

Messiah

Evangelical Lutheran Church

Answering God's call to love

Messiah ENewsletter for March 12, 2025

On the web... go to messiahlutheranmqt.org for more information about our congregation and "like" us on Facebook to receive updates and information there.

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!

Brookridge Worship Today!

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

Community Meal Tonight!

Our community meal is tonight (Wednesday, March 12th) at 6:00 pm. The cooks will be serving meatloaf, macaroni & cheese & a vegetable. The two sides will be the vegetarian option. Please join us for food & fellowship. We look forward to sharing a meal with you!

Upcoming Events – March

- Mar 12 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
- Mar 12 Community Meal at 6:00 pm
- Mar 12 Lenten Yoga Practice at 7:00 pm

- Mar 13 Bible Study at 10:30 am
Mar 14 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Mar 14 OWLs Pie (Pi) Day Celebration at 11:00 am
Mar 15 Visitation for Don Dreisbach from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; followed by funeral service at 12:00 pm at Messiah; followed by luncheon at Fassbender Swanson Hansen Funeral Home
Mar 17 Community Lenten Devotional at 9:00 am
Mar 18 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Mar 19 Council at 6:30 pm
Mar 20 Bible Study at 10:30 am
Mar 21 Senior Men's Bible Study at 9:00 am
Mar 24 Community Lenten Devotional at 9:00 am
Mar 25 Centering Prayer at 11:00 am
Mar 26 Taizé Worship: A Lenten Invitation to Stillness at 12:00 pm
Mar 26 Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
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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!

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, (date to be announced) 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.

Thank You Quilters!

March 15, 2025 is **National Quilting Day**, and Lutheran World Relief has a LOT to celebrate! For 80 years, compassionate people including Messiah's quilters have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts - over 26 MILLION QUILTS! These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster, and conflict. THANK YOU.

Our quilters are Helen Lord Anderson, Inga Banitt, Linda Berry, Jenny Broadway, Jane Brow, Mary Beth Carstens, Marcia Heron, Jane Phillips, Judy Quirk, Jean Brinkman Reynolds, Nancy Skoog, Kate Sromalski, and Gayle Van Osdol

"Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love."

ELCA World Hunger

During Lent we usually focus on Hunger and the upcoming Synod Assembly World Hunger offering. The Assembly is May 16-18 and the need for Hunger Funds is greater than even as government funds are being cut. Please consider making this ministry a part of your Lenten Journey by sending your contribution to Messiah for our support of this effort.

Update on our Asylum-seeking Family (& Immigration and church)

As a church, we remain committed to walking alongside the asylum-seeking family we support. But the truth is, they're scared. The policies that shape their future are shifting, and what once felt like a slow but steady path forward now feels uncertain. We want to share what's happening and how we can continue to stand with them in faith and love.

U-Visa Program: Last year an opportunity arose for the family we support to apply for legal status through the U-Visa program, which protects victims of serious crimes who assist law enforcement. This offers them a potentially more secure path than the traditional asylum system, which remains overwhelmed with backlogs. While this is good news, it's still a long process, and uncertainty remains. They are doing everything right, but like so many others, they're waiting in fear, hoping the system won't fail them.

Sanctuary Policies: ICE recently changed its policies, rolling back protections for sensitive locations—including churches. That means places of worship are no longer guaranteed to be

safe spaces, and faith communities are pushing back. The Quakers have even taken legal action to challenge these changes. We're disappointed that the ELCA has not yet joined this fight. As a church committed to justice, we believe there's more we could be doing together. While we don't have the facilities to offer formal sanctuary, we will continue to advocate for the safety and dignity of all who seek refuge and a new home.

LIRS and LSS Under Attack: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS – recently renamed Global Refuge) and Lutheran Social Services (LSS) are being unfairly targeted by public figures spreading misinformation, but their work remains vital. These organizations have faithfully served refugees and asylum seekers for years, offering legal support, resettlement assistance, and community care. The attacks against them are meant to discourage their work, but we stand with them and the people they serve.

This is a difficult moment, but our faith calls us to love our neighbors and walk with the most vulnerable. The family we support is not alone, and neither are we. Let's keep showing up—for them, for each other, and for the work God calls us to. If you'd like to get involved, reach out to the outreach committee.

Living Lutheran Back in Print

We heard you—and listened. We have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community. The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription and \$17 per year for a congregation group subscription. Copies of the Spring 2025 edition are on the Welcome Table. Please help yourself.

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*

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.

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!

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:

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

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

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 or 612 879-9555 ext. 5 or click “Nominate a Student” at 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)

Messiah Birthdays

Mar 12 No birthdays

Mar 13 Fred Maynard

Mar 14 Darley Kempainen

Mar 15 Beth Krznarich, Kathy Strazzinski

Mar 16 Hazel Benam, Molly Dellangelo, Daniel Celaro, Lori Nelson, Emma Peterson

Mar 17 Sara Parks

Mar 18 Sam Elder, Dave Gilbert, Kristen Gordon
Mar 19 Keith Abraham, Josie Braund, Marybeth Marin
Mar 20 No birthdays
Mar 21 Maddie Dykema
Mar 22 Morgan Matthews, Brad Muscoe, Michael Sauer
Mar 23 No birthdays
Mar 24 Dan Niemi
Mar 25 Herb Grenke, Allan Johnson
Mar 26 Darren Smith

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.

In Our Prayers

Darlene Dreisbach and family upon the passing of her husband, Don; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Judy Quirk; Jan Brown; Pat Makela; Betsy Cooper; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Becky Abbey; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jimmy Anderson; Jeremy; Owen; Sally Olson; Charlie Blake; Carol Bell; Dorothy; Lillian Tuimala; Lynne Robertson; Karen; Rose Collins; Rick Castillo; 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

Pastor on Call:

Pastor Andrew is on call March 12, 16-19
Pastor Molly is on call March 13-15

Worship Volunteers

Saturday, March 15 -- 5:00 pm in atrium
Assisting Minister Carol Bell

Communion Assistant Ron Tervo

Provide Refreshments: Shari Brugman

Sunday, March 16 -- 8:30 am in sanctuary, on 101.9 FM, Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister: Jen Bleckiner

Reader: Fred Maynard

Ushers: Cathy Seblonka, Chris Harkness

Communion Assistants: Larry Pagel, Marina Shinkarenko, Mike Coyne

Greeters: Penny Streeter, Sherry Labbe

Nursery: Mylee Muscoe

Provide Refreshments: Penny Streeter and Sherry Labbe.

Sunday, March 16 -- 10:30 am in sanctuary, on Vimeo/Facebook

Assisting Minister Mark Paulsen

Reader: Marina Shinkarenko

Ushers: Jill Luoma, Sally Davis

Communion Assistants: Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman, Marina Shinkarenko,

Greeters: Marina Shinkarenko, Linda Carlson

Projection Technician Lesley Williams

Nursery: Mylee Muscoe

Flower Delivery Mary Beth Carstens

Announcements and Classified Ads

Dinner with the Doctor Event – March 28-30

The Marquette Seventh-day Adventist Church's Dinner with the Doctor will present "Natural Remedies and Lifestyle Solutions" with Rolando & Emily Poras. This FREE, 3-day event will take place on Friday March 28th at 7:00 p.m., on Saturday March 29th at 11:30 a.m. and on Sunday March 30th at 4:00 p.m. There will be a FREE plant-based dinner on Sunday March 30th only. Please RSVP at (906) 475-4488 or mqtsdachurch@gmail.com.

(Rolando Porras is the president and founder of Choose Life Abundant, a fulltime not-for-profit health education charity dedicated to facilitating healthy outcomes through lifestyle modification. He is also a graduate with special distinctions from the Davinci College of Holistic Medicine in the field of DMHA. His wife Emily obtained her bachelor's degree in elementary

education and communication. She serves as the co-director of Choose Life Abundant and brings to the ministry a special passion for holistic methods of education and healing, along with the skillset to integrate their programs for children.)

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.

Marquette Symphony Orchestra – 2025 Season

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

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 or 907 227-1032 or In-person at the Superior Dome.

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.

Poetry Without Borders – March 18

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.

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 or EQMI at 906 458-8322 or St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 906 226-2912.

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 26th - April 2nd 2025

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Via Zoom

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.

Messiah Contact Information

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Email: 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