December 27 – Treasure These Things

Like Mary, take time to ponder. What moment from this Advent or Christmas would you like to hold onto?

December 28 – Pray for Those Returning to Ordinary Life

As celebrations end and routines begin aga in, remember those returning to work, school, caregiving, or quiet homes. Ask God to be present in the ordinary.

December 29 – Look Back with Grace

Think back over the past year. Do not measure it simply by successes and failures. Ask instead: Where did I experience grace?

December 30 – Release What You Cannot Carry Forward

What burden from this year do you need to place into God's hands? Name it in prayer and ask for grace to let go.

December 31 – Step into the New Year with Hope

Before the year ends, pause and give thanks. You do not know everything the new year will bring. But you know who goes with you. Pray: "God of my past, present, and future, lead me forward in hope."

#MessiahConnects

Editor's Note: This month's Daily Guide follows our Advent theme, Waiting in Hope. Through Scripture, prayer, simple acts of service, and moments of quiet, we invite you to make room each day to watch for God's presence through Advent, Christmas, and the turning of the year.

Messiah's Quilters - Year in Quilting!

Messiah Quilters sent 281 quilts to Lutheran World Relief on October 17th.

We also donated two quilts locally to The New Free Store and seven to Child & Family Services. We are very thankful for the Congregation 's financial support and donations of sheets.

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, November 28 – 5:00 pm in sanctuary

Assisting Minister:	Carol Steinhaus
Communion Assistant:	Barb Salmela
Refreshments:	Need a volunteer

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

Assisting Minister:	Terry Langenberg
Reader:	Louise Reichert
Ushers:	Need 2 volunteers.
Communion Assistants:	Marina Shinkarenko, Terry Langenberg, Judy Quirk, Dave Blomquist
Greeters:	Marina Shinkarenko, need 1 more volunteer.
Nursery:	Allison Brassard
Refreshments:	Diane Adams

Sunday, November 29 – 10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister:	Fred Groos
Reader:	Nancy Hamlin
Ushers:	Paula Diedrich, Amy Diedrich
Communion Assistants:	Barb Hellman, Marina Shinkarenko, Gayle Van Osdol, need 1 more volunteer.
Greeters:	Marina Shinkarenko, Gayle Van Osdol
Projection Technician:	Abby LaForest
Nursery:	Allison Brassard
Flower Delivery:	Clare Sauer

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

Ishpeming Christmas Market – November 27-28 and December 4-5
The Ishpeming Kriskindlmarkt, a traditional European Christmas market is coming to downtown Ishpeming on November 27-28 and December 4-5. The event will feature local vendors, food, music, family activities, and plenty of holiday cheer as we bring the community together and celebrate the holiday season. For more information or to volunteer to help, go to www.ishkindlmarkt.com or www.facebook.com/ishkindl.

Christmas Concert – December 5
The Negaunee Male Chorus will present their Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 5 at 3:00 pm in the W.C. Peterson Auditorium (Ishpeming). Tickets are $15.00 for adults; age 17 and under with an adult are free. Ticket outlets are Super One Foods Negaunee, Country Village Ace Ishpeming, Jubilee Foods Ishpeming, TruNorth Credit Union Ishpeming, or any Male Chorus member.

Marquette Choral Society Concert – December 5-6
The Marquett Choral Society will present “On Message, Many Voices”; holiday music from many times, places, and peoples on Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 pm and on Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 pm. The concert will be in the Reynolds Recital Hall at NMU and will feature Jan Brodersen, collaborative pianist and Christopher Schoelen, guitar. Erin Colwitz is the conductor. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for NMU and high school students, and $5 for those under 12. To purchase tickets, go to nmu.universitytickets.com.

Tuba Christmas – December 6
A Tuba Christmas concert will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 1:30 pm at the Marquette Regional History Museum (145 W Spring St.). Doors open at 1:00 pm. The concert is free; donations are appreciated.

Holiday Brass Choir Concert – December 20

The Holiday Brass Choir will present a concert on Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 pm at the Marquette Regional History Center (145 W Spring St.). Doors open at 3:30 pm. Admission is free and the concert is open to the public; donations are appreciated.

Marquette Choral Society Event – December 22

The Marquette Choral Society will present "A Beer Choir X-mas" on Tuesday, December 22 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Ore Dock Brewing (114 W Spring St in Marquette). Erin Colwitz will be the song leader, and Sheila Grazulis will be the accompanist.

Early Childhood Programs at Community Action Alger Marquette

Community Action Alger Marquette early childhood programs are high-quality preschool experiences designed to provide a strong foundation for children's learning and development. They have three program options to serve a variety of family needs: Early Head Start, Head Start, and GSRP. All of their programs are free to qualified families; they accept applications year-round. To get in touch with them: 906 228-6522 or frontdesk@communityactionam.org or www.communityactionam.org. They are located at 1125 Commerce Dr. in Marquette.

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

Drop-in Grief Support: Marquette – Nov. 25 at 4:00 p.m. 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. Marquette.

Live and Learn - Hospice: Get to Know Us Before You Need Us – November 25

November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, making it the perfect time to learn more about hospice — before you or someone you love needs it.

Join us for a relaxed, informative conversation about hospice, including what it is, who it's for, what services are available, and how hospice can support patients and families. Come with your questions! This will be held on November 25 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at Millcreek Clubhouse. It is free and open to the public!

Evergreen Memories

Honoring the lives and memories of those we carry in our hearts

Each year, Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice creates a Tree of Remembrance at the Peter White Public Library to honor loved ones who have passed away.

-Personalized Ornaments: Each loved one will be honored with a personalized ornament displayed on the tree throughout December.

-Tree Viewing: Visit the Peter White Public Library throughout December. Viewing dates and times will be available on the library's website.

-Ornament Pickup: Personalized ornaments will be available for families to pick up at our Lake Superior Hospice office in January.

Would you like to remember someone special?

Email Outreach@LakeSuperiorHospice.org by December 5 with:

• Your loved one's name

• Your name and phone number for a pickup reminder

During a season of cherished memories and difficult moments, we hope Evergreen Memories offers a special place to remember and honor those who remain forever in our hearts.

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