

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# MESSENGER

[WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG](http://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

[www.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org) E-mail: [office@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmqt.org)

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



January 31, 2021

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**Flowers:** To the Glory of God & In Loving Memory of...

\* our granddaughter Stephanie Lynn from Grant & Kathy

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

\* our mother Lolita Johnson on her February 2nd birthday from  
from Judy, Tina, Becky & Billie

Siblings in Christ,

Can you believe that we're at the end of the first month of 2021?! Thus far it hasn't been quite the year many of us anticipated: violent insurrection, a second impeachment, and a muted if hopeful inauguration, not to mention virus variants and a slower-than-anticipated vaccination rollout. All of this and more has contributed to a bit of a sense of disappointment thus far in the new year. As a friend of mine said, "if 2021 were a product I'd recently purchased, I'd be inclined to send it back after my "30-day free trial.""

The weight of the world has loomed large, especially as we have sought to continue to care for and love one another. More than any year in my memory, I feel a yearning for Lent. As Rev. Lisle Garrity writes, "In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward."

It is a message that we all need to hear. It is also the theme for our worship during Lent: Again & Again. Together we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. We choose each other again and again.

In that spirit, I invite you to participate in the Lenten Racial Equity Challenge that the Northern Great Lakes Synod is hosting, and that Pr. Molly and I developed. It is an opportunity to learn, to stretch, and to live into the sacred refrain, "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." I encourage you to read more about it in this newsletter or on the Northern Great Lakes synod website (nglsynod.org). The details can also be found on our Facebook page and website. Whether you are able to participate daily or just a few times, I encourage you to consider joining us in this challenge.

Also, I want to draw your attention to the Diversity Common Reading book that Northern Michigan University is undertaking: "Between the World and Me," by Ta-Nehisi Coates. The university has some wonderful events (online and open to the public) planned for the coming months. You can find that schedule and those details here: <https://www.nmu.edu/diversitycommittee/reading>

Pr. Molly and I are taking a break from our book studies during Lent with the hope that you will consider joining the Lenten Racial Equity Challenge and/or reading Ta-Nehisi Coates' book. We look forward to walking with you in those journeys and to the conversations they bring!

As we turn to February, and Lent, I pray that you will hear God's refrain; "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Together we move forward into the days, weeks, and months of 2021 knowing that God is before us, always offering us new ways forward.

In Christ,

*Pr. Andrew*

## 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 Sunday morning service.

If you have a computer & internet access you can find the worship bulletin on our website at [www.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org); at the top right of the 'home' page click on Worship, click on Sunday's Bulletin, click the bulletin with Sunday's date, either view there electronically or print at that point.

## Messiah Calendar

**Monday, February 1**

9:00 am Men's Bible Study (zoom)

**Friday, February 5**

*Pr. Andrew & Pr. Molly's day off*  
Nothing Scheduled

**Tuesday, February 2**

11:00 am Men's Cursillo (zoom)  
1:30 am Staff Meeting (zoom)

**Saturday, February 6**

Nothing Scheduled

**Wednesday, February 3**

Nothing Scheduled

**Sunday, February 7**

8:45 am Worship-online

**Thursday, February 4**

5:00 pm TaiChi (zoom)

## Grief Group

**Saturdays, February 6, 13, 20, & 27 at 10:00 am**

Join us on Saturday mornings in February for a safe place to discuss our grief, to find support, and to learn together. Grief is not limited to experiencing a death of a friend or loved one. Grief is experienced with any type of loss, or life transition. As we wade through these feelings we must also cope with the uncertain world outside. The COVID-19 pandemic has also created a new reality marked by grief and loss. You don't have to walk the journey alone. Gather with us online to share with others in order to understand our grief and to find support amidst these uncertain times.

Pr. Andrew will facilitate our conversation and we will meet online, on ZOOM. The link to join this meeting is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86154664175>

If you need assistance with Zoom or would like to meet with Pr. Andrew one-on-one, please contact the church office.

## Quote...

"Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?" *-Unknown*

## Giving Envelopes

Please stop by Messiah to pick up your 2021 giving envelopes at your earliest convenience. The building is open Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

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.

### On Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: February 1-3, 7-17, 21-24, 28  
Pr. Molly Eversoll: February 4-6, 18-20, 25-27

*Pr. Molly Eversoll will be on vacation February 7-16, 2021.*

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in the March Messenger is Monday, February 22, 2021.

### Messiah's Newsletter

January 31, 2021  
Volume 103, Issue 2

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

## Special Events for February, March & April

- Feb. 3** Online fundraiser auction for pipe organ, to run through Feb. 13th
- Feb. 6** Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom
- Feb. 8** Communion servings can be picked up or delivered. Please call the church office for the number of servings you would like.
- Feb. 10** 2020 Annual Report available for pickup at Messiah
- Feb. 13** Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom
- Feb. 17** Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)
- Feb. 18** Start of the Lenten 40-Day Racial Equity Challenge
- Feb. 20** Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom
- Feb. 24** Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio - **different station 103.3**)
- Feb. 27** Grief Group at 10:00 am - Zoom
- Mar. 3** Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)
- Mar. 10** Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)
- Mar. 17** Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)
- Mar. 24** Lent worship at 6:30 pm (on-line & radio 101.9)
- Mar. 28** Palm Sunday
- Apr. 1** Maundy Thursday
- Apr. 2** Good Friday
- Apr. 3** Easter Vigil
- Apr. 4** Easter Sunday
- Apr. 5** Church office closed

## 2021 Annual Meeting & Report

Due to the pandemic, our Council has decided to reschedule our annual meeting for a future date in June or July. While a remote (Zoom) meeting was discussed at length, Council believes that any congregational meeting should allow all members to participate. The 2020 Annual Report has been compiled and will be shared electronically (email and our website) by February 10th. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, please contact the church office.

Messiah's Council has approved a preliminary 2021 budget that will be included in the report. Formal approval of that budget and the election of Council & committee members will take place at the rescheduled meeting. Ordinarily, Council would approve the budget at the January meeting and the congregation would vote on it at the annual meeting (in late January/early February). This year, Council will approve the budget in January, but it will not be voted on by the congregation until the summer. There are no major changes to the budget anticipated and a narrative description of the budget will accompany it and the 2020 annual report. The Council/church will operate with the preliminary budget and Council and committee members will serve extended terms (they have voluntarily agreed to do so!) until the rescheduled meeting. If you have questions about these decisions, please don't hesitate to contact Pr. Andrew or Erik Bergh (Council President).

# Messiah's Birthdays

## February 2021

Monday 1	Kathy Grisham, Stephen Mattson
Tuesday 2	Bill Angeloff, Trista Beerman, Licoln Specker, Hanna Westra
Wednesday 3	Betty Brunton, Laurel Kniskern
Thursday 4	Edith Cryderman
Friday 5	No birthdays
Saturday 6	No birthdays
Sunday 7	No birthdays
Monday 8	Phyl Aurich
Tuesday 9	Claire Bennett, Everett Davis, Marion DeLarye, Rudy Forsberg, Sara Stevens
Wednesday 10	Julia Crimmins, Lowell Larson Jr
Thursday 11	Ken Bullock
Friday 12	No birthdays
Saturday 13	John Sarkela
Sunday 14	Jennifer Pikka, Ed Puska
Monday 15	No birthdays
Tuesday 16	Jackie Gilbert, Jim Jackson, Vickie Paupore
Wednesday 17	Diana Magnuson, Will Morrison, Pr. Andrew Plocher, Grace Wurster
Thursday 18	Betsy Cooper
Friday 19	Victoria Wiese
Saturday 20	Sandy Grenke
Sunday 21	No birthdays
Monday 22	Dave Dagenais, Lando Gummerus, Christine Thomas-Echelbarger
Tuesday 23	Alex Lucas, Joyce Peterson, Ethan Wiese
Wednesday 24	Peggy Dewitt, Lucille Swanson
Thursday 25	No birthdays

Friday 26 Simon Claybaker

Saturday 27 Sharon Farrell

Sunday 28 No birthdays

[Monday 29] Greg Bartlett

## Passages

### In Sympathy to:

\* Marilyn Andersen & Philip Andersen upon the passing of Marilyn's Aunt Catherine Reuschel, age 91 on January 11, 2021. Cathering & her husband Ben recently celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary.

\* Liz Beyne & family upon the passing of her sister, Alice in early January.

\* Linda Rossberg & family upon the passing of her father in January.

## Home Health Care Aide Needed

One of our members at Messiah is in need of a care aide. The aide can work up to 59 hours / month. This person needs help with cleaning in her apartment along with some other daily care needs. The care aide would be paid through Northern Home Care Services. Please contact the church office at 225-1119 for more details.

## Lenten 40-Day Racial Equity Challenge

This Lent, you are invited to participate in a synod-wide Racial Equity Challenge. You may remember our 21-day challenge from May and June, and now Pr. Molly and Pr. Andrew are working with the synod to broaden the participation, include indigenous resources, and deepen the conversation.

Participating in the Racial Equity Challenge is a personal commitment to devote time every day during Lent to engage in provided resources about the history and impact of racism, and the ways that bias, prejudice, privilege, and oppression show up in our everyday lives. Each day of the challenge will be a new opportunity to consider different voices and perspectives—a time to read, watch, listen, and learn. It is a time for self-examination and honesty. It is a time to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, to be remade as vessels for God's love and reconciliation.

We hope that you will consider joining others across our Synod in guided conversations. The Challenge will begin February 18th and run through the week preceding Holy Week. Each participant will access the Challenge material online and be encouraged, but not required, to join a small group that will meet weekly for conversation via ZOOM. Registration for small groups and information about the challenge can be found here: <https://nglsynod.org/racial-equity-challenge/>

## Stewardship

February seems to conjure up images of the heart so this month Messiah's Stewardship Team celebrates and focuses on the heart! God's heart and your heart!

The *loving heart* of God who gave us his only Son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have life eternal.

Messiah's *heart in ministry* that has found new ways to deliver the Word of God through radio, our website, and social media, ministering and sharing Word of God far and wide. Platforms Messiah hopes to continue far beyond the pandemic shutdowns. We thank you for your ongoing support of this ministry.

The *generous heart* of our congregation members who continue to give of their time, talents, treasures, and resources. We thank you for your pledged and non-pledged gifts received from walls far beyond Messiah. Should you wish to pledge, you can still do so online at (<https://bit.ly/Messiah2021>), or by calling the church office.

Your *hearts of compassion*, who on Giving Tuesday gave generously resulting in the Community Assistance Fund receiving \$21,000.

Your *hearts of kindness and concern* benefiting The Room at The Inn matching funds totaling over \$40,000. We continue to be blessed with abundance from your hearts.

This February Messiah will host an Online Silent Auction as we continue our organ rehabilitation & upgrading project. As you listen from your heart to the beautiful sound of our organ over the radio or through social media, may your hearts be filled with joy and subtle overtones with another opportunity for giving.

As you live, give and walk by faith, may your hearts overflow knowing that the grace and mercy we receive come from *God's generous, loving, kind, and compassionate heart*. ---Messiah's Stewardship Team

## Synod Assembly - May 10-15, 2021

Mark your calendars and join us for a week full of opportunities for engagement, discussion, worship, and information, all with the theme of Hope.

[Here is a tentative overview of what to expect:](#)

Mon, May 10 - Pre-recorded Opening Worship

Tues, May 11 - Workshops for the whole Synod

Wed, May 12 - Workshops for the whole Synod

Thur, May 13 - Workshops for the whole Synod/Installation service  
livestream

Fri, May 14 - Social gathering online

Sat, May 15 - Business meeting (required for voting members)

*Voting members will be required to complete orientation sessions online prior to Synod Assembly week. Stay tuned for more detailed information!*

## Lutheran World Relief-Baby Care Kit Collection

Last year through your help and generosity we were able to put together **46** baby care kits.

LWR had asked that whatever anyone had and if able, could they send them. In November, they were taken to Fortune Lake and from there shipped to LWR. The need is always there. We will start our 2021 collection in February.

We have depleted our inventory completely and will be collecting these items:

+ lightweight cotton T-shirts (no onesies) sizes 12-24 months

+ long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) sizes 12-24 months  
hand towels, dark colored

+ bath-size bars of Ivory soap equaling 8-9 oz, in original wrapping receiving blankets (could be crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn up to 52 inches square)

+ jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood or include a baby cap

+ cloth diapers, flat-fold preferred

+ pair of socks

+ diaper pins or large safety pins

Monetary donations for baby care kits are also welcomed and may be dropped off or mailed to the church office. Rachel Circle appreciates your contributions to this effort. We thank you in advance for your help. There is a collection bin by the office.  
-- Rachel Circle

## Hildegarde Johnson Music Scholarship

Applications are on the welcome table for anyone interested in applying for the 2021 Hildegarde Johnson Music Scholarship. The applications can be picked up at Messiah or they can be mailed to you, just call or email the church office. Once you have filled out the application, you can mail it back to Messiah or bring it to the church office. They will be collected through Sunday, February 28, 2021.

Hildegarde Johnson was a member of Messiah and was passionate about music. Members of the Worship & Music Team will evaluate the applications and inform recipients in March. Funds from this scholarship can be used for private music lessons, music camp, purchase of an instrument or music supplies, music books, or sheet music. Scholarship funds will be awarded to actively participating Messiah members who are in elementary, middle or high school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

## Messiah Council Highlights - January 2021

Our Messiah Church Council met virtually on January 21. Highlights of Council action and discussion were:

### 2020 Finances and 2021 Budget

The Council is deeply appreciative of the continued financial support of the congregation! We entered 2020 projecting a deficit & ended the year in strong financial shape with a surplus due to the generosity of our members, friends and assorted gifts. During the year, we have been able to fund over \$20,000 in new equipment that broadens our streaming capabilities and improves the audio and video quality of our services. We are reaching more people through our radio and live streams—estimated at 1000 per week and more. We also were able to contribute a major gift to Room At The Inn, supporting their recent renovation project.

Our 2021 Budget was approved by Council, and awaits congregational approval at our next Annual Meeting. We will be adjourning our Annual Meeting until all have the option to attend in summer or fall. Until then, the Council will be operating under the boundaries established in Messiah's Constitution.

### Re-Opening Plan

Council approved allowing small groups of up to 10 to meet, providing the State guidelines allow. Currently, that is NOT the case, but Council will hear an update at the February 18 Council meeting.

### Pastoral Goals

Council received the Pastoral staff's goals for 2021. The goal areas were Worship, Outreach, Christian Education and Personal. The Pastors will keep us updated with progress towards these goals as we move through the year. Council is pleased that we have such wonderful pastors, and thanks them for their creativity and resourcefulness in 2020. Despite the pandemic and its effects, ministry lives at Messiah and the work of the Lord continues! Praise God!  
Respectfully submitted—*Erik Bergh, Council President*

## Confirmation

Confirmation is moving along through this strange time!! We have adjusted to the new format well and we have had regular attendance; despite being completely virtual. It is our hope that when the time is right to move back to in person classes, it will be relatively easy to do so.

We look forward to confirming 3 students as soon as it is possible. We are having fun getting to know the new students as well.

Please keep your eyes peeled for new information as the spring progresses. Thank you for all of your support. --- *Jen Elsenbroek, Confirmation Leader*

## Thank You from Lutheran World Relief

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous gift to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund! Your donation ensures that LWR Quilts & Kits get into the hands of a person who needs it.

With your help, we have delivered Quilts & Kits to families in Mozambique whose communities were utterly ravaged by Cyclone Idai. For refugee families, your gift means so much. A School Kit can make the difference between getting an education or missing out. A Personal Care Kit helps families provide for basic hygiene needs, freeing up precious resources. Quilts help families through cold winter nights.

Please stay in touch! During this time of social distancing, we want to continue to bring you closer to the work you are doing around the world and we'd love to show you more examples of your gift in action. Go to [LWR.org](http://LWR.org) and sign up for ENews to receive the latest updates. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the LWR staff at 800-597-5972 or [lwr@lwr.org](mailto:lwr@lwr.org).

On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve together, please accept my heartfelt thanks once more for your gift & all that it will do.

Warm Regards, *Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.), President & CEO*

## GivePlus Text: 844-973-3658

Our GivePlus Text number is 844-973-3658. To register, type "Give + Text" the 1st time and you'll receive a message with a link. After registering your card, click on "process", then turn on your location and search for Messiah. This option uses only merchant services (debit/credit cards), in whole dollar amounts with a \$3 minimum. Enter "\$" and amount with one of the following keywords: general, property, organ or Assist (for the Community Assistance Fund). You'll receive a text verification and email receipt. Normal text messaging fees from your cell phone carrier may apply.

## Mitten Tree

Throughout the winter, we will continue to offer a basket of donated yarn outside the church office for anyone who would like to knit 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

## Medication Help Available

If you have questions &/or concerns regarding your medications, you can contact retired pharmacist, Barb Salmela. To get her contact information, please contact the church office. All inquiries are confidential. She can help find discounts for medication, ways to possibly obtain them for free, or suggest less expensive alternatives. Also, if you need assistance signing up for Medicare, please call Barb for an appointment. She would be happy to help you through this process.

## A Letter from Bishop Katherine Finegan

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

There is a scene from the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption* where the protagonist, Andy, is convicted of a crime he did not commit. He spends some 30 years in a dreadful prison until finally he escapes to begin a new life in a little oceanside village in Mexico. He sends a letter to his inmate friend, Red, and invites him to join him after Red is paroled from his own lifetime sentence for a regrettable crime he committed in his youth.

As we watch Red ride a bus towards Mexico, we hear his voice say, "I find I am so excited I can hardly keep a thought in my head. I hope I can make it across the border. I hope to see my friend and shake his hand. I hope the Pacific is as blue as it has been in my dreams. I hope."

Hope is a powerful force. It pulls us forward through the present as we reach for a different future. It was hope that made Andy's and Red's prison time more bearable. And it is hope for so much that pulls us forward from our present circumstances toward a future that promises:

- an end to the pandemic.
- gathering around tables with coffee-filled cups and bakery in hand.
- laughter and conversation once again filling fellowship halls, restaurants, and living rooms.
- voices raised in songs of praise, in harmony, with great gusto.
- ministry without masks.

I can hardly wait!

I Corinthians 13:13 proclaims, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

The greatest of these IS love. But this year, in the year of our Lord 2021, our theme will focus on HOPE. Make no mistake, we need love and faith too. But right now, we really need HOPE.

As I write this, the inauguration looms large. Plans for armed and potentially violent demonstrations outside each state's capitol building are being reported, and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff has issued a public reminder to all military branches of their oath to defend the Constitution. It is more than a little unsettling that they felt such a reminder was necessary.

By the time you read this, whatever happens next week and before the end of January will be in the past. We all will have watched the news, heard the reports, and prayed over what right now has not happened yet.

And still, whatever is going to happen, does not change what we have always proclaimed to be true, that our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ. What that means for our present circumstances has taken on more urgency. The

more we feel the chaos and uncertainty of our present, the more we reach for that which is true and solid and constant.

I hope we find a way towards healing, in our congregations and in our nation. I hope as people of faith we have a witness that is authentic to the gospel message of Jesus. I hope our congregations and pastoral leaders can hold on a little longer. I hope. I hope.

"O God our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come  
Our shelter from the stormy blast  
And our eternal home."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

Yours in Christ, *Bishop Katherine Finegan*

## 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.

Our 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](http://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmq)

## Lenten Worship Opportunities

As Pastor Andrew mentioned, our theme for Lent is "Again and Again." I love what the authors write in their description, "And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: 'I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.' Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward." Goodness knows that we need a new way forward this year and we are ever in need of God's love and healing grace. So, we invite you to worship with us throughout Lent.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, February 17th 6:30 pm on the radio at 101.9 FM and Facebook live, Vimeo, and YouTube - Ash Wednesday will be a traditional service with the imposition of ashes. We have packets of ash that can be mailed to you or picked up in the church office for use during the worship service. Please call us at 906.225.1119 or email us at [office@messiahlutheranmq.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmq.org) if you would like us to mail you ashes.

Mountain Vespers Worship: every Wednesday in Lent, Feb. 24 – Mar. 24 at 6:30 pm on the radio at 101.9 FM and Facebook live, Vimeo, and YouTube  
**\*\*NOTE ON 02/24 IT WILL BE ON THE RADIO AT 103.3 – Mountain Vespers is a short, sung evening prayer service.**

Please look to next month's Messenger for more information about Holy Week services, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday!

## Pipe Organ Fundraiser Online Auction-'Live' Feb. 3

Our online auction to help in the cost of refurbishing Messiah's pipe organ will go "live" on February 3rd & continue through February 13th. We are so appreciative of everyone who donated items for this auction.

We realize that not everyone has computer access. If you would like to place a bid on an item, please call the church office at 225-1119 or call Inga at 362-1545. We will be happy to help you. A list of items for auction is below & more items will likely be added to the website before the auction begins.

For those of you who have computer access, here is how you can access the website and place your bid:

- 1.) Type the following into your browser: [www.auctria.com/auction/MessiahPipeOrgan](http://www.auctria.com/auction/MessiahPipeOrgan)
- 2.) Click on register in the menu at the top
- 3.) Fill out the registration form. You will receive a confirmation email once you have successfully registered.
- 4.) Click on auction in the menu at the top. You will be able to view a catalog of items and place your bids.

If you are the winner of an item, please drop off your check or pay by credit card in the office. If you are mailing a check, please let us know in advance. All of our items except for the desserts will be available for pick up in the office.

If you are the winner of a dessert, please contact the baker to arrange a date and method of delivery. *Auction items include:*

- A variety of artwork including items made from the old organ console (you can check out the organ console items at Messiah starting February 3)
- Fly fishing trip
- Cross country ski lessons
- Dinner at camp
- Canning raspberry jam
- Jewelry
- A variety of desserts
- Massage
- ...and more!

## 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.

\*February - toilet paper (packages of 4 or 6 rolls)

\*March - shampoo (male/female) & conditioner (female)

## Lectionary Readings - February 2021

### February 7 -- 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Reading.....Isaiah 40:21-31

Gospel.....Mark 1:29-39

### February 14 -- Transfiguration of Our Lord

Reading.....2 Kings 2:1-12

Gospel.....Mark 9:2-9

### February 21 -- First Sunday in Lent

Reading.....Genesis 9:8-17

Gospel.....Mark 1:9-15

### February 28 -- Second Sunday in Lent

Reading.....Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Gospel.....Mark 8:31-38

## Devotions Link

[www.prayfaithfully.org](http://www.prayfaithfully.org) is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.

## UP Wild Church

UP Wild Church is a cross-denominational gathering to create offerings that foster deeper connections to Creator and to each other- We are a spiritual home for the seekers of beauty, wonder, & awe; where the 'church goes' supplement their journey and the 'misfits' finally feel connected within the congregation of paper birch trees & squawking geese via the Mystery which creates all things... Welcome!

Friday, February 5th at 7:00 pm YouTube Premiere

Where does the narrow path lead? "The trees, the birds, the deer; they have no choice but to follow The Way." We will take a virtual walk in the wilderness following the animal tracks. While we meditate on why it's important to (re)discover God in the wild, we will see where the animals live in the deep forest of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Premiere on our Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCne3sYwp-Ob5dPa8bQf6XKw>



## The Year of Discovery, Part One: The Americas Before Columbus

You have already heard that 2020-21 has been designated a “Year of Discoverer” for our Northern Great Lakes Synod. The goal is to learn more about our native American neighbors, the original inhabitants of the American continents, and to recognize the impact of the European “Doctrine of Discoverer” on their history, and on the history of the United States of America.

I’ve found that a great starting point for this effort is a book by Charles Mann titled 1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus, published in 2012 by Alfred A. Knopf. Mann’s goal is to describe the new understanding of civilization in the Americas before the coming of the Europeans, and the ways in which those civilizations were destroyed by disease, warfare, and the introduction of livestock from the old world. His book unravels the myth of a continent “empty of mankind and its works” that has prevailed in American history for 500 years. He calls this myth “Holmberg’s Mistake,” named for Allan R. Holmberg, who promoted the idea that primitive stone-age natives were sprinkled across the Americas for several millennia, waiting for Europeans to arrive and bring them culture and civilization. It is a myth that stretches back to the early days of the American republic, and was propagated by a series of American historians. This historical distortion also goes back to the Doctrine of Discovery, which began with a papal bull issued in 1493.

“In 1493, after Christopher Columbus’ fateful voyage, Pope Alexander VI issued the bull *Inter Caetera* which granted Ferdinand and Isabella “full and free power, authority, and jurisdiction of every kind,” over almost all of the Americas, save for a portion of modern-day Brazil and a few island outposts.”

This pronouncement from the papacy became the basis for international law, and for the definition of legal sovereignty in North & South America, Australia, and New Zealand. In U.S. history, it was used as the basis for what is called the Marshall Trilogy, three Supreme Court rulings that define the relationship of the Native American nations to the United States and individual Americans.

Here are some of the interesting take-aways from Charles Mann’s **1491**:

1. The Americas were thickly populated before Columbus: in 1491, somewhere between 90 & 110 million people lived on the two American continents. This is more than the total population of Europe at that point in history. Cities in the Americas, including Aztecs, Incas and the city of Cahokia in present day Illinois, were larger than London.
2. The American Indians engaged in a sophisticated agricultural society, which meant most of them lived in settled communities. Crops included squash, beans, peppers, tobacco, and the amazing crop maize (no one knows how it was domesticated from the wild teosinte) and in South America, potatoes and manioc. Maize is really the key to understanding the native American civilizations.

3. The Americas lacked large domesticated animals like the horse and oxen, and Indians never developed the wheel for use as a tool in agriculture or transportation (wheels were only used as children’s toys). Large European animals put the native Americans at an immediate disadvantage, and the rapid expansion of imported pigs (which became wild boars) disrupted much of the village based agriculture systems.

4. Finally, there is evidence that indigenous Americans have been in the New World for a much longer time than had been previously thought, perhaps since 30,000 B.C. That isolation from Europe and Asia meant that diseases brought by the first Europeans had a devastating effect, wiping out 80-90% of the inhabitants of North America by the year 1600. Smallpox was the worst of the diseases, but measles, influenza, plague, typhoid, and diphtheria all wreaked their havoc. When the English began to settle North America, they found a continent of empty settlements, regrown forests, and a population less than 1/10 of what it had been 100 years earlier.

5. As a result, those early English immigrants to New England and the rest of the eastern seaboard would say that it seemed like “God had miraculously cleared the continent” for their settlement. And the Doctrine of Discovery gave them the legal & theological justification for taking the land, and displacing the small remaining population. Many of them were converted by missionaries to Christianity, those who refused were driven out or killed. The pope’s decision settling a dispute between Spain & Portugal became the legal foundation for British and then United States relations with the native peoples of North America.

*Written by Pastor Steve Gauger of Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid River, MI*

## 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.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.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@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:inga@messiahlutheranmqt.org). And if you would rather not subscribe, you can access the ENews through Messiah’s website by clicking on “News” at the top of the homepage, then click on “E-Newsletter.” Then you’ll be able to click on a link for the most recent E-newsletters.

## Queen City Preachers Podcast

Have you been listening to Pastor Andrew and Pastor Molly’s weekly podcast? Queen City Preachers is their weekly Bible study and it can be found on Messiah's website [www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/pages/queen-city-preachers-podcast](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/pages/queen-city-preachers-podcast) or on Google Play or the Apple podcast app.

## In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Jan Brown; Johnnie; Rev. Leslie Niemi; Linda Rossberg; Josh; Samantha; Ray Hasenhauer; Jordan Negro; Gina; Scotti Oja & her family; John & Rose Collins; Loretta; Jess Laxo & her grandma Betty; Erin Andrews; Candace; Tina & her roommate; Ted Koehler; Carol; Matthew Williamson; Ron Hill; ill residents/patients & care workers at the Jacobetti VA facility & other nursing homes in our area; inmates & staff at Marquette Branch Prison; Dennis Riutta; Bob & Deb Vidlund; Bill Van Effen; Roger B; Linda Ruohoniemi; Jim Shirtz; Cheryl; Ryan; Helen Steinhoff; Billi Jo; Pat Maki; Herb & Sandy Grenke; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Ann Marin; Karen Johnson; Jill Krah; 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!*

## Lifelong Faith Formation Classes through the Synod

In these challenging and uncertain times, our Synod is offering online classes this winter. Online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod—people who share a love of learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith. Classes are FREE, but may require the purchase of textbooks or other materials. Students will receive Zoom links from their instructor. For more information or to ask questions, please contact Deacon-Elect Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@ngl-synod.org](mailto:lori.ward@ngl-synod.org). To learn more about the classes please visit the Northern Great Lakes Synod Website [nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation/](http://nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation/)

Pastor Molly will be taking the class, Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Other classes being offered during the winter include:

- Introduction to Biblical Greek II with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Salem & Zion, Ironwood
- Reflections on Bonhoeffer's Life Together, While We are Apart with Pastor Lisa Ubbelohde of Bethlehem, Florence
- The Doctrine of Discovery: From Myth to Reality with Pastor Bucky Beach, Good Shepherd, Houghton and others
- Bias in Our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America with Pastor Christina Forsythe of Porterfield, Porterfield & Beaver American, Pound
- The Gospel of John with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

## Leaving a Legacy Workshop

If you are considering an estate plan, reviewing/ updating a plan, or would simply like to know more about thoughtful estate planning that will consider your heirs and your church, this event is important for you!

Each session will focus on thoughtful estate planning and giving. Cindy Halverson, our Regional Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation, will lead the presentation and discuss how each of us can make informed decisions that will bless the work of Christ into the future. You will learn:

- The role of a will in planning your estate
- Tax-wise giving tips
- How to get the best assets to the right beneficiaries
- Why 70% of estate plans fail to pay out the way the donor intended
- How to express your values through your estate planning
- Resources to accomplish your goals

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Endowment Ministry is made possible by many generous gifts, both from estates as in a planned gift and from single gift donations. Annual disbursements from the Equipping the Saints Fund, the Clergy Debt Relief Fund, and our Designated Gifts Fund continue to support ministry that includes support for clergy, workshops, and events, Congregational Vitality, Lifelong Faith Formation and more.

Via Zoom: Thursday, February 11th, 2021 – 7:00-8:30 pm ET

*and*

Saturday, February 13th, 2021 – 10:00-11:30 am ET

To register and obtain the Zoom link please visit the Upcoming Events section of the NGLS synod's website: [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

## Zoom Qi Gong for Health & Wellness

This class is held every Tuesday from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Contact: Diana Magnuson 906-362-9386/ [magnusondiana@gmail.com](mailto:magnusondiana@gmail.com)

Each class member applies their own range of motion to the qigong exercises. We use body structure for balance, stress and pain relief in daily life; walking, turning, lifting, reaching & sitting. The gentle movements can also be used with prayer disciplines, using breathing as an essential component.

Members turn off video and mute while I lead. It's a welcome anonymity -no competition, rest as you wish. In the beginning and at the end, we review together.

There is no fee or charge for these classes but we invite you to support Messiah's ministry to local food programs either by dropping off non-perishable pantry items or by sending a check written out to Messiah Lutheran Church specifying local hunger in the memo line.

### **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 Dugemais  
Organist/Pianist.....Kathy Strazzinski  
Pianist.....Lynne Lancy  
Bell Choir Director.....Judy Quirk

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