

# Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Answering God's call to love

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**Messiah ENewsletter for April 7, 2021**

## Messiah Events & News

On the web...

go to [messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://messiahlutheranmqt.org) for more information about our congregation and “like” us on Facebook to receive updates and information there.

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*Messiah Lutheran Church seeks to be a welcoming community for all people. This includes people of every race, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic background, economic grouping, religious affiliation, and political persuasion.*

*We do this simply because God created all people in God's own image and Christ Jesus came so all people might have abundant and eternal life.*

*We may not always be as welcoming as we should be, but this is our intention—all are welcome!*



### **Easter Flower Donations**

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased Easter flowers this year in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The flowers were a beautiful addition to our 8:45 AM Easter service.

All glory, laud & honor to our risen Lord, Jesus, the Christ, our Savior & Redeemer

**In Loving Memory of:**

Timothy Streeter from Penny Streeter & family

Our dad Harold Schlais from Randy, Penny & Sherry

Carol Jarvis from her family

Our parents Lolita & Leonard Johnson, and our brothers Douglas and Frederick Johnson from Judy, Tina, Becky & Billie

Stephanie Lynn from Grant & Kathy Soltwisch

Maria Bierer from Grant & Kathy Soltwisch

Stan Hanson from Grant & Kathy Soltwisch

Nancy, Terry, and Nancy from Don Hillegas

My parents from Larry Pagel

Our son Rod and granddaughter Beth Ann Rajala from Harry, Arlene, and family

Our parents Louis and Frances Godec and Arthur and Bernice Marjonen from Jerry and Kathy Godec

Barbara Niemi from Kathy Godec and Becky Marjonen

Howard and Emily Wilson from Sally Wilson

**In Honor of:**

Judy Quirk from Grant and Kathy Soltwisch

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**Freezer Meals for Jon and Laurel Kniskern**

Jon and Laurel Kniskern would greatly appreciate receiving freezer meals during this time as they travel back and forth to Rochester for Jon's chemo treatments. Chilis, soups, casseroles, pasta dishes or any favorite dish that freezes well are welcome. Please bring your meal to Messiah during our office hours (8:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Thursday) and we will keep them here for the family to pick up. If you need to arrange a different time to drop off your meal, please contact Inga at 362-1545 or call the church office at 225-1119. Thank you!

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**Pastors' Book Study: Braiding Sweetgrass**

Our pastors' book study returns with Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2013, 390 pages). Pick up the book in the church office (\$17) and then join us on Thursday, May 6th, 7 pm, for a discussion on Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83504951043>). *(This date is a correction from the announcement in the April Messenger.)*

The subtitle of the book is "Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants." As a botanist and professor of Environmental Biology, Kimmerer has been trained to

ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. She brings these lenses of knowledge together to show that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. The book is a New York Times best seller, and people are finding this work to be grounding, calming, and quietly revolutionary. We hope you'll join us for the conversation!

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### **HOPE Accomplishes the Impossible**

HOPE is the theme for our Synod Assembly this year and is our theme for the World Hunger offering we HOPE to receive from the congregations in our synod. This is an annual fund drive to support ELCA World Hunger - the mission outreach arm of our church, and it represents a major effort on the part of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Messiah has traditionally supported ELCA World Hunger with a focus during Lent. This year we are HOPING that Hunger needs are part of your Lenten journey again. Giving up something? Honoring someone with a contribution? A gift for Mom on Mother's Day? Sharing COVID Relief Funds? The options are endless. Please mark your gift for ELCA World Hunger and send to Messiah by May 9th to be included in this year's offering at our "virtual synod assembly".

*--Mary Lou Blomquist*

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### **Thank You, Knitters**

The Mitten Tree yarn and collection box will be going into storage until next fall. Thank you to everyone who made warm winter wear. It was a great success and much appreciated.

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### **Confirmation**

While in many ways this has been the longest year ever, looking back it seems like just yesterday when we made the heart-wrenching decision to hold confirmation classes virtually. There is no question that holding class in person would have been preferable, but I am grateful that we were able to utilize technology to mitigate the spread. We have had some wonderful classes online as well, with terrific attendance and participation. April's classes will be held on April 11 and April 18. Pastor Molly will be joining our class as we discuss what makes Christianity unique and special. I am thrilled to announce that our last class in May will be held at Presque Isle! After a picnic, we can hike around the island and bask in God's magnificent creation!

*--Jen Elsenbroek*

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## **Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly—May 10-15, 2021**

Synod Assembly in 2021 will be online! Mark your calendars and join us for a week full of opportunities for engagement, discussion, worship, and information, all with the theme of Hope. For more information about assembly, please check the NLGS website: <https://nglsynod.org/assembly/>

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

Thurs, 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!

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## **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

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## **Join Us for U.P. Wild's Earth Day Event Saturday, April 24 3PM at Presque Isle Park**

All are welcome!

- + Bring a plant (either a bulb or a full grown) and/or come ready to adopt a plant! By caring for one seed of the Earth we begin the process of caring for our common home.
- + Bring a poem, song lyric, favorite verse or short reflection to share in circle- we ask everyone to consider participating open mic style.
- + Bring your own mug as we will have hot tea available
- + Celebrate and meet new people
- + Invite friends and bring family
- + Donations are received in gratitude Self exploration and hiking around the Island is encouraged afterwards. We will meet at the Gazebo near the breakwall. If you do plan to attend, kindly send an email to [lanni@upwild.org](mailto:lanni@upwild.org) for planning purposes.

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## **Pastor Molly's Desk--Free To A Good Home!**

If you are in need of a desk, please contact the church office. Pastor Molly's desk is a sturdy 32"x50" desk with drawers. The only requirement is that you make arrangements for its removal.

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## **Messiah Birthdays—April 7-21**

Wednesday 7 Connor Carr, Denise Eady, Theo Geschwindt, Helen Korpi, Les Rolig, Debby St. Onge

Thursday 8 Janna Benedict, Bob Marlor, Susan Shaver

Friday 9 Andrew Banitt, Nancy Okony, Logan Ostermeyer

Saturday 10 Dorothy Janda, Jennifer LaTourneau, Doug Morton

Sunday 11 Alexandria Braund, Sydney Braund, Audrey Genschaw, Jack Johnstone

Monday 12 Michael Busick, Kim Salmela

Tuesday 13 Trevor Bartlett, Isabelle Beaudoin, Karla Hardy, Bode Skaw

Wednesday 14 Roger Contois, Gail Edgar, Don Hillegas, Dave Lundquist, James Mattson

Thursday 15 Liz Beyne, Linnea Mensching, Brett Peterson, Cheryl Shirtz

Friday 16 Julie Aho, Hannah Bleckiner

Saturday 17 Luke Beerman

Sunday 18 Greg Carrier, Jakob Peterson

Monday 19 Mike Hill, Ray Hirvonen, Nancy Lyons, Morgan Messana

Tuesday 20 Gina Fortin, Mark Paulsen, Jacob Paupore, Grant Rydholm, Deb Vanlerberghe,  
Veronica Wiese  
Wednesday 21 Sonia Geschwindt, Maria Rodriguez

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### **Thank You Messiah**

Thank you for your support and prayers during this difficult time. We appreciate the kindness of all members of the quilters and church members. Thank you for your fervent prayers for mom. We miss her dearly.  
*--The family of Dorothy Weigel*

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### **Appreciation for Messiah's Community Assistance Program**

*This is an email from a mom who needed help with her & her husband's overdue power bill. Their power had been off for three days and they had their kids stay at a family member's house or a friend's house while the power was off...their heat is run by electricity too. Rebecca wanted you to know that she is so appreciative to all of YOU who have contributed to Messiah's community assistance fund!*

"Power is on, kids are home, and dinner is cooking! I will sleep much better tonight:) We are going to have a good dinner and call it movie night with my kiddos... and that to me is priceless :) I cannot thank you enough, along with Michigan Masonic Pathways, and St. Vincent. It is so appreciated and does not go unnoticed and will be remembered when we are back on our feet. I will be home plucking away at things tomorrow so feel free to contact me for anything either by phone or email! Have a great night :) Rebecca"

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### **Stewardship Story**

Genesis 1:26-28 reveals that God created man, male and female, in his own image - "... and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth". The Hebrew word for dominion means "to take responsibility for", in other words, to care for and protect. In Genesis 2 man is put into the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. The Hebrew word for "keep" means to preserve for future generations. The creation story gives us the responsibility to take care of, protect and preserve the Earth and all living things, plant and animal. April 22, 2021 is the 51st Earth Day. The first Earth Day was in 1970, largely due to the efforts of Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson. It was effective in raising awareness of environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. It followed Rachel Carson's 1962 book Silent Spring and the 1969 fire on the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. It ushered in a decade of important environmental legislation passed with bipartisan support. This

included the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The Environmental Protection Agency was established in December, 1970. Fifty-one years later the message of Earth Day is more important than ever. We are called to be good stewards of our planet and to preserve it for future generations. A steward is not an owner but a manager with the responsibility to manage wisely. In the words of John James Audubon, "A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children". We have been gifted with beautiful surroundings here in the U.P. The stewardship team encourages our Messiah community to celebrate our environment and support the Earth Day movement.

*--Messiah Stewardship Team*

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### **Liz Beyne Honored by NGLS World Hunger Team**

Messiah's Liz Beyne will be the recipient of the "Bread Basket Award" given each year at the Synod Asssembly to someone who has exemplified service in the area of hunger. Liz has faithfully gone to the Warming Center very early in the morning for many years to prepare & serve breakfast to guests of Room At The Inn. She also dishes out doses of caring, compassion and welcome to those she serves. The Synod Assembly will be virtual this year, May 10-15, and members of the congregation are encouraged to join in for all sessions. Watch for the schedule in the Synod Newsletter. Congratulations Liz!

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### **Update from the Building and Grounds Team**

Covid 19 vaccinations are now going strong in the community and we are looking toward the day when Messiah can finally re-open. In anticipation of gathering for services, meetings and social events, we would like the church to look fresh - rather than as if we turned off the lights, locked the doors, and walked away for over a year - which, of course, is exactly what we did. It's been cleaned and maintained over these months, but there are some issues.

The B&G team met virtually in early March to discuss areas of the church in need of attention. A small cadre toured the building, discussing and taking notes along the way. They have made some recommendations for presenting to the Council for consideration, and presumably we'll have enough time to take care of these areas before "the big day."

*--Cindy Kotila*

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## 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 and internet access.

The 8:45 am worship will always be broadcast on the radio at Sunny 101.9 FM and streamed at the following sites: Vimeo - <https://vimeo.com/messiahlutheranmqt>

and Facebook - [www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt](http://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)

A link to the bulletin will be sent each Wednesday in the same email where we send a link to Messiah's E-Newsletter. The bulletin can also be found on Messiah's website

[www.messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org) Click on worship at the top of the page and then on Sunday's bulletin.

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## Donations for The New Free Store

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.

\*April - laundry detergent, dish soap, bar soap

\*May - diapers (size 1-5), baby wet wipes

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## A Lenten and Easter Reflection from the Holy Land

*a post from the ELCA Global Mission Facebook page, March 31, 2021*

*By Meghan and Gabi Aelabouni, area desk director for the Middle East and North Africa*

One spring afternoon, in the open courtyard inside the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem's Old City, we met with the Rev. Carrie Ballenger, fellow ELCA missionary, and the Rev. Ibrahim Azar, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), to record the bishop's short video greeting for upcoming ELCA synod assemblies. As the group prepared to record, the silence of the courtyard was suddenly broken. The Hebrew words of a Jewish song filled the air, likely coming from the roof of a settlement next to Redeemer. As if in response, the Arabic call to prayer arose from a nearby mosque, and a quick glance at the clock revealed that the noon bells of Redeemer would soon follow. In the land called "holy" by the three Abrahamic traditions, expressions of faith are not only found in the sights of ancient buildings and artwork. Faith is in the air itself, in the overlapping



— and sometimes competing — sounds of human prayer and praise. The COVID-19 pandemic in Israel/Palestine has been unnerving in part because of the silence it has brought: the silence of empty buildings and streets and closed shops and cafes; the absence of the cacophony of prayer and conversation, in a myriad of languages, that typically bubbles up from the visitors who come from all over the world to visit the Holy Land.

The tourism industry provides a livelihood to many Palestinian Christians, both in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, who wait anxiously and wonder when visitors may return — and how to feed their families in the meantime. In the past year, the echoing quiet of lockdowns and quarantines has underscored the fact that the vitality of the Holy Land is ultimately found not in its ancient stones, but in its people.

Part of the ELCA's ministry of accompaniment in Israel/Palestine is to help amplify the voices of those people: particularly Palestinian Christians, who as the "minority of the minority" among Jewish Israelis and Muslim Palestinians are less frequently heard in global conversations about Israel/Palestine, and whose voices are too often dampened or silenced by occupation. Like the church bells, their stories say to the world: We are still here. Do not forget us.

This Lent, the world has found itself on an uncertain journey — as uncertain as that of the first followers of Jesus, who accompanied Jesus on his path to the cross and to death, wondering all the time what it all meant and how the story would end. Like those first disciples, Palestinian Christians today recall the promises of God: that even from the silence of death and the grave, a song of resurrection will come — for them, and for all people.

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## **ELCA Advocacy Alert--Immigration**

Ask your Senators/Representatives to modernize and humanize our nation's immigration system by creating an earned pathway to citizenship. "I am hopeful that this administration will work toward a more comprehensive immigration reform with dignity for all, including Dreamers. It will not be an easy task, and we will probably encounter many setbacks, but we have to continue to luchar (fight)," said Alicia Dominguez, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient from Delaware, of the new opportunities before Congress to enact more just immigration laws and realize a path to citizenship.

Immigrants are vital members of our communities, and yet it's been more than 30 years since Congress passed legislation to reform our country's immigration system and adjust the status of undocumented individuals. Establishing a clean roadmap to earn citizenship would strengthen our nation for years to come and fulfill a moral responsibility to protect family unity and community wholeness. Congress is at a pivotal moment to address the situation of millions marginalized by our nation's immigration laws. Our communities deserve permanent solutions that provide a roadmap to citizenship for all immigrants who call the U.S. their home.

There are around 11 million individuals without legal status in the U.S., the majority of whom

have lived in this country for over a decade. In the absence of a viable path to citizenship, many have been forced to a life in the shadows where they are vulnerable to economic exploitation and diminished opportunities to thrive. Some individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) have fared marginally better by unlocking opportunities to work and study lawfully, however their fate is tied up in courts (USA v. Texas, and Ramos v. Nielsen). The need to chart a new course through legislation has never been more apparent.

Congressional legislative action is needed to revamp our immigration laws and provide a pathway to citizenship for all 11 million undocumented people without passing down any harmful repercussions on immigrant communities. With President Biden calling on Congress to enact a sweeping immigration reform, and with multiple proposals under consideration, Congress has an unmistakable opportunity to pass lasting legislative solutions this year. Immigrants worship, work, and raise families in our communities and ELCA congregations, mutually enriching one another's lives and the social fabric of this nation in innumerable ways. Our immigration laws should honor the God-given dignity of every person, protect family unity, and promote the flourishing of our communities.

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### **Prayer Requests**

While we are apart from one another, it is still important that we hold one another in prayer. We have posted a prayer request form on our Messiah Family and Friends Facebook page, and those who are not on Facebook or do not have computer access can call the church office with their prayer requests.

We value being a community of prayer for one another during this difficult time and always.

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### **In the Hospital**

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pastor Andrew Plocher and Pastor Molly Eversoll want to call you while you are there during this time of COVID-19. If you can't notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

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### **In Our Prayers**

Nancy Hughes, Carl Hammerstrom, Carol, Chris, Phyllis, Jon, for Sherry Johnson and the family & friends of Dennis Riutta upon his passing; Larry; Roberta; Lee; Wil; Marion Wrate; Tobe Anderson; Jamie Baril; Jan Brown; Johnnie; Linda Rossberg; Ray Hasenhauer; 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; Bill Van Effen; Linda Ruohoniemi; Jim Shirtz; Cheryl; Ryan; Helen Steinhoff; Billi Jo; Pat Maki; Herb & Sandy Grenke; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; Karen Johnson; Jill Krah; Michael Orhanen; Kristina Asta; Jim, Alli & Johann Elsenbroek; Alison Cory; John; Sierra; Sandy; Charlene Avery; Liz Kro

*Note: You may call the church office or talk to one of the pastors, if you would like a person named in the congregation's prayers. Please obtain permission from the person to list his/her name in the bulletin. In order to keep the list up to date and manageable in size, we will list each person for a short time, after which the name will be removed. If at that point, you would like to continue listing the person, please call the church office or speak to one of the pastors.*

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### **Pastor on Call:**

Pastor Andrew is on call April 7, 11-14.

Pastor Molly is on call April 8-10.

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### **Messiah Newsletters**

Messiah newsletters and the weekly E-news are all available at [www.messiahlutheranmgt.org](http://www.messiahlutheranmgt.org). The online Messenger (monthly newsletter) includes all the stories and information but saves the paper!

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### **Scripture Reading This Week – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading**.....Acts 4:32-35

**Gospel Reading**.....John 20:19-31

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### **Worship Volunteers**

#### **Sunday April 11**

Ruth Robb

#### **Sunday April 18**

Fred Maynard

#### **Sunday April 25**

Darley Kempainen

## **Sunday May 2**

Larry Pagel

## **Sunday May 9**

Mike Hill

## **Sunday May 16**

One needed

## **Sunday May 23**

One needed

## **Sunday May 30**

Fred Maynard

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## **Announcements and Classified Ads**

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### **Marquette Alger Resolution Service Training**

Marquette Alger Resolution Service is training mediators via Zoom for our local community mediation organization. We provide peaceful dispute resolution for all types of matters in Marquette and Alger counties. Many of the disputes we help with are parenting time, neighborhood disputes, general civil, child protection, guardianship of children and adults, relationships, and school related issues.

Our volunteers are an integral part of our community. Without them, our community dispute center would not exist. We provide mediation and community dispute resolution regardless of income level. This is an accessible program for everyone.

Dates: May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21

Trainers: Brian Pappas

Fee: \$100 (*this significantly reduced fee is possible due to local grants and applies to participants who agree to serve as volunteer mediators. Class size is limited.*)

Please e-mail [director@marsmediation.org](mailto:director@marsmediation.org) or call 906.226.8600 for more information.

Here is the link to learn more about the training and our program:

<https://marsmediation.org/mediator-training/>

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## **Home Health Care Aide Needed**

One of our members at Messiah is in need of a care aide. The aide can work up to 39 hours / month. This person needs help with laundry, washing dishes, and 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.

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## **Do you have an announcement?**

Send announcements and ads to Inga Banitt (inga@messiahlutheranmqt.org). Send concert or performance information, yard sale announcements, party invitations, requests for babysitters, yard maintenance, rooms for rent and items for sale. We will run announcements for two weeks. E-newsletter deadline is noon on Tuesdays.

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## **Messiah Contact Information**

Messiah Lutheran Church  
305 W. Magnetic St.  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906-225-1119  
906-225-5025 (fax)  
Email: office@messiahlutheranmqt.org  
Website: <https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/>

### **Pastoral Staff**

Senior Pastor:  
Andrew Plocher  
906-373-6036

Associate Pastor:  
Molly Eversoll  
312-576-7353

### **Support Staff**

Parish Administrator:  
Jennifer Dodge  
906-235-4921

Administrative Assistant:

Inga Banitt

906-362-1545

Messiah Custodian:

Kevin McGrath

906-226-2097

Parish Accountant:

Mike Hill

906-228-2544

Financial Secretary:

Nancy Hoover

612-419-3000

## **Music Staff**

Music Director:

David Dagenais

906-869-1441

Bell Choir Director:

Judy Quirk

906-228-6729

Organist:

Kathy Strazzinski

906-869-7871

Pianist:

Lynne Lanczy

906-235-4431