



### Welcome to Messiah

We are a community of grace where we live out Jesus' commandment to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We also seek 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 life. We may not always be perfect, but this is our intention--all are welcome!

## Second Sunday of Christmas

8:30 am - January 4, 2026

*Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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### PRELUDE & WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as comfortable, in body or in spirit. The presiding minister will read the sections in plain text. **You are invited to read the bold portions.***

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

#915 "When a Star Is Shining"



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,  
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,  
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,  
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"  
 guide us through the shad-ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
 Where an earth - ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,  
 show us in a man-ger our re - demp-tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.  
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.  
 bring us to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



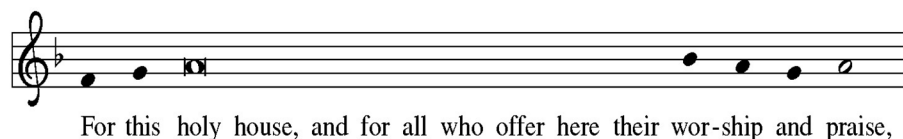
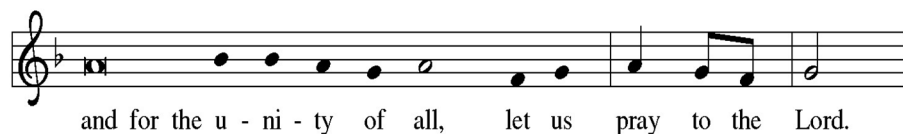
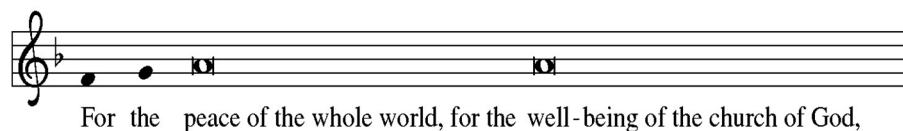
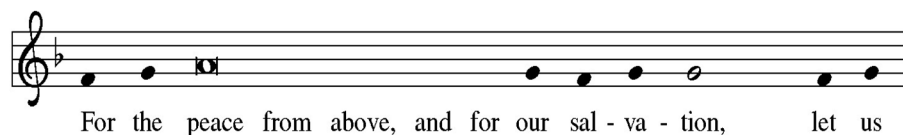
to a morn-ing where the prom - ise shines.

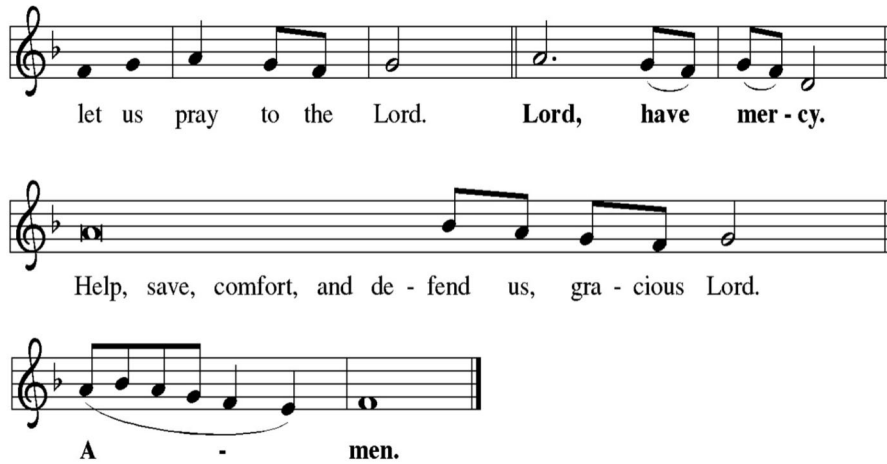
## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### KYRIE

p. 120 ELW "Kyrie"





### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Please  
be seat-  
ed.

<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.

- <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."  
<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.  
<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 147: 12-20

- <sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please  
stand as  
you are  
comfortable  
in  
body or  
spirit.



**GOSPEL**

John 1:10-18

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

Please be  
seated.

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY**

1093 "In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the  
2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,  
3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your  
4 God of Ha - gar, God of Sa - rah, God of no - mad



first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it  
firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.  
match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,  
A - bra - ham; God of Mir - iam, God of Mo - ses,

worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,  
 Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,  
 Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,  
 Fi - 'ry Pil - lar, great I AM: lead us home - ward,

in your mer - cy, you em - braced us  
 sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and  
 Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we  
 lead us home ward, to the love - feast

as your own,  
 breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 glimpse your face,  
 of the Lamb,

### APOSTLES' CREED

Please  
stand as  
you are  
comfort-  
able in  
body or  
spirit.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,



**the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please  
be seated.

Please  
stand  
as you  
are  
comfortable  
in body  
or spirit.

## SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Lo, How A rose E'er Blooming"*

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right our duty and our joy,  
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Emmanuel, God with us

**We want to sing like Mary sang,  
until all who are looking for you have found their way to the gift of Christ.  
Help us live like the shepherds  
—who weren't afraid to go and tell the good news.  
Help us take the words of the angels to heart  
—to not be afraid.  
Help us to be as trusting as Joseph  
—who chose to believe the impossible.**

But more than anything, give us the courage and conviction to share this story  
with a hurting world so desperate for hope.

So pour out your Spirit in this meal.  
Strengthen us from the inside out.  
Give us your grace and send us out into the world.  
Emmanuel, God with us  
Help us to proclaim: Your light has come into the world  
and the darkness shall not overcome it. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom  
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our  
daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who tres-  
pass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

Please be  
seated.



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "Lamb of God". The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on" are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the".

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## #296 "What Child Is This"



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## #294 "In the Bleak Midwinter"



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
 3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
 If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter, a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
 if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

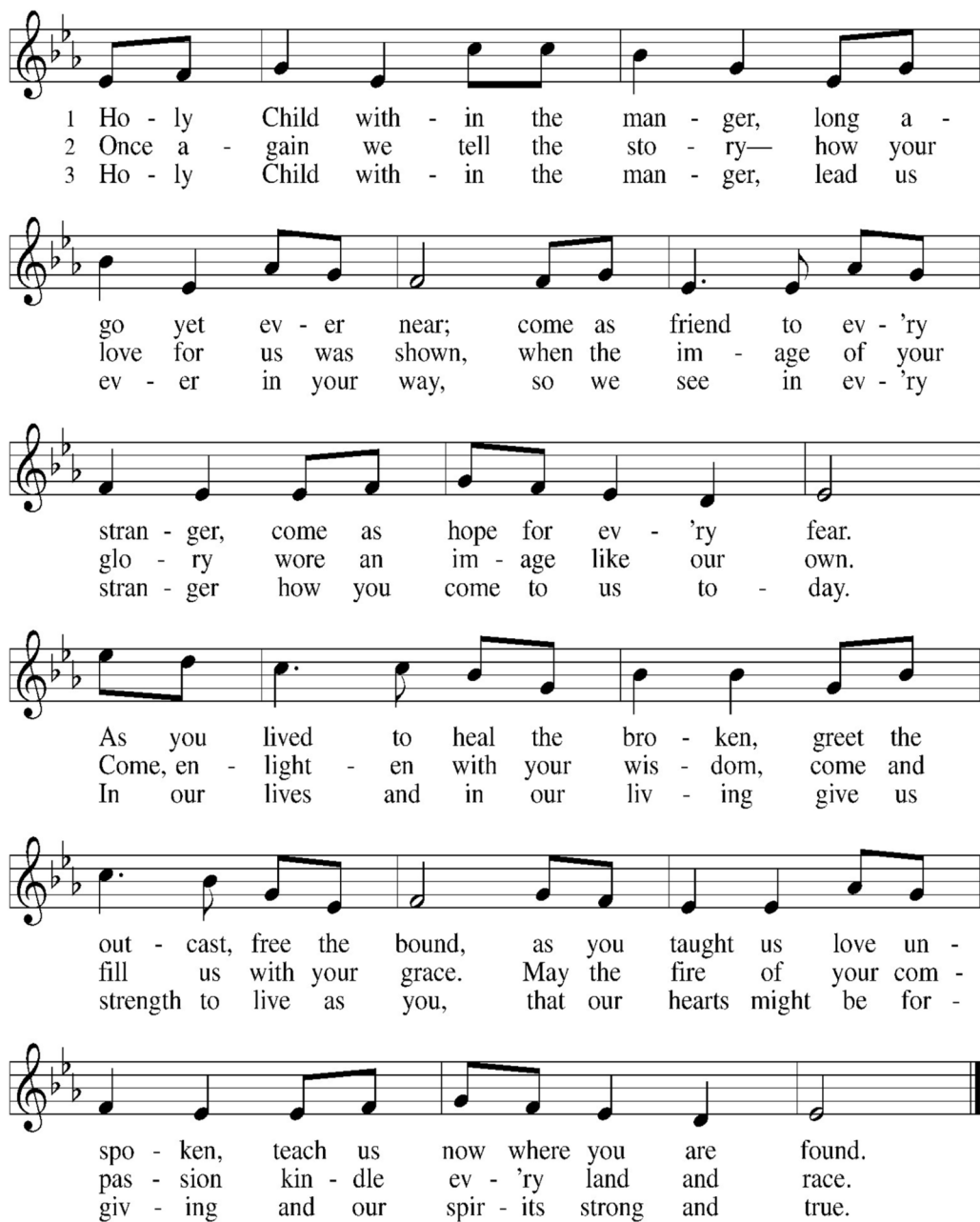
Please  
stand as  
you are  
comfortable  
in body or  
spirit.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER****BENEDICTION**

The Light of the Star, the light of God's love, shines before you as you leave this place. Go in peace, go in joy, go in love to meet God's people in the world and greet them with the good news of salvation. Amen

## SENDING HYMN

## #638 "Holy Child within the Manger"



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -  
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your  
 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry  
 love for us was shown, when the im - age of your  
 ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.  
 glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.  
 stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the  
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and  
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -  
 fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -  
 strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.  
 pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.  
 giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

15    **SENDING**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

## Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church



### Children belong in worship!

Worship kits and a nursery space is available. God rejoices in the joyful noise of children and so do we!



### God calls us to welcome everyone!

Messiah seeks to be a welcoming community and to share the love of God with our neighbors. If you are new, please introduce yourself to our pastors.



### Worship should be accessible!

Hearing devices (and T-Coil) and large print bulletins are available. We invite you to sit or stand as you are comfortable. All gender and family restroom facilities are available on the first level, please see signs in the Narthex.



### All are welcome at Jesus' table!

During communion grape juice and gluten-free options are available. Those not wishing to commune may come forward for a blessing. Those not able to come forward may receive communion in their pew, please notify the usher.



### God calls us to pray!

Private prayer requests may be made by writing them on the back of the Welcome Card. If you would like to be added to the prayer list or receive a pastoral care visit, please contact the church office.

## Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 W. Magnetic St., Marquette Michigan

906.225.1119 — [www.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org)

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Preacher:              | Pr. Molly Hunter           |
| Assisting Minister:    | Chris Harkness             |
| Reader:                | Al Edgar                   |
| Ushers:                | Sam Elder, Bruce Robertson |
| Communion Assistants:  | Beth Krznarich,            |
| Greeters:              | Al & Gail Edgar            |
| Organist:              | Kathy Strazzinski          |
| Senior Choir Director: | Sara Parks                 |
| Audio Technician:      | Dan Zini                   |
| Livestream Technician: | Traci Zini                 |
| Nursery:               |                            |
| Flower Delivery:       |                            |
| Refreshments:          |                            |

#### Acknowledgements:

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**venmo**