

# Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Answering God's call to love

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## Messiah ENewsletter for December 18, 2024

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!*

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### OWLs Christmas Party Today!

You are invited to the OWLS Christmas party today (Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>) from 12:00 to 3:00 pm in the atrium. Please bring a drink & a sandwich cut in half for trading/sharing, and Christmas cookies if you have some. We will also have a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a wrapped or bagged inexpensive gift if you would like to participate. Frivolity and high jinks are anticipated.

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### Upcoming Events – December/January

- Dec 18 OWLs Christmas Party at 12:00 pm
- Dec 18 Yoga, Centering for the Season at 7:00 pm
- Dec 19 Bible Study at 10:30 am
- Dec 20 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am

Dec 21	Longest Night Worship at 5:00 pm followed by Soup Supper
Dec 23	11-Step Centering Prayer at 6:00 pm
Dec 24	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 24	Christmas Eve – Church Office 8:30 am to 12:30 pm only
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship Services at 4:00 pm, 7:30 pm, and 10:00 pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day – Church Office Closed
Dec 30	11-Step Centering Prayer at 6:00 pm
Dec 31	Last Day for 2024 Giving until 12:00 pm
Dec 31	Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Dec 31	New Year’s Eve – Church Office 8:30 am to 12:30 pm only
Jan 1	New Year’s Day – Church Office Closed

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### **Worship Volunteers Needed for Christmas Eve Services**

We still need 1 more volunteer to serve as a communion assistant at our 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service and 1 more volunteer to serve as a communion assistant at our 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service. We also still need 2 volunteers to serve as ushers at our 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service. If you can help with any of these, please let us know in the church office or sign up on the Christmas Eve Worship Volunteers sheet on the welcome table. Thanks!

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### **Centering for the Season – December 18**

*An evening of Yoga - 7:00 pm, December 18th, Magnuson Hall*

In the midst of the busyness of the Christmas season, we invite you to take a moment to breath and care for your body and spirit. Join Anna Zimmer (RYT-200) for a yoga class for all abilities! Whether you’re as flexible as gumby or would rather stay seated in a chair. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring your own mat (or towel) for doing yoga on the floor.

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### **The Longest Night – Saturday, December 21**

For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both people and events that have been a part of our lives in the past, but that are now changed or gone. This is the time of year with the longest nights, so around this time we offer a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Whether or not you find this season to be difficult, we invite you to join us for worship in the sanctuary on Saturday, December 21st at 5:00 pm, for a time of music, scripture, silent reflection, healing prayer and communion.

Please come. **We invite you to join us for a soup supper following this service in Magnuson Hall. If you can bring soup or bread, please sign up on the sheet on the Welcome Table.**

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## **Christmas Eve Worship**

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm - Family Interactive Service

7:30 pm - Contemporary-ish Service (prelude music beginning at 7:00 pm)

10:00 pm - Lessons & Carols (prelude music beginning at 9:30 pm)

Childcare is available at 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm services

**If you can't be here in person, tune in via the livestream or on 101.9FM for broadcasts of the 7:30 & 10:00 pm**

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## **About our Advent theme: “Words for the Beginning”**

This year's Advent theme, Words for the Beginning, comes from the talented folks at A Sanctified Art. As in previous years, we will be using materials created by them throughout Advent.

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year ends, a new church year rushes in. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving—and yet, we feel the weight of many things ending. What are the reminders we need to move faithfully through this threshold? A Sanctified Art has crafted an Advent series filled with blessings, with the words we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. Imagine the words Mary would speak to her newborn son. What scriptures and stories would she impart to him? What lessons would she teach him as he grew?

And so, the weekly themes may feel like the lessons taught to children, but in reality, these are lessons we continue to learn and relearn as adults. They may sound like the messages imparted to loved ones during special ceremonies or sacred rituals such as weddings, ordination services, or baptisms. You are invited to enter this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. And yet, Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. As we also move through new chapters, may these words for the beginning renew us and remind us of the ways we are called to live out our faith. No matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, let love be your beginning.

A Sanctified Art was inspired by the visual concept of quilting. Like a quilt formed by scraps of old fabrics and meaningful family items, this worship series stitches together the ancient scriptures and reminders we need to hear again and again. Quilts have been used for physical protection, comfort, ceremonies, abolition, family heirlooms, advocacy, and more. Quilting is a medium that transcends countless cultures, regions, and time periods, but is a craft rooted in community and storytelling.

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## **Senior Men's Ministry**

Messiah's Senior Men's Bible Study has been meeting every Friday morning at 9:00 am in room #202. Please join them on Friday morning!

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## **Jam News**

Most of your favorite varieties are still on the shelves. Now is the time to buy your gifts for the holidays. A great way to support your church's ministry. Thank you.

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## **Centering Prayer - Tuesdays at 11:00 am**

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2*

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds" Hebrews 10:16

I am sure that there are many ways to "discern what is the will of God." Centering Prayer is one of them. I believe that it is so effective because it requires me to request God's help, knowing there is no way this human can do God's will alone.

Centering prayer is the intention to consent to God's Presence and action within myself. It requires that I put aside all my personal ambitions, strategies for personal fulfillment, plans for safety, fears, and concepts and just "be still." God knows me, way better than I know myself. God knows what lies I believe and how they cause me trouble in relationship with the world and God knows how to gently disabuse me of my wrong notions. God is gentle, not harsh, not punishing, and so I am able to tolerate seeing my shadow side via this method. Simply by being aware of how my actions are less than skillful, I find those actions happening less often. Centering prayer is a simple type of prayer, but I will not say that it is easy. It can be boring. It is often frustrating because human minds are not naturally quiet. It can sometimes be blissful, and then frustrating because the bliss is fleeting. The point of centering prayer is just to accept. Accept it all as God's gift.

If you can't attend a group in person, there are lots of opportunities to join a group via zoom online at [www.meditationchapel.org](http://www.meditationchapel.org) The world will be a better place when more people turn to God for direction.

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## **Benefits of an 11th Step Centering Prayer Practice**

There is a direct linkage among self-examination, meditation, and prayer. Taken separately, these practices can bring much relief and benefit. But when they are logically related and interwoven, the result is an unshakable foundation for life. 12 & 12

The positive effects of the prayer are experienced in daily life and not necessarily during the prayer period itself. Growth happens when we practice

Centering Prayer in the context of the 12 Steps. Some benefits are:

- We enhance our ability to “Let Go and Let God.”
- We develop a nonjudgmental attitude of ourselves & others.
- We become more comfortable in our own skin.
- We grow in our capacity to listen and serve others.
- We nurture our ability to live in the present moment

Are you searching for emotional and spiritual sobriety? Whether you have been in recovery for a long time or are just beginning, you have probably experienced many frustrated feelings that didn't just go away when you got abstinent or sober...problems with relationships, work, anxiety, depression, or feelings of emptiness. These feelings are natural for us regardless of our addiction or time in recovery. But we don't have to let emotions rule our lives. The 11th Step offers us a solution! Through the simple method of Centering Prayer, we can improve our relationship with our Higher Power by simply consenting to our Higher Power's presence and action within us. Centering Prayer is an ancient meditation practice that has been used over the centuries, but it is different from what we may think of as prayer. It is not the type of prayer we are used to, like praying for something we want. It is simply moving deep within ourselves, in silence, saying nothing, asking for nothing, just being, by letting go of our thoughts and allowing our HigherPower to be with us. (taken from 12 Step Centering Prayer brochure.)

A weekly meeting will be starting on Monday, November 4th at 6:00 pm in room 201. This is an open meeting. All are welcome. You do not need to be in a 12-step program to attend. The meeting will begin with settling in with a prayer. A bell will ring at the beginning and end of our 20-minute silence. After our sit, we will read the Prayer of St. Francis. For more information, please contact Laura Petrie 906-250-1866. Or check out the website for information about Centering Prayer: [www.cp12stepoutreach.org](http://www.cp12stepoutreach.org) or at [www.contemplativeoutreach.org](http://www.contemplativeoutreach.org)

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## **OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Weekly Walk**

The OWLS are now walking at the Dome, when it is open, on Mondays. We meet at the main entrance at 10:00 am. You can walk at your own pace. After walking the group goes to Provisions to continue visiting. If you cannot walk just come for coffee/tea. Questions? Please call Betsy or the church office.

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### **The New Free Store Donations**

The New Free Store is an inter-faith, non-profit group supporting people who express a need for free clothing, linens, hygiene & cleaning supplies. Anyone in need is welcome. Free things are offered as “in God’s economy three is always enough.” There is a collection bin in our narthex at Messiah for The New Free Store. They are currently collecting:

**\*December** – *Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Bar Soap*

**\*January** – *Toothbrushes, (child/adult), Toothpaste, Dental Floss, Denture Cleaner*

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### **Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival 2025**

Enrollment is open for the 2025 Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival. The primary way that young musicians find their way to LSM is through the encouragement of a caring adult – you. Please consider the young musicians in your congregation, school, or community who would thrive at LSM and connect them with us. Contact MaryLynn Mennicke, Dean and Director of Admissions, directly at [mmennicke@lutheransummermusic.org](mailto:mmennicke@lutheransummermusic.org) or 612 879-9555 ext. 5 or click “Nominate a Student” at [LSMacademy.org](http://LSMacademy.org). We can then work together to get them to LSM 2025!

If you don’t have a direct connection to a young musician, you may have an indirect one. Share about LSM with friends, colleagues, extended family, teachers, or within your church or school. One simple connection from you could lead to a life-changing experience for a young musician!

Tell someone about LSM now – while we offer rolling admission, applications fees increase and spots will fill though the year, so we encourage student to apply early.

### **Important Enrollment Deadlines**

\*December 1, 2024: Priority Enrollment (\$25 application fee)

\*March 1, 2025: Standard Enrollment (\$50 application fee)

\*May 1, 2025: Late Enrollment (\$75 application fee)

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## **Messiah Birthdays**

Dec 18	Evan Busick, Sharon Fluette, David Johnson
Dec 19	Stella Rector
Dec 20	Jackson Boehlke
Dec 21	No birthdays
Dec 22	Carol Steinhaus
Dec 23	No birthdays
Dec 24	Lucy Dellangelo, Holly Sundman
Dec 25	Carol Stevens
Dec 26	Diane Adams
Dec 27	No birthdays
Dec 28	Michael Broadway, Larry Pagel
Dec 29	Abby LaForest, Aliina Maki-Warne, Tim Weir
Dec 30	Carol O'Neill
Dec 31	Jerry Cory, Beth Wendricks
Jan 1	No birthdays

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## **In the Hospital**

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pr. Molly Hunter & Pr. Andrew Plocher would like to visit you while you are there. If you are unable to notify Messiah, please ask a family member to do so.

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## **In Our Prayers**

Mary Beals; Katie; Dave Luoma; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jimmy Anderson; Jeremy; Owen; Sally Olson; David Raikko; Larry Brunton; Charlie Blake; Carol Bell; Dorothy; Lillian Tuimala; Lynne Robertson; Jan Brown; Betsy; Karen; John & Rose Collins; Rick Castillo; Ruth Koehler; Don Hillegas; Grant; Kai Dolan; Samantha; Ted; Bruce Lindberg; Grace Chien; Jamie; Jon Kamps; Donna; Brian; Ben; Sandy Grenke; Evelyn; Akira Carlson; Karen Eldevick; Grace; Shannon; Billy & Kathy S.; Leesa; Jesse Wright; Marshall Lovan; Peter; Shawn; Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Tina; Williamson family; Wayne Hanmer; Sierra; Charlene Avery

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## **Pastor on Call:**

Pastor Andrew is on call December 18, 22-25

Pastor Molly is on call December 19-21

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## Worship Volunteers

### **Saturday, December 21 -- 5:00 pm in sanctuary**

Communion Assistant    Barb Salmela

### **Sunday, December 22 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook**

Assisting Minister:    Terry Langenberg

Reader:    Judy Quirk

Ushers:    Sten Taube, Cathy Seblonka

Communion Assistants: Larry Pagel, Terry Langenberg, Mike Coyne

Greeters:    Joan Tasson, Jan Vickstrom

Nursery:    Maddie Dykema

Provide Refreshments: Penny Streeter, Sherry Labbe

### **Sunday, December 22 -- 10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook**

Assisting Minister    Mike Hill

Reader:    Marina Shinkarenko

Ushers:    Bev Evans, Nancy Raisanen

Communion Assistants: Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman, Mike Hill

Greeters:    Marina Shinkarenko,

Projection Technician    Kathy Godec

Nursery:    Maddie Dykema

Flower Delivery    **Need a volunteer.**

## Announcements and Classified Ads

### **Free 2025 Calendars**

There are many 2025 calendars on the table over by the drive-through entrance. They are free to whoever wants them. Please help yourself.

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### **Marquette Choral Society – Christmas Carol Singalong – December 20**

The Marquette Choral Society presents “Christmas Carol Singalong” on Friday, December 20 at 5:00 pm. The Master of Ceremonies is Andrew LaCombe. The concert is at St. Michael



Catholic Church, 401 W. Kaye Avenue, Marquette. Admission is free. Canned food or monetary donations for St. Vincent de Paul welcomed.

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### **Brass Choir Concert – December 22**

A Brass Choir Concert will be presented on Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 pm at the Marquette Regional History Center (145 W. Spring Street in Marquette). Local brass musicians perform this holiday concert full of cheer and merriment. Doors will open at 3:30 pm. The event is free; donations are accepted.

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### **Free Community Christmas Eve Dinner**

The Kiwanis Club of Marquette is providing a free Community Christmas Eve dinner to be delivered or picked up (**no sit-down meals**). Meal delivery will be on Christmas Eve Day from 11:00 am to noon. Meals can be picked up on Christmas Eve Day from noon to 2:00 pm at the Marquette Salvation Army (1009 Baraga St.). To reserve meals or meal delivery for Christmas Eve, please call 1 855 500-0919.

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### **Holiday Meals for the Elderly**

Do you know of someone in the greater Marquette area 60 years or older who will not have access to a traditional Christmas dinner?

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly's year-round mission is to reach out in friendship to our isolated and lonely elderly neighbors. The holidays are a time when we pull out all the stops.

Elderly folks are invited to dine-in at the LBFE meal site, Marquette Elks Lodge #405, 127 N. Front Street. Transportation will be provided. Our dine-in guests are treated to a family style atmosphere incomplete with musical entertainment.

We also provide a traditional meal with dessert, and a friendship flower, that's then packaged in a bag exclusively designed by our youngest volunteers for delivery. The person knocking on their door turns this activity from a delivery into a friendship visit on this special day.

The number of meals available is limited and you must make a reservation for dine-in or delivery by Dec. 16.

Deliveries are 12:00-1:30 pm and dine-in is at 1:00 pm on each holiday. Due to the generosity of our community and volunteers, there is no cost.

Do you know someone who we should invite? Would you like to volunteer? Let's hear from you.

Contact Leslie Bek or Danielle Berg at 906-273-2575. More information about LBFE visit [lbfemichigan.org](http://lbfemichigan.org).

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## **Marquette Symphony Orchestra – 2025 Season**

The Marquette Symphony Orchestra has announced its concert schedule for the 2024-2025 season. Octavio Mas-Arocas, Music Director

Saturday, January 18, 2025 – 4:00 pm – Kaufman Auditorium  
Symphonic Broadway  
with Kristen & Jimmy Ludwig

Saturday, March 1, 2025 – 7:30 pm – Kaufman Auditorium  
Masterworks: Schumann Piano Concerto & Brahms  
Piano Concerto in A minor – R. Schumann  
with 2024 Youth Concerto Winner Hyerim Lee, piano  
Symphony No. 2 – Johannes Brahms

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 7:30 pm – Kaufman Auditorium  
Festive Folk with the Knockabouts  
-Festive Overture – D. Shostakovich  
-Symphony No. 2 – P.L. Tchaikovsky

Season and individual tickets are on sale now at NMU Ticket Outlets.  
[nmu.universitytickets.com](http://nmu.universitytickets.com) or 907 227-1032 or In-person at the Superior Dome.

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## **Queer Conversation Book Club**

The Queer Conversation Book Club meets on the first Saturday of every month from October 5 through May 3 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Join us to read LGBTQ+ books and graphic novels to learn and build community! The book club meets at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 E. Ridge St. in Marquette. Snacks and materials are provided. This is a supportive and inclusive

space for LGBT+ folks and Curious allies, for tweens, teens, and adults. Presented by Lav-YAC, Equality Michigan, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. For more information: [www.Equalitymi.org](http://www.Equalitymi.org) or EQMI at 906 458-8322 or St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 906 226-2912.

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## **Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Events**

### **Live & Learn – Christmas Cookie Recipe Exchange Party!**

**Thursday, December 19th from 2:00 - 3:00 pm at Millcreek Clubhouse**

Join us for a festive afternoon of holiday cheer, delicious treats, and recipe swapping! If you'd like to bring some holiday cookies feel free! If you have a favorite recipe to share, please bring printed copies or there will be blank recipe cards to jot them down. We'll exchange recipes, enjoy each other's creations, and make wonderful holiday memories. Feel free to bring a friend – we are looking forward to sharing sweet treats and warm moments with you! There will also be a raffle for a free lap quilt for those who attend! Free & open to the public. Contact number: 906.225.7760

**Connected at Home** – Are you looking for ways to socialize without leaving the comfort of your home? All you need is a phone number to participate! Choose whichever group that you are interested in and call to register! Groups that are offered – Caregiver support group: every 3rd Tuesday of the month 2-3 PM, Book Club: Every first Monday 11-12PM hosted by Ishpeming

Library, & Coffee & Conversations: Every Wednesday 1-2 PM Topics vary. Please call the Ishpeming senior center to register at 906.485.5527.

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

Send announcements & ads to Kathy Godec ([kathy@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:kathy@messiahlutheranmqt.org)). Send concert or performance information, yard sale announcements, party invitations, requests for babysitters, yard maintenance, rooms for rent and items for sale. E-newsletter deadline is 12:00 pm on Tuesdays.

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## **Messiah Contact Information**

Messiah Lutheran Church  
305 W. Magnetic St.  
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone: 906-225-1119

Fax: 906-225-5025

Email: [office@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmqt.org)

Website: <https://www.messiahlutheranmqt.org/>

**Pastoral Staff**

Senior Pastor - Andrew Plocher

Associate Pastor - Molly Hunter

**Office Staff**

Parish Administrator - Jennifer Dodge

Administrative Assistant – Kathy Godec

Parish Accountant - Mike Hill

Financial Secretary – Anne Rydholm

**Music Staff**

Director of Music – Sara Parks

Bell Choir Director - Judy Quirk

Organist/Pianist - Kathy Strazzinski

Pianist – Jacob Schmeltzer & Jocelyn Basse