

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG

Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:45 AM

(with Nursery)

This service is broadcast
on Sunray 101.9 FM

Sunday 10:30 AM

(with Nursery)

305 West Magnetic Marquette, MI 49855 Tel: (906) 225-1119 Fax: 225-5025

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Member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Flowers: To the Glory of God...

* from Bill Maki

Radio: To the Glory of God & In Loving Memory of...

* Dr. & Mrs. Norris from the late Kathy Hall & Michael

Letter from Pr. Allan Johnson

This year a Christmas hymn has been running through my mind – “In the Bleak Midwinter.” Even Christmas decorations on the street seem dreary. I miss the crowds, the Table, a hundred voices raised in joyful song. This year seems bleak and lonely.

So I give thanks, in this strange time, for the leadership of our pastoral team and Council. One measure of responsible leadership is what you do when we’re suddenly facing a problem we didn’t expect and we have no experience to guide us. I am grateful that in this time Messiah’s leadership have centered on love for our neighbors: as our Catechism tells us, “We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life’s needs.” I miss being in church; and if it were only about me and my safety, perhaps I could make up an argument why even in this pandemic I should go. But it’s not all about me. It would not be faithful to put my neighbor’s health at risk. So when in time our country has come through this danger, I will return to church with joy. Meanwhile, I am deeply grateful that Messiah’s leadership has worked out ways we’ve never used before to bring worship home to me, and all my neighbors. I am deeply grateful that even in this time of isolation we have found ways to continue our ministry in this community, helping and supporting neighbors in all of life’s needs. Leadership is when you face an unknown future and respond. With compassion. With creativity. And with a steady hand.

But it is still a bleak midwinter. So I remember Bethlehem, and a lonely stable outside town, where there was a definite shortage of colored lights and tinsel. A homeless couple, far from family and out of work. Soon enough they would be refugees. That is where our faith begins; where you and I are invited to trust a God who is with us not only when the songs ring out but in the bleak midwinters of this burdened world.

I admit this isn’t the sort of God we might have wanted. Nothing here about prosperity. Nothing here about angels protecting us from harm. Only a God who is present with us in weakness, present in compassion, and in the end a God whose love not even death can turn aside. Not an easy God; but one worth trusting even when all the world is lonely and strange around us.

And in a surprising way, that bleak midwinter birth bears witness to me that we have put our trust in a God who is real. If I had been asked to imagine what God might be like, I don’t suppose I ever would have started with Bethlehem, and Herod, and the Cross. The God who has come to us in Jesus is more clear-eyed, more real, and more surprising than anything I could have imagined.

So I give thanks; and in the quiet at home, I’ll sing the songs. To a God who’s real. To a God who can be trusted, whatever midwinters close around us. Until the morning breaks, and all the doors swing wide, and we are home in church again. And then, together, we will praise the God who comes to us in Jesus, and celebrate around Christ’s Table, and raise our voices loud in joy.

Yours in Christ,

Allan E. Johnson

Bulletin for At-Home Worship - Online or Radio

Please contact the church office if you would like a worship bulletin mailed to your home weekly for each weekend’s worship. Thank you.

Messiah Calendar

Monday, November 30

9:00 am Men’s Ministry-Zoom

Tuesday, December 1

10:30 am Giving Tuesday

1:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 2

6:30 pm Holden Evening Prayer

Thursday, December 3

9:00 am Bible Study-online

Friday, December 4

Pr. Andrew & Pr. Molly’s day off

Nothing Scheduled

Saturday, December 5

Nothing Scheduled

Sunday, December 6

8:45 am Worship-online

Giving Tuesday - December 1

Tuesday, December 1st from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Annually we need to replenish our Community Assistance Fund. Through mid-November this year, we have disbursed over \$17,000 with over 180 visits (or calls) with our volunteer social workers. While we presently have funds available, we anticipate that as winter arrives, and some of the governmental financial support dwindles, that the need will only increase.

If you are able to, please help us refill this important fund! This year we are accepting donations by cash, check, and credit or debit card. Donations can also be made online. If you come into the church office, please be aware that you cannot linger, as we need to abide by the rules set by our Council and MDHHS.

Thrivent Financial (*Action Team grant*) is generously providing refreshments that you can pick up when you come to make a donation (the food is individually packed).

Carol Sing Along

Are you missing singing together? We are missing your lovely voices! Come gather with us virtually to get into the festive Christmas spirit! On Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm we will host a zoom carol sing along. We will have a few leaders to sing and ask that participants mute themselves. Stay tuned in the e-news & on Facebook for a list of Carols.

Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88446256289>

In The Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pastor Andrew Plocher & Pastor Molly Eversoll want to call you when you are there. If you can't notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

On Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: December 1-2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-23, 27-28

Pr. Molly Eversoll: December 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, 29-31

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in the January Messenger is Monday, December 28, 2020.

Messiah's Newsletter

November 29, 2020
Volume 102, Issue 12

Articles for Weekly Announcements are due by 6:00 pm the Wednesday prior to printing

The Longest Night - Mon., Dec. 21st at 7:00 pm

For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so around this time we offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Whether or not you find this season to be difficult, we invite you to join us online, Monday, December 21st at 7:00 pm for a time of music, scripture, silent reflection, and healing prayer. The service will be available on Vimeo (vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmq) and Facebook (Facebook.com/messiahlutheranmq).

Advent 2020

Our Advent theme for this year is "Those Who Dream." A devotional book/journal can be found in the church office.

Look for additional Advent devotionals, which will be emailed and posted on Facebook weekly, written by Messiah's members who also happen to be retired pastors. If you do not get email or use Facebook, you can give us a call and we will gladly mail them to you!

On Wednesdays in Advent we will stream and broadcast Holden Evening Prayer on 101.9 FM and on our Facebook page (facebook.com/messiahlutheranmq) at 6:30 pm on December 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

The meditative prayer that was to happen in the sanctuary on Wednesdays from 3-5 pm has unfortunately been canceled due to rising cases and an abundance of caution to limit gatherings in indoor spaces.

Mitten Tree

The weather is cool & warm clothing is needed. A basket of donated yarn is available at church to be created into hats, mittens, scarves, cowls or slippers for the Mitten Tree. Our neighbors in need will appreciate your work! The collection box is by the door to the sanctuary. Kate Sromalski 226-6682

Special Events for December & January

12/1	Giving Tuesday 2020, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
12/2	Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm
12/9	Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm
12/16	Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 pm
12/21	Longest Night Worship at 7:00 pm (<i>see article above</i>)
12/24	Christmas Eve online Worship at 5:00 & 8:00 pm
12/24 & 12/25	Church office closed
12/31 & 1/1/21	Church office closed
1/20	January Book Study-"Stations of the Heart" 7:00 pm

Messiah's Birthdays

December 2020

Tuesday 1	Eastyn Peacock
Wednesday 2	Amy Smith
Thursday 3	Cary Bjork, Jane Brow, Mark McGovern
Friday 4	Anne Jackson
Saturday 5	No birthdays
Sunday 6	Eric Hammerstrom, Gertrude Leaf, Wayne Rodriguez
Monday 7	Brad Crimmins, Eric Gummerus
Tuesday 8	Barb Avery, Sarah Bleckiner, Travis Christensen, Mike Davis, Carol Fosco, Molly Smith, Rose Young
Wednesday 9	Tom Froiland, Grant Soltwisch
Thursday 10	No birthdays
Friday 11	No birthdays
Saturday 12	Jeremy Beerman, Tristan Luoma, Linda Wainio
Sunday 13	Charlotte Beauchaine, Joslyn Hewitt
Monday 14	Pam Jackovich, Chloe Jackson
Tuesday 15	Ceil Aikala, I-C Chien, Marie Moisio
Wednesday 16	Jenny Broadway, Judy Donckers, Linda Ruohoniemi, Bill Summersett
Thursday 17	Caroline Reynolds, Anne Weaver
Friday 18	Bob Apple, Peggy Beerman, Evan Busick, Lisa Coombs-Gerou, Sharon Fluette, David Johnson, Kris Zorza
Saturday 19	No birthdays
Sunday 20	Jamie Beauchamp
Monday 21	Graham Tollefson
Tuesday 22	No birthdays
Wednesday 23	Winifred Anderson, Jeremy Bower
Thursday 24	Benjamin Hendrick, Kurt Mensching, Carol Steinhaus
Friday 25	Nicole Grim, Carol Stevens

Saturday 26	Knut Fjeldheim
Sunday 27	No birthdays
Monday 28	Michael Broadway, Nicole Brownell, Liam Hewitt, Larry Pagel
Tuesday 29	Aliina Maki-Warne, Tim Weir
Wednesday 30	Virginia Bell, Carol O'Neill
Thursday 31	Lynn Apple, Gerald Cory, Tom Cory, Boden Swanson

Passages

In Sympathy to:

- * Helen Steinhoff and family & friends of Leroy Process who passed away on November 9, 2020.
- * Family & friends of Ardy Johnson who passed away on November 9, 2020. Ardy was Messiah's pianist at the 5:00 pm worship a few years ago.
- * Ray Jarvis & family upon the passing of his brother, Ed Jarvis who passed away on November 11th and his brother Ted Jarvis who passed away on November 7th.
- * Mark Norris & family upon the passing of his sister, Kathy Hall who resided in NY. Mark and Kathy are the children of Walt & Mary Norris.

Congratulations to:

- * Susanne Smith, our newest member of Messiah who joined our church family in late October. She comes here from Minnesota and is Darren Smith's sister. Please welcome Susanne to our church family.

Gifts for Great Lakes Recovery Center Children

The Rachel Circle is collecting gifts for the children at Great Lakes Recovery Center, now until Wednesday, December 16th. There will be a box in the narthex, please drop your donations in this box.

In their facility, they are currently housing up to 30 adults and up to 30 children. The children range in age from 6 months old - 17 years old. Some possible gift items they offered are: puzzles, books, socks, slippers, T-shirts (in many sizes), long-sleeve T-shirts (in many sizes), sweatshirts, jackets, boots, mittens, scarves & hats. Their need for warm socks is real for all residents in their facility.

Great Lakes Recovery often gives residents a voucher for St. Vincent de Paul, but St. Vincents may be closed due to COVID-19. Some residents may not be able to go and get an extra T-shirt/sweatshirt to wear.

You are also welcome to make a financial donation if you would prefer. Thank you, in advance, for your help to make a memorable Christmas for these kids. We appreciate your generosity!

- - - Rachel Circle

ELCA Good Gifts - That Make a Difference

New this year - and very appropriate!

Soap and Sanitation Supplies - \$25.00

PPE Supplies - \$25.00

The usual favorites of Chicks (\$10.00), Honey Bees (\$20) Pig (\$30), Goat (\$50) and all the others are still available.

In this unusual time, we are unable to have an in person ELCA Good Gifts promotion, but many of us still want to order these gifts that "Make A Difference" for Christmas.

Catalogs are available on the shelf near the Fair Trade display - and will also be available on December 1 during our Giving Tuesday event. We can also go online to order directly from the ELCA at: goodgifts.elca.org.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry of our church.

Confirmation

I am both disappointed (and a little relieved) to announce that Confirmation class has moved to Zoom. We were disappointed because we thought there would be a way to hold in person class safely. It quickly became apparent that was not the case. It was a difficult decision to make, but we felt affirmed knowing that the positive case rate for Marquette continues to rise quickly.

I can happily say that our first Zoom session had seven students and it continues to grow. Our last Zoom session had 10 students!

We will still be making cards for immigrant children in detention centers this year. We ask the congregation to join us. LIRS has a wonderful program called Hope for the Holidays. There is a box on the table outside of the office if you would like to contribute homemade cards. We are hoping to mail it on November 30. Please see the church's Facebook page for more details. Or you can call Jen Elsenbroek (906)202-2657.

In case you missed it, we also decided to postpone the Confirmation ceremony until family (including Grandparents) can attend the service safely. We wrestled with this decision as well, but decided it is the best thing to do.

I have heard Pastor Andrew say (more than once), "There is Grace for that".

I am resting in that statement during this year of 2020. Each time I have to make a change and feel like my initial plan was a failure, I remember there is indeed Grace! - - Jen Elsenbroek, Confirmation Leader

Finance / Year-End 2020

Last day to give for 2020? For your information, donations legally need to be separated by the year, based on when we receive them! If you plan to mail them in or drop them off, the last date & time the office will be open to accept cash/check donations for 2020, is 8:30 am to 3:30 pm on Wed, 12/30/20.

Council Highlights - November

- * Reviewed and approved the recommendation of the Re-opening Task Force, taking Messiah back to Phase 1 of the Re-opening Plan.
- * Reviewed & approved the process for evaluating our Pastoral Staff.
- * Our Congregation Budget for 2020 remains in a strong position. The Council is thankful for the continued generosity of our Messiah Family!
- * Data on Messiah's Worship over Facebook, internet & radio are estimated to reach 1500 or more people each week. Our investments in streaming and audio equipment are reaching more participants each week. Thanks to our technical team for their work in production each week, and to our Pastoral Staff & Music team for their work in producing such a valuable resource.

MOPS

Due to Covid, our Marquette Area MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) group is meeting monthly on Zoom. Typically, the MOPS Zoom gathering is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, from 7-8:30 pm. If you are interested in joining or have questions about our MOPS group, please contact our MOPS coordinators, Sarah and Olivia, by email - MOPS@MessiahLutheranMqt.org.

Year-to-Date Donations

Are you unsure about your donations to date? Or unsure what you pledged for 2020? If you need clarification to finalize your donations in December, please call the office to leave a message for Nancy Hoover, Financial Secretary. Or email her at [Messiah.NancyH@gmail.com](mailto: Messiah.NancyH@gmail.com). Likewise, if you have questions or would like help to complete your donation pledge for 2021, please contact Nancy Hoover.

Giving Envelopes

Your envelopes will be ready for pick up starting on Tuesday, December 1st. If stopping in for Giving Tuesday, simply pick up your envelopes located in the narthex. Otherwise, you may stop by to grab them from the narthex any time during our normal office hours, when the main door is unlocked. Or call the office if you need special accommodations. If you don't currently have envelopes and would like them; or have envelopes and don't want them for 2021, just let Nancy Hoover know. She will accommodate what works best for you. Even if you give electronically, you may still receive envelopes for special donations

TV6 Canathon is Virtual This Year

This year, the TV6 Canathon event is going virtual. Rather than donating cans at various collection sites, participants can make a monetary donation to the food pantry of their choice on the official event website. To learn more or to get involved, visit tv6canathon.com.

Stewardship Story

One of my most treasured memories of childhood holidays was coming to Grandma and Grandpa's church. There was a service on Thanksgiving morning that preceded the football games and our family dinner. Christmas Eve was a time when we got to stay up and go to the late worship service, and then race home to get into bed so that Santa would not pass us by.

Each year, most of us look forward to our special routines and customs that mean so much. Yet, this year it is apparent that our holiday traditions will be interrupted.

But, as we mourn the suspension of our special family activities, let's look back to the first Christmas. Mary and Joseph were travelers without a place to go, and Mary's time to deliver her baby had come. They made do with a shelter that they shared with the animals. The most significant birth in human history took place in the humblest setting. I am sure that Joseph and Mary were hoping for something else, but they were blessed regardless of the setting.

There is an example for us in their acceptance of the circumstances. As unpredictable as 2020 has been, it is unlikely that any of us will find ourselves in a situation like Mary and Joseph. Yet, the incredible gift that God gave is still available for us. There is a blessing for us, regardless of who we spend the holidays with or where we are. Let us remind those who are missing from our gathering of the blessing and joy to God offers to all of us. May we focus on giving thanks for all we have been given, even as we look forward to reuniting with friends and family in future years.

-- Erik Bergh, Stewardship Team member

Pipe Organ Fundraiser

Plans are in the works for an online virtual fundraiser to raise money for recent rebuilding work on Messiah's pipe organ. Our organist Kathy Strazzinski and her husband Ron took advantage of the first few months of the shutdown last spring to design beautiful wall art, and racks for jewelry or keys using parts from the old organ console. They would like to offer these items for auction.

We know there are many other creative folks out there who might like to contribute their gifts to this project. We have quilters, painters and musicians galore! Would you like to donate a painting? Present a special singing telegram or short musical performance once it is safe to do so? (We could even help you record something to include in our auction.) Perhaps you would like to offer a weekend at your camp or be the chef for a dinner party.

Please contact the church office by January 11 if you would like to offer something for this auction, or if you have any additional questions.

Lectionary Readings - December 2020

December 6, 2020 -- Second Sunday of Advent

Reading.....Isaiah 40:1-11

Gospel.....Mark 1:1-8

December 13 -- Third Sunday of Advent

Reading.....Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Gospel.....Luke 1:46-55

December 20 -- Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading.....2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Gospel.....Luke 1:26-45

December 27 -- First Sunday of Christmas

Reading.....Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Gospel.....Luke 2:22-40

The New Free Store Donations...

The New Free Store needs your help. They are an inter-faith, non-profit group supporting people in the greater Marquette area who express a need for free clothing, linen, hygiene & cleaning supplies. Over 850 families are now registered to shop for free & that number continues to grow. When doing your weekly shopping, please remember the items noted below in the coming months. Thank you for your support! Feel free to leave these items in **The New Free Store 'drop-box'** in Messiah's narthex.

**December - laundry soap, dish soap, bars of soap*

**January - toothbrushes (kids & adults), toothpaste, denture cleaner, dental floss*

Virtual Worship

If you would like to worship with us from your home, we want to let you know some ways you can listen in and/or watch if you have a computer & internet access.

The 8:45 am worship will always be broadcast on the radio at Sunny 101.9 FM & streamed at the following sites: Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmq> and Facebook - www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmq We will have Holden Evening Prayer on the same sites noted above & on the radio on the following dates: November 11 & December 2, 9 & 16.

Messiah Quilts & Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Our usual fall ingathering of quilt, baby care kits and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief looked a lot different this year. In previous years, churches from the central and western UP brought their quilts and kits to a site in Ishpeming where they were loaded on a boxcar or a semi truck and transported to a warehouse in St. Paul. Because of the pandemic, we came to the difficult decision to cancel this event and wait until next year when we could do it safely. Thankfully Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp offered its facility as a drop-off site November 16-25 for all LWR items.

On Monday November 23, Phil and Nancy Hoover, Jeff Dodge and Jamie Dodge loaded a UHaul with Messiah's quilts and kits and drove to Fortune Lake. We are so thankful for these volunteers and for the staff at Fortune Lake who stepped up to meet this challenge. And we are thankful for our quilters and circle members who continued their ministry even during a pandemic to meet the needs of people all over the world. We thank God for you all! Shipped on behalf of Messiah will be 276 quilts, 47 baby care kits, 6 personal care kits, 0 school kits (items donated for school kits will be assembled & distributed in 2021).

Some of the items shipped to LWR in 2019 were in the port in Beirut at the time of the explosion on August 4. Fortunately these items survived the damage. More information on this can be found on page 13 of the Messenger in the article "Rising from the Ashes."

Qi Gong for Health & Wellness

Tuesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 pm

This Zoom class, sponsored in collaboration with Messiah Lutheran Church, is based on a series of gentle exercises developed by Buddhist monks. These exercises involve varying degrees of range of motion that can be done in a chair or standing.

Our class moves body structure for balance, stress and pain relief that are applied to daily activities: walking, turning, lifting, reaching, sitting. These gentle movements can also be used with prayer disciplines and use breathing as an essential component.

After greetings, each person in our class turns off their Zoom video on the computer and mute. The members enjoy the anonymity with permission to pause, go slower, to learn without being self-conscious or competitive. Since I can't see you, my concerns are for safety. I give ongoing verbal, detailed instructions for each movement. Each exercise includes individuals finding their range of motion, improving body structure, balance & breathing instructions.

There is, of course, no fee or charge for these classes but we invite you to make a contribution to Messiah Lutheran Church food bank at any time as a sign of thanksgiving.

- - - Diana Magnuson, 906-362-9386

Rising from the Ashes - *An Update from Lutheran World Relief on Quilts & Kits Caught in the Beirut Explosion*

The news and evolving reports out of Beirut following the deadly explosion of August 4 has had many of our heads whirling in the last couple months. As many of you know, three containers of quilts and kits were in the port awaiting customs clearance on the day of the blast. Immediate reports from the port authority indicated that the containers could not have survived.

A fourth container had been separated at the port in the United States and was still on the water at the time of the explosion. It was rerouted to the port in Tripoli.

As we joined with many of you in our shared lament, we were deeply inspired and humbled by your determination to keep going, keep creating, keep serving, keep sharing your love with our neighbors all over the world.

On the morning of August 26, we received an urgent update from our partner, Anera: they had been given access to the port, and against all odds, the containers were intact! Following this incredible news, LWR staff held our breath until the quilts and kits could be assessed for damage.

Finally, we learned on September 22 that, despite the magnitude of the blast, the seal of the containers containing the LWR Mission Quilts and Kits was not broken. The placement in the port, inside a concrete storage building and surrounded by other shipping containers, protected the containers enough to even prevent chemical contamination.

As we awaited this last piece of information, the fourth container cleared customs in Tripoli and travelled over land to join the other three in Anera's Beirut warehouse, once again bringing the full shipment together.

We give thanks to God that the love of hundreds of Lutheran congregations contained in this shipment will be able to be shared with more than 24,000, of our neighbors in Beirut and across the country of Lebanon—many refugees from across the region, and now also those affected by the blast in the heart of Beirut. From the ashes of this crisis rises a beautiful ray of hope: your love, intact and powerful, in just the right place, at just the right time.

As your gifts are distributed in Lebanon, LWR is also providing emergency food, helping families to repair and return to their homes, distributing appliances and cooking supplies to help them restore normal life, and more—all thanks to your love and generosity. To learn more, visit lwr.org/beirut-blast-donation

Devotions Link

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

January Book Study: “Stations of the Heart” by Richard Lischer

This poignant love story of a father for his son is at once funny, heartbreaking, and hopeful. In it a young man teaches his entire family “a new way to die” with wit, candor, and, remarkable grace. Richard Lischer’s son, Adam, calls to tell his father, a professor of divinity at Duke University, that his cancer has returned. Despite the crushing magnitude of his diagnosis and the cruel course of the illness, Adam’s growing weakness evokes in him an unexpected strength. This is the story of one last summer and the young man who lived it as honestly and faithfully as possible. We meet Adam in many phases of his growing up, but always through the narrow lens of his undying hope, when in the final season of his life he becomes his family’s (and his father’s) spiritual leader. Honest in its every dimension, Stations of the Heart is an unforgettable book about life and death and the terrible blessing of saying good-bye. We hope you’ll join us to read and discuss this book, as it touches our own stories of grief and hope.

Books will be available in the church office for \$16. The conversation will be on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. Further details will be available in the January newsletter and on Facebook.

Christmas 2020

As we look towards the Advent season and the birth of Jesus we know that this will be a difficult time for many of you as this year you might not be gathering with family or traveling as usual. We hope that our celebrations online and on the radio will fill you with comfort, joy, and hope as they usually do when we are in person.

This year we will have two worship services at 5:00 and 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24th that will be livestreamed on:

Facebook ([facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt](https://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)), **YouTube** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgn0rsWCy7RptrD2uadk56Q>) & **Vimeo** (<https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt>). They will also be broadcast on Sunny 101.9 FM.

The 5:00 pm service will be more contemporary with our worship band, the full story of Jesus birth read and a short homily geared towards children and families preached. At 8:00 you will find a service of traditional carols and lessons with a variety of music. At both services you will hear favorite Christmas carols, experience a festive spirit and the joyful hope of our Savior’s birth. Come watch with your candle as we dim the lights at the end of the service and sing “Silent Night, Holy Night.” We know it is hard not to be together, but we trust that the Holy Spirit joins us as one.

The Synod is also preparing a worship service that will premiere on our local stations. It will air on Christmas Eve on WLUC from 4-5 pm ET and FOX-UP from 7-8 pm ET and on Christmas Day on WLUC from 12-1 pm ET and FOX-UP from 9-10 am ET. Look for Pastor Andrew, who is one of the preachers!

Lifelong Faith Formation 2021

Lifelong Faith Formation: Synod Classes Continue Online in January. Visit www.nglsynod.org/lifelongfaithformation for details

Registration is now open for the winter schedule of Lifelong Faith Formation, a program of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The classes provide fun and interesting opportunities for people to connect with each other online, via Zoom, during these challenging times.

These classes begin in January:

- The Gospel of John
- Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
- Reflection’s on Bonhoeffer’s Life Together, While We are Apart
- Bias in our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America
- The Doctrine of Discovery, From Myth to Reality (a call to increase understanding and appreciation of the heritage and culture of Native American peoples)
- Introduction to Biblical Greek II

For more information, visit www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation or contact Deacon-Elect Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

Room at the Inn Fundraiser

Messiah’s church council has extended a challenge pledge to Room at the Inn as they renovate the Warming Center to become a permanent shelter space. As a congregation we are committed to caring for those in need (Matthew 25), and as such have offered up to \$20,000 in a matching donation to any new donations for the Room at the Inn project. We are delighted to be in the position to be able to do so and that such a vital ministry in our midst is moving toward permanent shelter space. Send your check directly to RATI (347 Rock St.) with the memo referencing “Messiah match”. If you would like to learn more about this giving opportunity for our community, please contact Pastor Andrew.

Remembering the Saints in Our Lives

Last month on our Messiah Family & Friends Facebook page, we shared daily prompts to express gratitude to God for a now-departed saint who has influenced our lives.

All Saints’ Day falls on November 1 of each year. On that date or on the first Sunday in November, many churches memorialize members and loved ones who have died the year prior. In keeping with the spirit of All Saints’ Day and of Thanksgiving, below you will find daily prompts to express gratitude to God for a now-departed saint who has influenced your life.

(continued on page 16)

November 1: Mentored you in your profession
 November 2: Helped you grow in faith
 November 3: Gave tangible help during a difficult time
 November 4: Founded an institution or movement that is important to you
 November 5: Showed tough love
 November 6: Coached you as you grew in skills and confidence
 November 7: Led a group that was significant in your formation
 November 8: Treated you like a sibling
 November 9: Introduced you to grief by their loss
 November 10: Wrote something that deeply moved you
 November 11: Died before you could reconcile or reconnect with them
 November 12: Introduced you to a group/community
 November 13: Reminded you how to see the world like a child
 November 14: Advocated for you
 November 15: Showed you something key about yourself/your values by being your adversary
 November 16: Gave you a tangible object that continues to inspire you
 November 17: Parented or grandparented you
 November 18: Governed in a way that fostered trust and cooperation
 November 19: Took you somewhere life-changing
 November 20: Made you feel seen in a time/place that you felt invisible
 November 21: Trusted you with difficult but important knowledge
 November 22: Created art that speaks to your soul
 November 23: Let you ask your questions
 November 24: Pointed out your gifts
 November 25: Introduced you to a hobby
 November 26: Prayed for you
 November 27: Embodied the values you aspire to
 November 28: Disagreed with you but still loved you
 November 29: Supported you emotionally through a low point
 November 30: Did something for others in death that they couldn't have done in life

These prompts were compiled by clergy and congregation coach Laura Stephens-Reed. Her prayer calendar "Rejoicing in God's Saints" can be found at <https://www.laurastephensreed.com/blog/resource-re-post-rejoicing-in-gods-saints-prayer-calendar>

Subscribe to Messiah's ENewsletter

Messiah publishes an electronic newsletter every Wednesday which is sent to subscribers via email and is also posted on Messiah's website www.messiahlutheranmq.org. During this time when we are unable to gather in person for worship, receiving the ENews is a good way to stay abreast of church news and activities. If you are interested in subscribing, contact Inga at inga@messiahlutheranmq.org. And if you would rather not subscribe, you can access the ENews through Messiah's website. Click on "News" at the top of the homepage, then click on "Weekly E-Newsletter." Then you'll be able to click on a link for the most recent E-newsletters.

News from Our Local Salvation Army

Our lunch program runs M-F (noon-12:45), and we are serving more than double what we did pre-COVID. We are at 120 meals/day. This is open to everyone. Drive-up 'to-go' meals only. Some people have been getting meals and delivering to friends. If anyone wants more than 3 meals, we would like them to call before 10:00 am to make sure we have enough food. Our office number is 226-2241.

Our Food Pantry is a need-based program, based on income. Please call ahead to know what information they will need to bring with them to register. Our Food Pantry is back to our normal levels, but we are registering many new families who are impacted due to unemployment. We are concerned about our food supply, since the TV-6 Can-a-thon is virtual only, and this is our largest single food drive. If anyone can donate, they can send it in to us (designated Can-a-thon) and we will report that to TV-6 as part of their numbers.

Christmas Toy shop will be held Dec 17-18 for families in need. (Need-based system by registration only) Families should register by Dec 4. Parents can come to the toy shop and select toys for their kids. This will be held at Westwood Mall in the old MC Sports location. We expect to serve over 1000 kids this year due to the need. If there is a COVID shutdown, we will bag toys for each family, and they will be handed out in a drive-up, no contact system. To support the toy shop, there is an on-line option at Walmart.com and going to "RegisterForGood". Toys purchased there will be shipped free to our address.

Adopt-a-family program is continuing. Families or businesses (or churches!) can adopt a family and shop directly for that family from a wish list. Families are chosen from our regular toy shop registrations.

We are running "Virtual Red Kettle" for those who are staying away from stores. They can scan a QR code, and it takes people directly to a donation page. Our QR code is below.

We really need volunteer and even paid bell ringers. To volunteer, go to RegisterToRing.com. Volunteers are eligible for gift cards to Jandron's Fine Jewelry for every two-hour shift they ring. We have two indoor locations this year, too. To become an employee from now until Christmas, stop in either of our offices for paperwork to fill out. Bring an ID and SS Card.

- - Captain Doug Winters



Welcome to the Wild - upwild.org

* Upcoming events for upwild.org:

Virtual Nature Walk in Park Cemetery - Dec. 4th at 7:00 pm on YouTube Live

Sip some tea and take a virtual nature walk through historic Park Cemetery located in Marquette, Michigan. An historic and protected area for over 100 years, the trees bear that witness as some of the largest left within the city limits. We will respectively walk through the narrow streets, saying hello to the ducks, and praying for our ancestors along the way. If you have a story to share about Park Cemetery to include in the video, email lanni@upwild.org. Video will premiere here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCne3sY-wp-Ob5dPa8bQf6XKw?>

Park Cemetery Stroll - Dec. 12th at 1:00 pm In-Person

A sanctuary of tranquility inside the city limits of Marquette, Park Cemetery is a favorite place to take a stroll among locals. Many know the ducks & ponds but less known are the hiking trails and community garden inside. We will explore it all on a 1 hour nature walk which includes meditative stops to offer a reflection, share a story, and offer prayers for our ancestors. We will be prepared for snow and dress accordingly. Safety guidelines will also be followed so we ask everyone to register and numbers will be limited-by emailing lanni@upwild.org for exact meeting location.

Evening Centering into 2021 - Dec. 23rd & Jan. 2nd, Time TBA on Zoom & FB Live

A time of stillness holding true to the Holiday Spirit. Our culture has created a time of busyness and chaos surrounding what was and still is, a very sacred time of year. We will center ourselves into Christmas and the New Year. Circle will gather on zoom so please EMAIL lanni@upwild.org for links.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Mike Tomasoski, Mark Aho, Ray Jarvis & family upon the passing of his brother, Ed Jarvis & his brother Ted Jarvis, Ron Hill, Lee McClelland, Ill residents & care workers at the Jacobetti VA facility, Betsy Cooper, inmates & staff at Marquette Branch Prison, Susan & Sommer, Dennis Riutta, Bob & Deb Vidlund, Bill Van Effen, Roger B, Linda Ruohoniemi, Barry, Jim Shirtz, Shannon, Cheryl, Ryan, Helen Steinhoff, Billi Jo, Pat Maki, Dan, Herb & Sandy Grenke, Kurt Seipel, Wayne Hanmer, Judy Donckers, Ann Marin, Karen Johnson, Jill Krah, Ben, Michael Orhanen, Kristina Asta, Jim, Alli & Johann Elsenbroek, Alison Cory, John, Sierra, Sandy, Charlene Avery, Liz Kro

You may call the church office if you would like a person listed in the prayers. Please obtain permission from the person to list his/her name. In order to keep the list up to date and manageable in size, we will remove names from time to time. We also appreciate updates as to how people listed are progressing. Thank you!

Holden Evening Prayer Link to View Bulletin

If you would like to view the Holden Evening Prayer bulletin on December 2, 9 & 16 during the service, please go to the following link:

bit.ly/holdeneveningprayer

Monthly Calendar Insert

We haven't been putting the monthly calendar in our newsletter since April due to the church being closed at all times to the public. Since July 8th, we have had one door open for people to come in for scheduled meetings/events/gatherings of 10 or less attendees.

At this time, with the COVID-19 case counts rising in our community, we are moving back to phase 1 of our re-opening plan (*see the letter from the pastors in the center of this newsletter*).

Thank You!

Dear Messiah Church Family, I can't tell you how nice it was to receive cards from my Circle Sisters and others of our Messiah church family. I do feel God's presence and his promise of eternal life.

Please convey my thanks to all of Messiah members. Love & God's Blessings to all, Mary Lou Luke

2020 Christmas Poinsettias - If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia for Christmas, please fill out the following information & submit it to the office by **Wednesday, December 16th**.

In Loving Memory of:

In Honor of:

From: _____

Phone # _____

Suggested cost is \$20.00

Messiah's Church Staff:**Pastoral Staff:**

Senior Pastor.....Andrew Plocher
Associate Pastor.....Molly Eversoll

Support Staff:

Parish Administrator.....Jennifer Dodge
Administrative Assistant.....Inga Banitt
Custodian.....Kevin McGrath
Parish Accountant.....Mike Hill
Financial Secretary.....Nancy Hoover

Music Staff:

Music Director.....Dave Dagenais
Organist/Pianist.....Kathy Strazzinski
Pianist.....Lynne Lancy
Bell Choir Director.....Judy Quirk

Messiah Lutheran Church
305 W. Magnetic Street
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