

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# MESSENGER

WWW.MESSIAHLUTHERANMQT.ORG

## Worship Services

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

(with Nursery)

Sunday 10:30 am

(with Nursery)

8:30 am broadcast on 101.9 fm & livestream on facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt](http://www.facebook.com/messiahlutheranmqt)

10:30 am livestream on Facebook

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



# March 23, 2025

## 3rd Sunday in Lent

**Flowers:** To the Glory of God...

\* from Bill Maki

**Radio:** To the Glory of God...

\* from Barb Bergstrom

**Livestream:** To the Glory of God...

\* from our Messiah family

Siblings in Christ,

April unfolds, and with it, Lent carries us closer to Holy Week—a week that does not turn away from sorrow or rush too quickly to joy. It calls us to hold both at the same time. This is the heart of our faith: darkness and dawn, death and resurrection, loss and the unshakable promise that God is still moving.

This year, as we walk through the Gospel of Luke, we find ourselves in the “in between” —that sacred, unsettling space where the world as we know it is shifting. Division and suffering persist, but so does mercy. The journey to the cross doesn’t tidy up our questions or hand us simple answers. Instead, it asks us to stay present, to dwell in the messiness, to trust that even when all seems silent, God has not left us.

On Palm Sunday, we wave our branches in welcome, even as we sense the shadow of what’s coming. On Maundy Thursday, we break bread and wash feet, even as uncertainty lingers. On Good Friday, we stand beneath the cross, confronted with the weight of injustice that still echoes in our world. And then, there is Holy Saturday—the space between. The long, aching pause. A day that theologian Shelley Rambo describes as where so many of us live: after the loss, before the healing. After the breaking, before the mending. It is a day for those who sit in grief, who wait for news, who wonder what comes next. And yet, even here, we are not alone. Christ is with us in the waiting, in the silence, in the in-between.

And then—Easter. But not as an eraser of suffering, not as a return to the way things were. Resurrection is a rupture. It is the breaking open of tombs we thought were sealed forever. It is the wild, relentless love of God that refuses to let death have the final word.

So I invite you: Come and be part of this story. Walk with us through the sorrow and the silence, the waiting and the wondering. Let yourself feel the weight of the cross and the stillness of the tomb. And then, when morning

breaks, let your heart be startled awake by the impossible, uncontainable hope of resurrection.

Wherever you are this season—in joy, in grief, in the fragile space in between—know that you are not alone. There is room for you here. For your questions. For your longing. For your hope.

Join us as we step into this sacred story together. Come and see.

In Christ,

*Pr. Andrew*

### Pr. Molly’s Baby Shower

Messiah women are hosting a baby shower in honor of Pr. Molly & Ethan Hunter’s new baby. The shower will be held on Saturday, April 26th starting at 2:00 pm in Magnuson Hall. All are invited! There will be a salad luncheon. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to Anne Rydholm at 906-225-1119 or [anne@messiahlutheranmq.org](mailto:anne@messiahlutheranmq.org) by April 22nd. They have two online baby registry’s: Babylist Baby Registry & Target Baby Registry.

### Soup Luncheon & Soup Supper

During this Lenten season we are inviting all of you to a Soup Luncheon following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, March 30th & a Soup Supper on Wednesday, April 9th following the Taize service that is scheduled for 5:00 pm. Both will be held in Magnuson Hall. Please join us for a warm bowl of soup and some fellowship.

### Community Meal

We will have a community meal on Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:00 pm. The cooks will be serving baked chicken, scallped potatos, mixed vegetables & a dessert. The vegan option will be creamy spinach/tomato linguini. Please join us for food & fellowship. We look forward to sharing a meal with you!

### OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

The OWLS are now walking at the Dome on Monday’s at 10:00 am. 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 at 906-345-9237.

#### **Quilting**

*If you would like to work with Messiah’s quilting group, please contact the office.*

# Messiah Calendar

## Monday, March 24

9:00 am Community Lenten Devotional  
10:00 am OWLs Walk  
6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm AA

## Tuesday, March 25

11:00 am Staff Meeting  
11:00 am Centering Prayer  
1:00 pm Knotty Knitters  
5:30 pm Superior Handbells  
6:30 pm Choral Society Board  
7:00 pm Male Chorus

## Wednesday, March 26

12:00 pm Taize Worship  
1:30 pm Brookridge Worship  
4:00 pm Endowment Team  
5:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, March 27

10:30 am Koinonia Bible Study  
4:00 pm Asylum Task Force  
5:00 pm An Evening of Crafting

## Friday, March 28

9:00 am Senior Men's Bible Study

## Saturday, March 29

10:00 am Pretzel Making  
5:00 pm Worship

## Sunday, March 30

8:00 am Senior Choir Rehearsal  
8:30 am Worship-Traditional  
10:30 am Worship-Contemporary  
11:30 am Soup Luncheon

## In The Hospital

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

### On Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: April 1-2, 6-9, 13-16, 20-23, 27-30  
Pr. Molly Hunter: April 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our May [newsletter](#) is **Monday, April 21, 2025**.

### Messiah's Newsletter

March 23, 2025  
Volume 107, Issue 4

Articles for  
*Weekly Announcements*  
are due by 6:00 pm  
each Wednesday

## 1st Communion Class

Our First Communion class for all interested kids (of any age) and their parents will be held on Saturday, April 12th in the afternoon 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. If you are wondering whether your child is ready, a simple curiosity in receiving communion can be the sign. All ages are welcome, even adults with a curiosity to know more about Communion. We will gather to learn about Jesus' Last Supper, what communion means to us as Lutherans and then bake bread together which will be served at the Maundy Thursday service on Thursday, April 17th. We will also celebrate first communion on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm with those in attendance from the class, helping to serve the congregation. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Molly. If you are planning on attending please RSVP by Monday, April 7th with Pr. Molly or the church office.

## Update on Vacation Bible School 2025

Due to Pr. Molly's maternity leave and baby being born in June along with other time/ life conflicts for essential volunteers, we will not be hosting a VBS program this summer at Messiah. Instead, our Sunday School teachers & other youth volunteers are hoping to plan a few fun activities sprinkled throughout the summer. Stay tuned for summer offerings.

## Passages

### In Sympathy to:

\* Darlene Dreisbach & family upon the passing of her husband Don on March 9th.

### In Celebration of:

\* Josh MacIvor-Andersen and his children; Levin, Aegis & Simeon becoming members.

## Confirmation & High School Youth Event

Messiah's Middle School & High School youth(7th-12th graders) are invited to attend a Friday/Saturday (April 11/12) retreat at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. [Please see article on page 15](#) of this newsletter for more details.

Sarah Bleckiner will be attending. If someone needs a ride Jen Bleckiner can drive you. You can reach Jen at 906-360-9128.

## Bowls for a Cause

Turned Wooden Bowls are available for a donation to the community assistance fund. They are located next to the homemade jams in the narthex. All bowls are homemade and are finished with a food safe finish. If you have questions about the bowls they can be directed to Paul Carstens at [pcarsten@alumni.nmu.edu](mailto:pcarsten@alumni.nmu.edu).

# Messiah's Birthdays

## April 2025

Tuesday 1	Jeanne Groos, Karl Kaukola
Wednesday 2	Bob Hewitt, Gina Lindberg
Thursday 3	No birthdays
Friday 4	Ethan Sellers, Bev Zorza
Saturday 5	Barb Bergstrom, Brent Skaw
Sunday 6	Quinn Tripp
Monday 7	Denise Eady, Theo Geschwindt, Les Rolig
Tuesday 8	Janna Benedict, Bob Marlor, Susan Shaver
Wednesday 9	No birthdays
Thursday 10	Jennifer Britlinger, Doug Morton
Friday 11	Alexandria Braund, Sydney Braund
Saturday 12	Michael Busick, Kim Salmela
Sunday 13	Isabelle Beaudoin, Paula Diedrich, Karla Hardy, Bode Skaw
Monday 14	Roger Contois, Gail Edgar, Don Hillegas, Dave Lundquist
Tuesday 15	Liz Beyne, John Rector, Cheryl Shirtz
Wednesday 16	Hannah Bleckiner
Thursday 17	No birthdays
Friday 18	Greg Carrier, Dan Kilpela
Saturday 19	Mike Hill, Morgan Messana
Sunday 20	Gina Fortin, Mark Paulsen, Grant Rydholm, Deb Vanlerberghe
Monday 21	Sonia Geschwindt, Maria Rodriguez
Tuesday 22	Cathy Seblonka
Wednesday 23	Lois Brazier, Wyatt Crimmins, Laura Kagy
Thursday 24	No birthdays
Friday 25	David DeLarye, Wyatt Crimmins, Laura Kagy
Saturday 26	Doug Gordon, Karen Larson

Sunday 27 No birthdays

Monday 28 Eliza Delpier, Mitchell Gilbert, Gary Nicholas

Tuesday 29 Jason Parks

Wednesday 30 No birthdays

## Happy Anniversary!

*Happy Anniversary to the following couples in April:*

John & Susanne Dahlke	April 2
Jon & Inga Banitt	April 28
Ralph & Pam Christensen	April 28
Jon & Sarah Ruuska	April 29
Ben & Paula Taylor	April 29

## Bread/Dessert & Setup/Cleanup

If you plan to attend the soup luncheon or the soup supper coming up (*Sunday, March 30 after 10:30 worship & Wednesday, April 9 after 5:00 pm worship*), would you be willing to bring some bread or some dessert to the meal? If you can help in this way, please contact the office. Thanks so much!

We are also looking for help with setup & cleanup for each of these meals. Can you help in this way? If you are willing and available, please contact the office. Thank you again!

## Upcoming Events in April

April 2	Community Meal at 6:30 pm
April 3	Building & Grounds at 5:00 pm
April 7	Community Lenten Devotional at 9:00 am
April 9	Taize Worship at 5:00 pm followed by a soup supper
April 12	Confirmation at Immanuel in Negaunee from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
April 12	First Communion Class from 1:30 - 3:30 pm
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 14	Lenten Yoga at 7:00 pm
April 17	Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 pm
April 18	Good Friday service at 6:30 pm
April 19	Easter Vigil service at 5:00 pm
April 20	Easter Sunday with sunrise service at McCarty's Cove at 6:30 am along with our regular 8:30 & 10:30 am services at Messiah
April 21	Church office closed

## Monday Night 11-Step Centering Prayer

This weekly event held at Messiah will **not be meeting** from **March 10 - April 14**. It will resume on **Monday, April 21st at 6:00 pm**.

## Why Centering Prayer?

Fr. Thomas Keating, the person responsible for bringing centering prayer to the laity, talks about the “fruits of the Spirit” that flow from a dedicated practice to contemplative prayer. It took me a long time to realize I was experiencing those fruits from my contemplative practice. I noticed that my perceptions of the world were slowly changing and with the change in perception, I was becoming a more compassionate and kind person. Plus, I began to see that prayers that I thought had gone unanswered in my past, HAD been answered. I had been looking for a specific answer and God knew the answer that would actually work.

When Pastor Molly said this Benediction last week, it struck me to the heart:

*As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle.*

*May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.*

*May you trust that you are made in the image of God.*

*May you move through this world with an open heart, with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.*

*God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.*

*Believe that good news.*

There was a time in my life when I did NOT believe that good news, but I believe it now. That has been one of the greatest gifts of my centering prayer practice: increasing trust in God and God's Love for God's creation, including me! And that God DOES answer prayer.

## Are You a Pianist?

Do you play the piano? Are you free occasionally during the day? Would you like to volunteer as a pianist once or twice a month at an intermitten service that we might hold? If this interests you, please contact 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. If you can purchase these items & bring them to the church, they will be assembled by Messiah's 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!

## Lectionary Readings - April 2025

### April 6

Reading

Gospel

### April 13

Reading

Gospel

### April 20

Reading

Gospel

### April 27

Reading

Gospel

### 5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

John 12:1-8

### Sunday of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Luke 22:14—23:56

### Easter

Acts 10:34-43

Luke 24:1-12

### Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32

John 20:19-31

## 10:30 am Worship Volunteers

We are in need of more volunteers for our 10:30 worship service. Specifically ushers and communion assistants. If either of these roles interest you or if you have questions about it; please visit Jen or Kathy in the office and they will let you know what is involved. Thank you!

## The New Free Store Donations

The New Free Store is in need of the items listed below. There is a collection bin in our narthex at Messiah for The New Free Store.

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

\*May Diapers, size 3-6 and/or Baby Wipes

## Join Mqt MomCo - Marquette Area Mom Community

Calling all moms with young children! Elevate your motherhood journey with Mqt MomCo (formerly known as MOPS). MomCo meets on the 1st Thursday of each month from September to May at Messiah, from 5:15 pm to 7:15 pm. It's a time for moms to connect, share experiences, and support each other through the highs and lows of motherhood. Childcare is usually available during meetings. For more details, contact the church office or Renee Jewett, co-coordinator.

## Lenten Activities

### \*\*\*Community Devotional

Each Monday in Lent at 9:00 am (March 24 & 31, April 7)

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.

### \*\*\* 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.

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

Saturday, March 29th 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!

### \*\*\*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. *The books ordered through the office are all sold out.*

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

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

Wed., March 26 at 12:00 pm – A midday pause for prayer and reflection.

Wed., April 9 at 5:00 pm – An evening of candlelit stillness and song. *There will be a soup supper following this worship.*



Cast out your bread upon the waters,  
for after many days you will get it back.  
Divide your means seven ways, or even eight,  
for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.  
—Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

Far from exhorting us to soggy bread, the teacher encourages us in Ecclesiastes to be so generous with our food and resources that it multiplies beyond the bounds of sense. When we cast our bread upon the waters, we are sharing food with one another without count of cost, and with a mindset of boundless grace. The way the bread returns to us, is by the peace of God, and the mutual love, support and up-building of God's kingdom. Why are we called to share food this way? Because, the teacher says, it will fortify our communities and strengthen them to face whatever disasters may come on earth. Sharing food gives us strength and endurance!

We invite you to generously cast your bread: collect donations for our congregational offering to combat world hunger to be gathered at our Synod Assembly May 15-17, 2025. Each congregation thinks creatively to raise funds for the collection using the theme, and then brings your donations to Synod Assembly Worship.

#### Need some ideas to get you started?

- Host a bread bake sale.
- Take Donations in a breadbox
- Make a world hunger display using bread and baptismal imagery.
- Take donations during your Lenten soup suppers for world hunger.
- However you cast your bread upon the waters we look forward to seeing you at Synod Assembly

**To view our calendar,  
updated daily, please go to  
[messiahlutheranmqt.org](http://messiahlutheranmqt.org)**

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## Fortune Lake News!

### Summer 2025 Program Schedule is Ready!

It's time to start planning for Summer 2025 and Fortune Lake has a program for you and your family! The summer schedule can be found at [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org). Take a gander, talk to your friends, save the dates, and plan to register. There are programs for youth, families, and people of all ages. We can't wait to see you this summer at Fortune Lake!

### Now Hiring - Part-time Kitchen Shift Manager/Housekeeper

This individual will meet foodservice and housekeeping needs for Fortune Lake's camper, rental, and retreat groups. Applicants should have a high school diploma or equivalent, experience in food service, and a willingness to provide hospitality in a team environment. Hours average 15 per week, with a heavier schedule in the summer months. Pay is \$14.50-\$16/hour based on experience. Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to Amanda Rasner at [campdirector@fortunelake.org](mailto:campdirector@fortunelake.org). For a complete job description, go to [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org).

### Sacred Waters Youth Retreat for Grads 3-6, April 4-5

Fortune Lake invites all current 3rd through 6th graders to our Sacred Waters Retreat April 4-5. Join us for a weekend of faith-building fun and a full schedule of camp favorites.

This year's theme, "Sacred Waters," will focus on baptism, what it is, why we do it, and what it means. Campers do not need to be baptized to come to this retreat. Our Bible studies will take an accessible approach in hopes that everyone comes away with a better understanding of the radical promise that is Holy Baptism. The retreat will also include campfire worship, games, songs, outdoor play, and more! Our one night retreats are a favorite with returning and first-time campers alike. The shortened experience is the perfect opportunity to visit camp and see old friends while enjoying some camp favorites as well as a chance to try things out before committing to the full week.

Campers may come as individuals, with friends, or with a group from their congregation. Fortune Lake is also excited to offer a training opportunity to adult youth leaders who attend the retreat. We highly encourage attendance of adult youth leaders and provide the option of staying in with the campers or staying in one of our lodges for an additional fee. Adults will experience the retreat alongside their youth and step out on Saturday morning to attend the training.

Check in will be from 6:00-6:30 pm CT on April 4. There will be an evening snack served on Friday night, but please have dinner before arriving at Fortune Lake. Breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included. The retreat ends at 3:00 pm CT on April 5. There is a closing worship at 2:30 pm CT, and family members are welcome to attend.

If you have further questions about the retreat, please reach out to the camp office by calling 906 214-2267 or by emailing [hospitality@fortunelake.org](mailto:hospitality@fortunelake.org). The registration deadline for this retreat is March 28 at 11:59 pm CT.

### In the Body: Jr/Sr High retreat for grades 7-12.- April 11-12

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp invites all current 7-12 graders to our In the Body Jr/Sr High Retreat. Join us for a weekend of faith formation, music, and fun! Fortune Lake is thrilled to welcome Rachel Kurtz as our facilitator for this retreat.

Through this year's theme, Rachel Kurtz will guide the group through what it means to be "In the Body," both in our own bodies and in the greater Body of Christ. Rachel will touch on what it means to be truly present and kind to our own bodies, how we can better show up as a member of the Body of Christ, and what that looks like in our lives. She will also be sharing her powerful music with the group throughout the weekend. The weekend will also feature familiar camp favorites like songs, games, campfire, hot saunas, and more. Our one-night retreats are great for both longtime campers and those who are just trying it out for the first time. The registration deadline for this retreat is April 4 at 11:59 pm CT. For more information or to register go to [www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org).

## Knotty Knitters

The Knotty Knitters will continue to meet at Messiah on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month. The knitters typically meet in Magnuson Hall but occasionally meet in the atrium. They do join one another for lunch at Vangos prior to coming to Messiah. Please contact Shelly Johnson for more information.

## Devotions Link

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

## UP Wild

Fri. April 4th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Crafting in Community a Drop-in Creativity Space, The Sanctuary, St. Pauls, located at 201 E Ridge in Marquette. A new offering the first Friday of every month. More info [www.upwild.org](http://www.upwild.org)

## Help Wanted: Church Sign Virtuoso

Have a way with words? Enjoy a good pun? Ever dreamed of wielding the power of a marquee? We're looking for a brave soul (or team of souls) to take on the sacred and slightly mischievous task of updating our church sign!

Qualifications? A willingness to swap out letters in all seasons, an appreciation for pith and wit, and a knack for crafting messages that make people smile—and maybe even think a little. Previous experience in dad jokes, wordplay, or holy humor is a plus but not required.

If you're up for the challenge (or just want to know what happens behind the scenes), contact Pr. Andrew.



## Northern Great Lakes Synod

*“What then shall we say to this?*

*If God is for us, who is against us?”*

*~Romans 8:31*

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this article, we are still in a flurry of executive orders and declarations that give rise to a host of emotions. While some are cheering campaign promises kept, others fear for those most impacted and question the constitutional integrity of actions and orders. My own heart feels heavy as funds have been paused for humanitarian aid. I know the work of Lutheran Social Services makes a compassionate difference in the world and frankly, US AID funds make America look good. (It was through USAID grants that the NGLS was able to help build Kisarawe Junior Theological Seminary in Tanzania.) As we consider our theme of Seeds Sowers and planting seeds of faith, the seeds that are now being sown by these actions are unclear. Within that space of planting and growth is the tension between border security and a compassionate immigration system that works, between excessive spending and effective stewardship of federal resources, between legal processes and getting things done. What then shall we say to this?

There is much that I disagree with, and much that provokes concern. But my understanding of the example and call of Jesus to be his disciple brings me back to what I can do, what I should do, and what lies beyond my reach (although not beyond my grief and disquiet.)

I can call my congressional representatives to work to restore funds, and in the meantime, I can encourage congregations to gather in their Synod Assembly offering for World Hunger. I can support local and global efforts to address issues of poverty. I can participate with the efforts of our synod to make a difference with the people who are in our reach and continue to educate around international issues even as we pray for peaceful resolutions and just action.

And I can remember, and remind you and myself, that the God we proclaim is one who promises new life from death. The Savior we serve is one who bids us to “go and do likewise,” not seeking to condemn but inviting us into a deeper understanding of how it is that the least are the greatest. God is for us and working through us to be the presence of Christ. What that means for us in these days, we figure out together. I find that the words of ELW Hymn #705 speak to me with new resonance:

God of grace, and God of glory

On your people pour your power.

Crown your ancient church’s story.

Bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

Cure your children’s warring madness;  
Bend our pride to your control;  
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your Kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation  
to the evils we deplore;

Let the gift of your salvation  
be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom grant us courage,  
serving you whom we adore.

**Grant us wisdom.**

**Grant us courage.**

*In Christ,*

*Bishop Katherine Finegan*

## Visit from members of Azania Front

The Global Mission Team is very happy to report that a group of ten members from our Companion Congregation in Tanzania (Azania Front) are ready to visit Messiah. We have been praying for this to happen and are pleased that we have received a positive response.

The visit this year will be from September 10th - 20th. The team is making plans for events, housing, and ways to share Messiah’s mission & vision. If you are able to house one or two people during this September visit, please contact Pr. Molly Hunter.

We are delighted that their visit will be during one of the most beautiful times of the year in our area. Stay tuned for more information and please think of what you might do to make their visit memorable.

*Judy Quirk on behalf of the Global Mission Team*

## Senior Men’s Ministry

Messiah’s Senior Men’s Ministry is meeting every Friday at 9:00 am in room #202. We meet for about an hour. Please join us on Fridays!

## Consider a Legacy Gift to Messiah

A legacy gift to Messiah is a powerful way for you to ensure that our church's mission and ministry continue for future generations. Legacy gifts, also known as planned giving, allow you to leave a lasting impact by including the church in your estate plans, typically after your lifetime. These gifts can be tailored to fit your financial situation and your personal goals.

One of the most common ways to leave a legacy gift is through a bequest. You can include Messiah in your will or trust, specifying a set amount, a percentage of your estate, or even property. Bequests are flexible, allowing you to maintain control of your assets during your lifetime while knowing that your generosity will help the church in the future.

Another simple option is to name Messiah as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement accounts, like an IRA or 401(k). This only requires updating your beneficiary designation with the financial institution. Also, if you didn't see the article in the August newsletter, you may want to consider how a gift from your required minimum distribution could be a mutually beneficial to you and the church.

If you'd like to create a gift that benefits you now, you can consider establishing a charitable gift annuity or trust. These options provide you with income during your lifetime, and after that, the remaining assets are given to the church. For example, a charitable remainder trust allows you or your loved ones to receive income for a specific period, with Messiah receiving the remaining funds afterward.

Leaving a legacy gift is a meaningful way for you to support Messiah's future while reflecting your values. To ensure your gift aligns with your wishes and financial plans, we highly recommend that you consult a financial advisor or estate attorney. Your gift will continue to make a difference in our church and community for years to come.

If you are interested in including Messiah in your estate plans, or have questions about legacy giving, please contact Anne Rydholm at the church office or via email at [anne@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:anne@messiahlutheranmqt.org).

## Radio Broadcast & Livestream Sponsorship

We are in need of sponsors for weekly/ongoing radio broadcasts & livestream. If this is something you would like to support, please contact the office & share what you would like written for your sponsorship; it can be in honor or in memory of a loved one.

You can reach us by phone at 225-1119 or email at [office@messiahlutheranmqt.org](mailto:office@messiahlutheranmqt.org). The cost of the Radio Broadcast or Livestream sponsorship is \$110.00 each.

## Brookridge Worship

Our worship service at Brookridge is held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Several of our members live there & attend our service regularly. In addition, members of other faith communities join us, making our attendance grow to about 20-25 on a given day. Our service includes hymns, confession, absolution, thanksgiving, psalms, scripture, a homily, Apostles' Creed and Holy Communion. It is a real worship service.

Worshipping with this congregation is a blessing. The singing is robust, the prayers are from the heart, communion and forgiveness is truly felt and the fellowship is sincere.

## In Our Prayers

*Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time:* Darlene Dreisbach & family on the passing of her husband, Don; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Judy Quirk; Jan Brown; Pat Makela; Betsy Cooper; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jimmy Anderson; Jeremy; Owen; Sally Olson; Charlie Blake; Carol Bell; Dorothy; 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 Douras; Tina; Williamson family; Wayne Hanmer; Sierra; Charlene Avery

*You may call the office if you would like a person listed in the prayers. Please obtain permission from the person to list his/her name. We also appreciate updates as to how people listed are progressing. Thank you!*

## Easter Lily Sponsorship

If you would like to order an Easter flower for the sanctuary, please fill out this form & return it with your donation to the office by Wednesday, April 16th.

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

*Suggested donation is \$20.00*



## Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Events

Community Grief Support - Loss of a loved one can look different for everyone. Let our team help you on your journey to new beginnings. This group is designed to support you with education, resources, and a safe place to listen and share. Free & open to the public. No affiliation to our hospice is required. Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions. *Meet at the Forsyth Senior Center at 165 N. Maple St in Gwinn on April 9 from 2:00-3:00 pm.*

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  
April 9 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice  
914 W. Baraga Ave

### Telephone Based:

3rd Tuesday of every month  
April 16 from 2:00-3:00 pm  
Call 906.485.5527 to register  
Landline or Cell phone required to participate

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.

### Live & Learn: Adaptive Equipment Presented by: SAIL

Assistive Technology with SAIL -Assistive technology can be challenging for senior citizens due to complex interfaces, frequent updates, and unfamiliar settings. Navigating smartphones, tablets, laptops, and email can feel overwhelming without the right support. Join us for this special event, where you'll receive assistance to troubleshoot your devices, answer your questions, and gain confidence in using technology with ease. Please bring your devices you have questions with you!

**April 30 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm**

*Marquette Senior Center, 300 W. Spring St in Marquette*

Walking with Purpose: Camino for Hospice - April 13 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at Drifa Brewing Company

Hospice volunteer Bart Carroll recently embarked on an inspiring 260-mile

journey on the renowned Camino de Santiago to raise funds and awareness for Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice. Join us as Bart shares stories and photos from his pilgrimage.

Advance Directives Presentation - April 15 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm @ Peter White Public Library- Heritage Room

Did you know that April is national Healthcare decisions day? Join us for our Advance Directive presentation, where we'll guide you through the 5 Wishes—a simple yet powerful way to ensure your healthcare choices are honored in the event that you are unable to speak for yourself. Learn how to express your medical, personal, emotional, and spiritual wishes in a legal document that provides peace of mind for you and your loved ones. Don't leave these important decisions to chance—take control of your future today! Everyone who is present will receive a free copy of the 5 Wishes. Extra copies will be available to purchase if interested.

Art After Loss April 29 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at Peter White Public Library – Arts & Culture Center (Lower Level)

Creating a Memorial Collage. Creating collages to honor a loved one after loss can be a deeply personal and healing process. Collages allow you to blend memories, emotions, and creativity into a visual tribute that celebrates their life and the impact they had on you. Please bring photographs, hand-written notes, letters, any favorite symbols, quotes, poems, or song lyrics that you would like to integrate into your collage. Poster Boards and craft supplies will be provided. Please RSVP at 906.225.7760 or email:

[cvoce@lakesuperiorhospice.org](mailto:cvoce@lakesuperiorhospice.org)

Powerful Tools for Caregivers – This virtual workshop gives Caregivers the skills to take care of yourself while caring for someone else. By taking care of your own health and well-being, you become a better caregiver. 6 class sessions held once a week on Wednesdays are led by experienced class leaders. Class participants are given The Caregiver Helpbook to accompany the class and provide additional caregiver resources. Please register by April 4th. This class is FREE. At Virtual on April 16 from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

\*\* Please call 2-1-1 to register or go to [upcar.org](http://upcar.org) (click on EVENTS)

## Your Prayer Requests at Messiah

At every Saturday & Sunday worship service, we ask people to fill out a welcome card that is found in the bulletin. The card asks people to put their prayer requests on the back, and these requests are prayed for every Tuesday morning at Messiah's staff meeting. If you wish to have your name or a loved one's name read during worship, please call the office or let the pastors or Jen know. We will need to get permission before we include anyone's name in the worship prayers.

## **April 2025 Worship Volunteers**

### Saturday, April 5 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell  
Communion Asst 1 Barb Salmela

### Sunday, April 6 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Larry Pagel  
Reader 1  
Ushers 2 Bruce Robertson, Sam Elder  
Communion Assts. 3 Larry Pagel,  
Greeters 2 Al and Gail Edgar

### Sunday, April 6 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1  
Reader 1 Nancy Hamlin  
Ushers 2  
Communion Assts. 3  
Greeters 2  
Projection Technician 1

### Saturday, April 12 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Kotila  
Communion Assistant 1

### Sunday, April 13 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Grant Soltwisch  
Reader 1 Larry Pagel  
Ushers 2 Joe and Chris Harkness  
Communion Assts 3 Beth Krznarich, Larry Pagel, Dave Blomquist  
Greeters 2

### Sunday, April 13 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1  
Reader 1 Laurel Kniskern  
Ushers 2 Dave and Nancy Skoog  
Communion Assts. 3 Sandy Lindberg  
Greeters 2  
Projection Technician 1 Abby LaForest

### Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday - 6:30 pm

Ushers 2  
Greeters 2

### Friday, April 18 - Good Friday - 6:30 pm

Greeters 2

### Saturday, April 19 - Easter Vigil - 5:00 pm

Usher 1  
Greeter 1

### Sunday, April 20 - Easter - Sunrise Service - 6:30 am

Usher 1

### Sunday, April 20 - Easter - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Kathy Maynard  
Reader 1 Fred Maynard  
Ushers 2  
Communion Assts. 3 Terry Langenberg,  
Greeters 2

### Sunday, April 20 - Easter - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1  
Reader 1 Mark Paulsen  
Ushers 2  
Communion Assts. 3  
Greeters 2  
Projection Technician 1 Lesley Williams

### Saturday, April 26 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell  
Communion Asst 1 Barb Salmela

### Sunday, April 27 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1  
Reader 1  
Ushers 2  
Communion Assts 3 Beth Krznarich, Terry Langenberg,  
Greeters 2 Darlene Martin,

### Sunday, April 27 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1  
Reader 1 Gayle Van Osdol  
Ushers 2  
Communion Assts 3 Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman, Sandy Lindberg  
Greeters 2 Gayle Van Osdol,  
Projection Technician 1 Inga Banitt

## Messiah's Church Staff:

### Pastoral Staff:

Senior Pastor.....Andrew Plocher  
Associate Pastor.....Molly Hunter

### Support Staff:

Parish Administrator.....Jennifer Dodge  
Administrative Assistant ..Kathy Godec  
Parish Accountant.....Mike Hill  
Financial Secretary.....Anne Rydholm

### Music Staff:

Music/Choir Director.....Sara Parks  
Organist/Pianist.....Kathy Strazzinski  
Bell Choir Director.....Judy Quirk  
Pianist.....Jocelyn Basse

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

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