

# Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Answering God's call to love

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## Messiah ENewsletter for February 26, 2025

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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### Brookridge Worship Today!

Please join us for worship today at 1:30 pm at Brookridge Heights. All are welcome!

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### Upcoming Events – February/March

- Feb 26 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
- Feb 27 Bible Study at 10:30 am
- Feb 28 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
- Mar 3 11-Step Centering Prayer at 6:00 pm
- Mar 4 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
- Mar 5 Ash Wednesday Worship at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- Mar 5 Community Meal at 6:00 pm

Mar 6 Bible Study at 10:30 am  
Mar 7 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am  
Mar 8 Confirmation at Messiah at 9:00 am  
Mar 10 Lent Devotional at 9:00 am  
Mar 11 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am  
Mar 12 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm  
Mar 12 Lenten Yoga at 7:00 pm

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## **Thank You!**

Thanks to everyone who donated nonperishable food for our food pantry. We now have a good supply available to help those in need.

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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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## **Collecting Items for Baby Care Kits**

Rachel Circle will be collecting items in February for the Baby Care Kits that are assembled for Lutheran World Relief. The following items are needed in 6 months - 24 months/2T sizes:

- Lightweight cotton T-Shirts (no-onesies)
- Long or short sleeved sleepers, P.J.'s or gowns (without feet)
- Plain, Hooded Sweatshirts
- Hand Towels, dark colors

There is a collection bin by the office. Thank you for your help! - - - Rachel Circle

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## **Lenten Activities**

\*\*\*Community Devotional

[Each Monday in Lent beginning March 10th at 9:00 am](#)

Start off the week with a small group discussion on the Lenten Devotional by a Sanctified Art. Center yourself in the Word at the beginning of the week and take time to be together in community.

\*\*\*Find Strength in the In-Between

*Join us for a Lenten yoga practice*

March 12, 7:00 pm and April 14, 7:00 pm in the Atrium

Sign up on the Welcome Table or by contacting the church office

Life is full of transitions—between movement and stillness, strength and surrender, effort and release. Yoga invites us to embrace Everything [in] Between, finding balance in the tension and grace in the unknown.

This Lent, step onto your mat as a sacred space for reflection, growth, and presence. Whether you seek rest, renewal, or a deeper connection to your body and spirit, yoga offers a way to be fully here, in the now. All levels welcome. Please bring a mat or towel if you wish to be on the floor.

\*\*\*Twist, Wait, and Rise: A Lenten Soft Pretzel Workshop

Saturday, March 15th at 10:00 am in the church kitchen

Sign-up on the Welcome Table or by contacting the church office.

*Please note that we are limited to twelve participants.*

Lent is a season of shaping, waiting, and transformation—just like the process of baking a soft pretzel. As we twist the dough, let's reflect on the twists and turns of our own faith journeys. As the dough rests, we'll embrace the sacred pause of Lent. And as the pretzels rise and bake, we'll remember that growth happens in the in-between.

Join us for a hands-on workshop where we'll bake, reflect, and break bread together. Come hungry for both fresh pretzels and meaningful conversation!

\*\*\* Evening of Crafting

Thursday, March 27 at 5:00 pm in Magnuson Hall

Pr. Molly and Pr. Marna will be hosting a crafting night from 5:00 - 7:00 pm joined by the campus ministry students. You can bring any craft you are working on and join in a community time with snacks provided. If you enjoy crafting but aren't working on anything Pr. Molly will provide some activities during the time.

\*\*\*Wrestling with Scripture: A Lenten Book Study

*Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans

Monday, March 31st at 7:00 pm in the Atrium

Sign-up on the Welcome Table or by contacting the church office.

The Bible is full of beauty, mystery, and complexity—stories that comfort, challenge, and invite us to wrestle with faith. In *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, Rachel Held Evans explores scripture with curiosity and honesty, reclaiming it as a living, breathing text meant to shape our lives. Through personal stories, historical context, and creative retellings, she helps us engage with difficult passages while embracing the tension between certainty and mystery.

This Lent, join us as we navigate the space Everything [in] Between—between tradition and transformation, doubt and belief, struggle and renewal. Come ready to question, reflect, and discover a deeper love for Scripture. Copies will be available in the church office soon for \$10.

\*\*\*Taizé Worship: A Lenten Invitation to Stillness

Join us for two special Taizé services this Lent (in the Atrium):

[Wednesday, March 26 at 12:00 pm](#) – A midday pause for prayer and reflection.

[Wednesday, April 9 at 5:00 pm](#) – An evening of candlelit stillness and song.

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### **Community Meal – March 5**

We will have a community meal on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:00 pm. The cooks will be serving meatloaf, macaroni & cheese & a vegetable. The two sides will be the vegetarian option that evening. Please join us for food & fellowship. We look forward to sharing a meal with you!

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### **Sunday School Fun Night at the YMCA! – March 7**

Sunday school kids & families are invited to a swimming and fun night at the YMCA sponsored by Messiah. On Friday March 7th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm we have rented out the Y. During this time, the play gym will be open. At 5:30 pm we will serve pizza, veggies and cookies. Then, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm the pool will be open to us. We hope that this is a fun night where your kids will get to play with their Sunday School friends & teachers.

A sign-up sheet will be on the welcome table outside the church office. Please sign up by Sunday, March 2nd. If you have any further questions, please ask Mary Beth Carstens or Pr. Molly Hunter

#### Some things to know:

- You are welcome to come and hang out, stay with your child and have dinner. Or, your child can be dropped off and we will watch them as long as they are able to swim without assistance.
  - The Y will provide two lifeguards for the hour we are in the pool area.
  - The play gym will be open & chaperoned from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.
  - All of Messiah's volunteers that work with kids are background checked.
  - If you are dropping your child off, please make sure they are dressed in their swimwear and please return to help them dress for home if they need assistance – we will not be helping your child change.
  - Please have your child bring a towel and a water bottle.
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### **Confirmation & High School Youth Event- March 9**

Join middle & high schoolers from around our area to enjoy some early St. Patrick's Day fun! Bring a friend and come to Prince of Peace in Harvey on Sunday, March 9th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm! If you have any questions, call or text Jen Bleckiner at 906-360-9128.

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

God is the life, mind, body, and substance of individual being; therefore, nothing can be added to any individual and true prayer is the constant recognition of this truth. True prayer is never addressed to a Being outside of ourselves, nor does true prayer expect anything from outside our own being. "The kingdom of God is within you," and all good must be sought here.

Communion with God is in reality listening for the "still small voice." In this communion, or prayer, no words pass from you to God, but the consciousness of the presence of God is realized, as the impartation of truth and love comes from God within to you. It is a holy state of being and never leaves us where it finds us. **Joel Goldsmith** *The Infinite Way*

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:6 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The divine presence has always been with us, but we think it is absent. That thought is the monumental illusion of the human condition. The spiritual journey is designed to heal it. Silence is God's first language; everything else is a poor translation. In order to hear that language, we must learn to be still and to rest in God. Spiritual consolation does not come through the external senses; it wells up from a source deep within. Thomas Keating *Invitation to Love*

If you give your life as a prayer you intensify the prayer beyond all measure. Praying without ceasing is not ritualized, nor are there even words. It is a constant state of awareness of oneness with God; it is a sincere seeking for a good thing; it is a concentration on the thing sought, with faith that it is obtainable. Peace Pilgrim: *Her Life and Work in Her Own Words*

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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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### **Personal Care Kits**

A whole year has gone by and it is once again time to collect donations for Personal Care Kits. Last year we were able to send 48 kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution where needed. In March & April items can be brought to the church and will be assembled by Ruth Circle.

Items needed for each kit include:

- 1 bath size towel, dark color preferred
- 1 toothbrush, adult size in original packaging
- 1 comb, large toothed preferred
- 1 metal nail clipper
- 2 bath size bars of soap

Items can be placed in the container provided in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcomed to purchase needed items - just write 'personal care kits' in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

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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:

\***February** – *Hand Sanitizer, Toilet Paper (4 or 6 rolls/pack)*

\***March** – *Shampoo (male/female), boxes of feminine pads/tampons*

\***April** – *Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Bars of Soap*

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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**

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

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

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### **Messiah Birthdays**

Feb 26	Simon Claybaker
Feb 27	Sharon Farrell
Feb 28	No birthdays
Mar 1	Henryk Fitzpatrick
Mar 2	Darlene Dreisbach, Chris Harkness, Dave Luoma
Mar 3	Alesia Braund
Mar 4	Alexis Armstrong, Gabriel Armstrong
Mar 5	Lucas Boehlke, Angie LeDuc, Kathy Maynard, Sara Moyle
Mar 6	Camden Fitzpatrick, Kirsten Salmela
Mar 7	Sheryl Dellangelo
Mar 8	Jacob MacPhee, Violet Rector, Marina Shinkarenko, Matt Wiese
Mar 9	Kevin Johnson
Mar 10	No birthdays
Mar 11	Julie Blemberg
Mar 12	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**

Judy Quirk; Jan Brown; Pat Makela; Betsy Cooper; Heidi and Ashton Wood; Paul and Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Becky Abbey; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jimmy Anderson; Jeremy; Owen; Sally Olson; Larry Brunton; Charlie Blake; Carol Bell; Dorothy; Lillian Tuimala; Lynne Robertson; Karen; Rose Collins; Rick Castillo; Ruth Koehler; Don Hillegas; Grant; Kai Dolan; Samantha; Ted; Bruce Lindberg; Grace Chien; Jamie; 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 February 26, March 2-5 and on vacation March 6-9  
Pastor Molly is on call February 27-28 and March 1

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### **Worship Volunteers**

#### **Saturday, March 1 -- 5:00 pm in atrium**

Assisting Minister      Chris Kotila  
Communion Assistant    Barb Salmela

Provide Refreshments:    **Need a volunteer.**

#### **Sunday, March 2 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook**

Assisting Minister:      Larry Pagel  
Reader:                    Dave Echelbarger  
Ushers:                    Bruce Robertson, Sam Elder  
Communion Assistants:    Larry Pagel, Marina Shinkarenko, Kathy Maynard  
Greeters:                    Marina Shinkarenko, Cathy Seblonka

Nursery:                    Mylee Muscoe  
Provide Refreshments:    **Need a volunteer.**

#### **Sunday, March 2 -- 10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook**

Assisting Minister      Molly Luty  
Reader:                    Katie Michels  
Ushers:                    Dave and Jill Luoma  
Communion Assistants:    Marina Shinkarenko, Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman  
Greeters:                    Linda Carlson, Marima Shinkarenko  
Projection Technician    Inga Banitt

Nursery:                    Mylee Muscoe  
Flower Delivery          Jill Luoma



## **Announcements and Classified Ads**

### **Financial Help for Cancer Patients**

If you or someone you know is going through any financial hardships while going through cancer treatment, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Poirier of Cancer Care of Marquette County (CCMC). 906-362-9226 / poirph@msn.com or Barb Salmela 906-250-1016.

There are no income guidelines. Assistance can be for travel expenses, insurance co-pay, medical bills & medications related to cancer care. This organization is all volunteer based. Money to support is from fundraising, grants and donations. This organization is a 501c3 group so donations are tax deductible. But I cannot emphasize enough....to CALL if you need help.

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

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

Saturday, March 1, 2025 – 7:30 pm – Kaufman Auditorium  
Romantic Masters - 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.universitickets.com or 907 227-1032 or In-person at the Superior Dome.

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### **Gardening Workshop – March 2**

The Marquette Seventh-day Adventist Church, 270 East US 41, Negaunee, will host “Preserving Your Garden’s Harvest” on Sunday, March 2 at 4:00 pm. Learn the basics of food preservation at this free event which includes a plant-based dinner. Please RSVP at 906-475-4488 or mqtsdachurch@gmail.com.

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## **Help With Income Tax Filing**

Income taxes – always one of our favorite things to do each year, right?? Did you know that you may be able to have the Senior AARP Tax Preparation program through the local senior centers prepare your taxes? There is no fee to you. All the tax preparers are volunteers, but you must call your local senior center (Marquette, Ishpeming, or Negaunee) to make an appointment.

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## **Poetry Without Borders – Call for Presenters**

Do you speak a language other than English? Are you learning a new language? Want to share it with the NMU community? Submit a poem to present. The submission deadline is Monday, March 10. Poetry Without Borders will be presented on Tuesday, March 18 at 5:30 pm in the Northern Center. Sponsored by the Department of Languages, Literatures & International Studies. Questions? Contact Dr. Anna Zimmer at [anzimmer@nmu.edu](mailto:anzimmer@nmu.edu).

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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 LGBT+ 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**

**Caregiver Support Groups** – Are you feeling isolated or burned out as a caregiver? Do you experience frustration or guilt and need a safe place to process? Join us for opportunities to share your feelings, develop friendships, receive emotional support, and to learn about available community resources. There will be occasional guest speakers for relevant topics as well. This group is free and open to the public! The group is Moderated by Jamie Barbieri, RN Community Outreach Coordinator from Lake Superior Life Care and Hospice. Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions.

Marquette:

2nd Wednesday of every month

3/12/25 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

914 W. Baraga Ave

Telephone Based:

3rd Tuesday of every month

3/18/25 2:00-3:00 pm

Call 906.485.5527 to register

Landline or Cell phone required to participate

**\*New\* Grief Support Series starting in February!** *Loss of a loved one can look different for everyone. We will be exploring feelings, support, and tools to help guide you on your grief journey. Please join us, in a safe place to learn and share about the tender moments of grief. This group will now contain a combination of both structured and open grief sharing. Groups will take place every other Thursday starting February 6 – April 17 from 10:30 - 11:30 am at Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice, located at 914 W Baraga Ave in Marquette. Please RSVP by 1/31/25. 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/mo. from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, Book Club: Every first Monday/mo. 11:00 am - 12:00 pm hosted by Ishpeming Library, and Coffee & Conversations: Every Wednesday from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. Topics vary. Please call the Ishpeming senior center to register at 906.485.5527.

Registration now open for **Virtual Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class** - This 6 week **online** workshop is designed to help you take care of **yourself** while caring for a parent, spouse, or friend, at home, in a nursing home, or across the country.

Wednesdays February 26<sup>th</sup> - April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Via Zoom

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**Do you have an announcement?**

Send announcements & ads to Kathy Godec (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.

Phone: 906-225-1119  
Fax: 906-225-5025

Marquette, MI 49855

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