

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

10:30 am livestream on Facebook

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



May 25, 2025

6th Sunday of Easter

Flowers: To the Glory of God...

* from Bill Maki

Radio: To the Glory of God & In Loving Memory of...

* all the saints from Larry Pagel

Livestream: To the Glory of God...

* from our Messiah family

Siblings in Christ,

This time of year has its own strange magic. The school year exhales. Gardens get ambitious. Travel plans (or at least travel intentions) begin to form. Routines shift—sometimes because kids come home, sometimes because the extra daylight coaxes us to stay up later than we meant to. And right in the middle of this seasonal shuffle, the church hands us two big, gorgeous (and often missed) feast days: Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. It's like God says, "Here, in the middle of your transition and to-do lists—here's a wild wind and a sacred mystery. Pay attention."

Pentecost is loud, fiery, and beautifully disruptive—the moment the Spirit sweeps in like a holy storm and sets regular people on fire (metaphorically, thankfully). It's God saying, "You're ready. Go." And just as we start to catch our breath, Trinity Sunday rolls in—not to hand us a riddle, but to offer awe. Awe at the God who is always in motion: Creator, Christ, Spirit—dancing together in this endless loop of love and welcome.

It's not just ancient theology. It's the rhythm under everything, if we're paying attention. The Spirit still moves. The dance still happens.

But let's be real: we lose track of the rhythm all the time. Life gets heavy, repetitive, or just plain weird. Even in a stunning northern summer, with those long golden evenings and backyard firepits, it's easy to treat our spiritual lives like a side project we'll get back to... eventually.

But what if this season—Pentecost and Trinity and all their wild energy—is an invitation to move now? Not to hustle, not to over-function, but to notice. To respond. To let the Spirit find us exactly where we are—in the middle of our glorious, messy, real lives.

So here's my pastoral dare for the weeks ahead:

Lean into the dance. Take one step—just one—toward connection, toward courage, toward love that actually shows up.

Here are a few ways you might do that:

- Invite someone from church to coffee or dinner. Especially someone you don't know well. Make it awkward on purpose. Holy things often are.
- Come to beach worship on July 6. Let the waves do the preaching. Let the sand do the liturgy. Let your bare feet remind you that the Spirit has always liked to show up outside.
- Write to your representatives about something that matters to you. The Spirit is always stirring toward justice—why not lend your voice?
- Take a walk through your neighborhood and pray as you go. Ask the Spirit to help you see what's already there—and what you might be called to notice.
- Reach out to someone you've been avoiding. You know the one. Risk a little vulnerability. Often, that's where the dance starts.

These aren't giant leaps. They're small, honest steps. But they're real. And sometimes real is what the Spirit uses most.

And if you feel awkward or unsure? Excellent. So did the disciples. This dance isn't about getting it right. It's about being open, a little brave, and willing to be moved.

So this summer, let's trust that the Spirit is already at work—in late sunsets and early harvests, in shared meals and spontaneous laughter, in awkward conversations and holy missteps.

Let's move together.

In Christ,

Pr. Andrew

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.

Quilting

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

Messiah Calendar

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day

Messiah's office is closed

10:00 am OWLs Walk

6:00 pm 11-Step Centering Prayer

7:00 pm Big Lake Theatre Co.

7:00 pm AA

Tuesday, May 27

11:00 am Staff Meeting

11:00 am Centering Prayer

1:00 pm Knotty Knitters

7:00 pm Big Lake Theatre Co.

Wednesday, May 28

1:30 am Brookridge Worship

7:00 pm Big Lake Theatre Co.

Thursday, May 29

10:30 am Koinonia Bible Study

7:00 pm Big Lake Theatre Co.

Friday, May 30

9:00 am Senior Men's Bible Study

7:00 pm Big Lake Theatre Co.

Saturday, May 31

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, June 1

8:00 am Senior Choir Rehearsal

8:30 am Worship-Traditional

10:30 am Worship-Contemporary

Pastor Molly's Maternity Leave

As we approach my due date, I wanted to share with you when I plan to be gone (given that things with baby continue to be good and on schedule). Messiah's parental leave policy is for 12 weeks of leave. If our baby doesn't come early, I will be starting my leave on Monday, June 16th and taking 10 full weeks off. I'll then return on Monday, August 25th and take the next 4 weeks half time, being in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays and week-ends until September 21st. This is all a tentative plan, as you know babies make their arrival in the world when they are ready, and we don't get to control that! But, right now everything is going very well, she is good and healthy and so am I. Thank you all for your prayers and love as Ethan and I approach the birth of our baby girl.

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Spring is (hopefully) here and on Mondays at 10am we will be walking at the lower harbor/Mattson Park if it's not raining. If the weather is rainy we'll walk at the Dome. Afterwards we go to Provisions for coffee. We walk at different rates and all are welcome. If you're not interested in walking join us for coffee. Questions? please contact Betsy or the church office.

Community Meal - June 4

We will have a community meal on Wednesday, June 4 at 6:00 pm. The cooks will be serving a salad, spaghetti & garlic bread. There will be a vegetarian option served as well. Please join us for food & fellowship. We look forward to sharing a meal with you!

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.

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.

June Hand Sanitizer and/or Razors [male/female]

July Deodorant - male or female

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: June 1-4, 8-11, 15-30

Pr. Molly Hunter: June 5-7, 12-14

Pr. Molly leaves on maternity leave starting 6/16

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our July newsletter is **Monday, June 23, 2025**.

Messiah's Newsletter

May 25, 2025

Volume 107, Issue 6

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

Messiah's Birthdays

June 2025

Sunday 1	Ron Brow
Monday 2	Sandy Lindberg
Tuesday 3	Gayle Mack
Wednesday 4	No birthdays
Thursday 5	No birthdays
Friday 6	Rick Beyers, Lois Kampe, Sally McQueen
Saturday 7	No birthdays
Sunday 8	John Gustafson, John Kiltinen, Judy Quirk
Monday 9	No birthdays
Tuesday 10	Mary Beals, Karen Goins, Rulon Jewett, Carrie Ketchum
Wednesday 11	Pauline Kiltinen, Bruce Lindberg
Thursday 12	Eleanor Gustafson, Phil Hoover, Maggie Lindholm, Lillian Tuimala
Friday 13	No birthdays
Saturday 14	No birthdays
Sunday 15	No birthdays
Monday 16	Jean Reynolds
Tuesday 17	Terry Langenberg, Ross Larson, Betsy Little
Wednesday 18	Meghan MacPhee, Mylee Muscoe, Jane Phillips
Thursday 19	Courtney McGovern, Joel Tervo, Jan Vickstrom
Friday 20	Carol Bell, Taylor McGovern
Saturday 21	Mackenzie Beaudoin, Grace Chien
Sunday 22	Bette Dellangelo
Monday 23	Marjorie Andersen
Tuesday 24	Clayton Evans, Elden Wilder
Wednesday 25	Jon Magnuson, Logan Peterson, Sophia Sander
Thursday 26	Eliisa Herman

Friday 27	Ellyn Delpier, Stephen Luty, Ben Taylor
Saturday 28	Jessica Boehlke, Simeon MacIvor-Andersen
Sunday 29	Jaime Olson
Monday 30	Melissa Hill, Chuck Suckow

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in June:

Rich & Kirsten Matthews	June 2
Tim & Angela Weir	June 4
Bob & Sue Hewitt	June 6
Ken & Jan Skytta	June 7
Dirk & Gayle Van Osdol	June 7
Wayne & Jane Phillips	June 8
Chip Truscon & Karen Eldevick	June 9
Allan & Sara Johnson	June 11
Jason & Sara Parks	June 11
Kerry McGinley & Karen Burkman	June 14
Phil & Nancy Hoover	June 14
Mike & Joan Hill	June 15
Tom & Jeannie Wagner	June 15
Dan Kilpela & Gwen Storm	June 16
John & Linnea Gustafson	June 19
Gina Lindberg & her husband	June 19
Dan Niemi & Tanya Jennings	June 21
Jack & Anna Mendelin	June 21
Dave & Mary Lou Blomquist	June 23
Matt & Kerry Wiese	June 23
Michael & Traci Busick	June 26
John & Pauline Kiltunen	June 26
Brad & Holly Muscoe	June 26
Josh & Holly Sundman	June 29
Peg Bagley & her husband	June 30

Upcoming Events in June/July

June 4	Community Meal at 6:00 pm in Magnuson Hall
June 11	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
June 14	Pride Fest at Lower Harbor Park
June 15	Father's Day
June 19	Church office closed in observance of Juneteenth
June 25	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
July 3	Church office closed in observance of Independence Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 6	10:30 am worship is at Clark Lambros Beach

Sunday School Families – Summer & Fall

This summer there will be a fun gathering at the home of Jen Bleckiner, who teaches 3 year olds through kindergarten. Join all our teachers and all families with Sunday School aged children for a fun evening with a bonfire, swimming, dinner and s'mores at their house. July 25th from 5:00 – 7:30 pm at 545 Fisher Street. Rain date will be August 1st. You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert.

Sunday School for the fall begins on Rally Sunday – September 7th . Registration for this fall is now live on Messiah's website. Rally Day also includes a picnic style lunch of hot dogs after 10:30 worship along with fun activities for kids.

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.

OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) - June 20th

Have you seen the *"Bowls for a Cause"* in the atrium? Have you been curious about how turned wooden bowls are made? Paul Carsten's has offered to show us his home workshop & the bowl turning process on Friday, June 20th at 11:00 am. Paul lives in Marquette. Afterwards, we will head to the Iron Bay restaurant for lunch. All are welcome to join us.

Please see the sign-up sheet near on the welcome table in June. This way we can give Iron Bay a number of attendees for our table. Call the church office with any questions.

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!

Devotions Link

www.prayfaithfully.org is an on-line devotional reading service maintained by the Northern Great Lakes Synod and written by various pastors and laypersons.

Lectionary Readings - June 2025

June 1

Reading
Gospel

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34
John 17:20-26

June 8

Reading
Gospel

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

June 15

Reading
Gospel

The Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
John 16:12-15

June 22

Reading
Gospel

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:1-9
Luke 8:26-39

June 29

Reading
Gospel

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Luke 9:51-62

Fortune Lake Summer Camp 2025

Summer camp is the heart & soul of Fortune Lake's ministry. We have opportunities for all ages!

Our Mission, "Seeking to connect faith and life, we provide a welcoming space for all people to experience God, community, and nature" is lived out through our Core Values, moment-by-moment all summer long as people of all ages gather on the shores of Fortune Lake. We invite you to reach out to a friend and join us for Summer 2025 God's Word Comes Near based on Romans 10:8 "The Word is near you, on your lips and in your heart."

For more information, please go to www.fortunelake.org

Light the Fire for Fortune Lake!

On June 1st at 7:00 pm ET (6:00 pm CT) at a location near you or online, you're invited to a campfire site to light the fire for Fortune Lake!

The Board of Directors invites you to our 2nd Annual Light the Fire for Fortune Lake, a community-centered evening of friends, family, faith, and fellowship around the campfire as we raise funds for Fortune Lake. We are excited to kick off the summer camp season and to celebrate the work of God through our beloved camp. All are welcome and there is no fee to participate. There will be an invitation to donate in support of Summer Camp at Fortune Lake.

The following locations will host simultaneous campfire events:

*Ascension Lutheran Church - 7937 Hwy 51 South, Minocqua WI 54548

*Bethany Lutheran Church - 130 Odill Dr., Norway, MI 49870

*Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp - 138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd, Crystal Falls, MI 49916

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - 42905 Wilson Memorial Dr., Chassell, MI 49916

*Beach House hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church - 1224 Lake Shore Dr., Gladstone, MI 49837

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - 555 Riverside Rd., Marquette, MI 49855

*Zion Lutheran Church - 100 Midland Ave., Ironwood, MI 49938

*Zion Lutheran Church - 2714 James St., Marinette, WI 54143

*Facebook LIVE - get a glimpse of ALL of the campfires from anywhere!

Site hosts are busy preparing for you. If you're joining in person, please bring an outdoor chair or blanket to sit on.

Building & Grounds Beautification Day

On June 19th from 2:00 - 5:00 pm will be Messiah's Grounds Beautification Day: On this day we will be cleaning up around the grounds of the church, weeding, sprucing up, planting and eradicating some of the mildew on the sides of the building. If you love gardening and would be willing to continue helping to tend some of our plants over the summer, we would so appreciate you showing up this day, signing up ahead of time on the welcome table or contacting Jen in the office prior to the day. Messiah's office will be closed this day, as it is the Juneteenth Federal holiday. The building will be open for you to get anything you may need from 2:00-5:00 pm. Thank you!

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!

Messiah's Community Assistance Fund

A midyear update on our assistance fund. Our dedicated group of volunteers - Mary Lou Bloomquist, Bill Davis, Mike Coyne, Laurel Kniskern, and Pam Christiansen - graciously give of their time throughout the week to see up to 12-15 people and help them with their needs. We most often give money for utilities, rent, medical bills, car insurance/repairs, and bus tickets. We are six months out from Giving Tuesday where we raise the majority of the monetary resources for the assistance fund, but with our calculations and the potential of cuts to social services, we expect that we will run out of funds well before then. I am asking for you to think about contributing at this time of the year if you have some extra funds to give. This ministry is essential to our community, it not only helps people with bills but it allows us to show God's love and care to those who are most in need.

How can you help?

- Donate to the assistance fund!

- Bring in food for our small pantry - especially things that are easy to prepare like chili, cereals, pastas and sauce, etc. When bringing canned goods, check for an easy open top.

- Do you know of other organizations in the area that help people? Let us know so that we can expand the help each person is receiving.

- Do you know of any grants we could apply for?

Passages

In Sympathy to:

* Philip Andersen upon the passing of his mother, Marilyn on April 25th. Her funeral was held at Messiah on Wednesday, May 7th.

* Family & friends of Cary Bjork who passed away on May 12th. His funeral was held at Messiah on Friday, May 16th.

In Celebration of:

* A successful year of Sunday School for our children. It would not have been possible without the direction of Pr. Molly Hunter and all the wonderful volunteers who showed up week after week (for most weeks) from September through May. Thanks to Jen & Sarah Bleckiner who taught the youngest aged kids, Paul & Mary Beth Carstens who taught the middle aged kids, Dave Echelbarger & Christine Thomas-Echelbarger who taught the oldest kids, Emily Fitzpatrick & Rebecca Ulland who led music & tone chimes. We have had increased Sunday School attendance all year!

Visit from Members of Azania Front - Fall 2025

Members from Azania Front are in the process of obtaining their visas for their visit this fall. We need to continue our prayers for their success.

Check out the kiosk with their pictures and information. Note the side which has the photos from the 2017 visit. If you have memories and more photos, we can add them saying remember even more.

Our time with them was good and this time can be even better. Think of how you can share the faith life at Messiah and this church's place in this community.

The Global Mission Team reminds you of some of the needed things...

1. Pray that they receive their visas.
2. Pray for their safe travel.
3. Join with the congregation for a meal together.
4. Take some of them with you to your favorite place, activity, store, event.
5. Provide housing for two or more of them for one or two of the weeks they are here.
 - a. Hosting would include some meals (especially breakfast) and transportation (usually to Messiah to meet the bus)
 - b. Hosting for about half of the visit is a fine option
6. Invite some of them to your home for a meal.
7. We are eager for your ideas & your help outside of hosting, look for a sign up sheet later this summer for those opportunities.

Beach Worship Is Back!

We're heading back to the beach this summer—and you're invited. On the first Sundays of July and August, and on Labor Day weekend, our 10:30 worship will take place at Clark Lambros Beach Park.

Mark your calendars:

- July 6
- August 3
- August 31

Bring a chair, bring a friend, and come ready to worship with sand between your toes and Lake Superior as our chancel. There's nothing quite like singing, praying, and sharing communion with the waves rolling in.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll be in the sanctuary like usual. But here's hoping for sunshine and a light breeze!

UP Wild

Friday, June 6 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Crafting in Community a Drop-in Creativity Space, The Sanctuary St. Pauls 201 E Ridge

Saturday, June 14 at 10:00 am: Wilderness Walk w/ Diane Tschirgi of Asahi Nordic of the UP. Originating from Finland, a holistic approach incorporating gentle movements synchronized with slow breathing. Meeting at Kawbawgan Memorial rock on Presque Isle.

Go to upwild.org for more information

Book Study on *The Ungrateful Refugee*

July 14th, 7:00 pm - Atrium

"Every day of her new life, the refugee is asked to differentiate herself from the opportunist." —Dina Nayeri

Join us for a timely and moving book study on *The Ungrateful Refugee* by Dina Nayeri. With honesty and depth, Nayeri weaves her own story of fleeing Iran with the lives of others displaced around the world—revealing what it means to seek safety, navigate suspicion, and search for belonging.

Together we'll explore themes of identity, hospitality, resilience, and faith. This book doesn't offer easy answers—but it does offer an invitation: to listen, reflect, and see with new eyes.

Whether you read often or are picking up your first book in a while, all are welcome. Guided discussions will help us wrestle with complex questions and connect them to our call as people of faith.

Copies of the book will be available in the church office beginning in June for \$18 each.

Join Messiah at Pride Fest 2025

Saturday, June 14 | 12:00–10:30 pm | Mattson Lower Harbor Park, Marquette

Messiah will once again be present at Upper Peninsula Pride Fest—because we believe every person is made in the image of God, and every story deserves to be seen, heard, and celebrated.

For us, this isn't just an event. It's a ministry of presence.

By showing up at Pride, we extend Christ's radical welcome to the 2SLG-BTQIA+ community (two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, or an identity not named). We embody the truth that God's love has no boundaries—and neither does our embrace. Whether it's through offering a blessing, sharing a smile, or simply listening, our booth becomes holy ground: a space where grace meets joy, sorrow, resilience, and hope.

Why it matters that we're there:

Because too many have heard the church speak rejection.

Because healing begins when love shows up—out loud and unafraid.

Because Pride is a celebration of belovedness, and we believe God delights in that.

We invite you to come:

- To volunteer at the Messiah table (contact the church office!)
- To march, mingle, dance, witness
- To be church in the park: visible, loving, and unashamed

Let's continue to show the U.P. what affirming faith looks like. For full festival details, visit uprainbowpride.org

**To view our calendar,
updated daily, please go to
messiahlutheranmqt.org**

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What is Centering Prayer?

Centering prayer is a form of silent prayer that emphasizes resting in God's presence through silence and a sacred word. It involves finding a quiet space, sitting comfortably, and focusing on a chosen word to help maintain stillness and let go of thoughts. The goal is to cultivate a deeper relationship with God through stillness and receptivity. Several members of Messiah lead groups that practice this form of prayer throughout the week as a piece of their faith life. -- Pr. Molly Hunter

Centering Prayer

"As the desert monastics suggest, the only way through the deserts of life is to remain in the practice of examining the self, to stay in the Divine's presence as we unveil ourselves, to truly see and be seen..."

This past April, I attended a ten-day silent centering prayer retreat at the Norbertine Abbey in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were 20 of us that came from as far as Ireland to attend the Center of Contemplation of Snowmass, Colorado traveling intensive post retreat. We arrived in a sandstorm, which is as blinding as a blizzard but more annoying than snow with sand in your eyes nose and mouth.

We had distant views of the Jemez and Sandia mountains to the north and northeast. We heard the choral of coyotes in the evening and the morning birds. Nature was definitely not on silent retreat. The Abbey had a wonderful meditative walking trail that became an important part of my practice to be present and aware. Along the trail, I found several white bleached bones: a vertebra, a large jawbone, a whole skeleton of some small critter. I also saw prints in the sand from birds, mice, and rabbits. And some huge coyote paw prints very close to our courtyard; probably after the many roadrunners walking fast around the courtyard (I never saw one run). There was definitely a lot going on in this stark desert.

Each day, we woke at 5:15 am for two 30-minute sits with a meditation walk in-between, and three more 30-minute sits before lunch. I loved the early mornings with spacious skies full of stars, although the temperatures were cold. We never reached t-shirt weather while I was there. We were still in the dry winter months before the summer monsoons.

It was the afternoon time that gave me problems. The unstructured time alone. That is when the thoughts that are all-pervasive came out. The ones from home that I brush away with busy work, listening to a book or talking on the phone. Anything but paying attention. In talking with the spiritual director, I found it is the afternoon time that plaques me always. The unstructured time. Something I have more of in retirement. All the thoughts boil down to one; I should be doing more – I am not enough.

I really wasn't able to deal with these hours on the retreat. I found ways to escape. They had great wi-fi. But since I have been home, I have been slower,

quieter and paying more attention. Allowing myself a loving nap without retribution has helped and has restored me to be more productive later in the day. I am continuing to listen with less judgement and more love.

What this retreat has given me is the time and space to listen and pay attention. Centering Prayer is becoming more important in my life. In this practice I am continually asked to surrender or consent, whichever word you prefer, to the God within. Each time a thought comes in I do what I can to let it go, to be with God. Absolutely nothing I am thinking is important, although I like to think it is and sometimes it is a struggle to let it go. That is my practice. It is a practice of letting my false self go to be of service. So, I practice.

Laura Petrie, Co-Leader of Centering Prayer

If you are interested in practicing Centering Prayer, we meet in room 202 on the following days:

Mondays at 6:00 pm -20-minute centering prayer practice with a short reading from Divine Therapy & Addiction by Thomas Keating

Tuesdays at 11:00 am -20-minute centering prayer practice with Lectio Divina

Thursdays at 1:30 pm - 20-minute practice with a short reading from Invitation to Love by Thomas Keating

Let's Finish What We Started

Three years ago, a generous anonymous donor helped spark a transformation at Messiah—a transformation in how we hear, see, and connect. That gift launched a series of much-needed upgrades to our sanctuary's audio and visual systems: clearer sound, updated wiring, improved streaming, and a stronger internet foundation.

Already, we've felt the difference. Whether gathered in the sanctuary or joining from home, our worship is more accessible, more reliable, more connected.

But we're not done yet.

As our worship life continues to evolve—and as our building continues to serve as a hub for hospitality and community—it's time to take the next faithful step.

What's Next?

We're raising funds to complete the next phase of A/V improvements, including:

- Enhancing the T-Coil hearing system to better support those with hearing aids.
- Upgrading speakers in the narthex, atrium, and nursery—and connecting them to the sanctuary system, so even those outside the main worship space can fully participate. (*continued on page 18*)

- Creating a centralized A/V and internet hub for stronger, simpler management.
- Rewiring outdated internet infrastructure to support streaming, communication, and day-to-day ministry.
- Refreshing the Magnuson Hall sound system so it's ready for worship, meetings, and events.
- Adding a large screen to the Atrium for overflow worship and presentations—welcoming all, even when the sanctuary is full.

It's a bold vision, grounded in a simple commitment: **everyone should be able to hear, see, and feel included in worship.**

Matching Gifts—Double Your Impact

To help us reach our \$30,000 goal, Church Council has approved a matching initiative from undesignated memorial funds. Every dollar you give will be matched—doubling your impact.

Gifts can be made online or by check with “A/V projects” in the memo line.

Thank you for your generosity, your vision, and your love for this community. With your help, we can finish what we began—not just for today, but for the generations who will worship here next.

Let's finish what we started—together.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Family & friends of Cary Bjork who passed away; Darlene Dreisbach; Philip Andersen & family upon the passing of his mother, Marilyn; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Jan Brown; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; 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 Douros; Tina; Williamson family; Wayne Hanmer; Judy Donckers; 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!

Subscribe to Messiah's ENewsletter

Messiah publishes an electronic newsletter every Wednesday which is sent to subscribers via email. Receiving the ENews is a good way to stay abreast of church news and activities. If you are interested in subscribing, contact Kathy at Messiah's office. And, you can access the ENews through Messiah's website.

A Daily Guide for June

June 1 – Wonderfully Made

Read Psalm 139:14 – “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Let this truth shape how you see yourself and others today.

June 2 – Celebrate Courage

Take time to notice and celebrate the courage it takes to live with authenticity. Honor the quiet bravery in yourself or someone you know.

June 3 – Mirror Blessing

Look in the mirror and say, “*I am a child of God, created with care and purpose.*” Repeat until the blessing feels true.

June 4 – Speak Life

Reach out to someone and offer them encouragement. Let your words remind them of their sacred worth.

June 5 – Scripture of Welcome

Read Galatians 3:28 – “There is no longer Jew or Greek... slave or free... male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Reflect on God's expansive vision of belonging.

June 6 – Be True

Take one honest step today—share a piece of your story, wear something that expresses who you are, or make space for someone else to be themselves.

June 7 – Rest is Holy

Pause for deep rest today, not because you've earned it, but because you are beloved. Let your soul breathe.

June 8 – Create with Heart

Make something today: a poem, a song, a sketch, a prayer. Let creativity be a way of listening to your own spirit.

June 9 – Learn and Listen

Engage with a perspective you don't usually hear—especially from people at the margins. Let your learning deepen compassion.

June 10 – Name the Good

Write down five things about yourself that are good. Speak them aloud as a prayer of gratitude.

June 11 – Remember the Brave

Give thanks for those who have made the world more just, inclusive, and kind. Their legacy continues through you.

June 12 – Celebrate Community

Take time to notice what you love about your community—your neighborhood, church, family of choice. What makes it a place of belonging?

June 13 – Encourage the Young

Offer words of blessing to a child, teen, or young adult in your life. Let them know they are seen and loved.

June 14 – A Prayer for the Margins

Pray for those who feel excluded, unseen, or judged. Ask God to bring safety, affirmation, and healing wherever it's needed.

June 15 – Love Without Conditions

Reflect: When have you experienced unconditional love? How might you offer that same grace to yourself or someone else today?

June 16 – Scripture of Steadfast Love

Read Romans 8:38–39 – “Nothing can separate us from the love of God.” Nothing. Let that promise give you strength.

June 17 – Tell Your Truth

Think of a moment when you felt fully yourself. Write or share that story with someone you trust.

June 18 – Faith that Expands

Explore a writer or teacher whose view of faith challenges and inspires you. Let your understanding of God grow bigger.

June 19 – Juneteenth: Freedom and Repair

Honor the day when enslaved people in the U.S. were finally told they were free. Reflect on the work of justice still unfinished. Pray: *“God of liberation, help me seek freedom not just for myself, but for all.”*

June 20 – Celebrate with Pride

Take joy in who you are and who you are becoming. Celebrate the dignity and worth of all people. Pride is holy when it affirms love and truth.

June 21 – Summer Solstice: Shine Fully

Let the longest day of the year remind you to live fully and freely. You don't need to shrink. Let your light shine.

June 22 – A Blessing for Belonging

Pray: *“God of welcome, draw near to all who've felt cast out or unseen. Make our communities places of love, healing, and home.”*

June 23 – Offer Your Gifts

What do you bring to the world? Share one of your gifts today—your kindness, insight, creativity, or care.

June 24 – Be Gentle with Yourself

When you speak to yourself today, use the same voice you would for a beloved friend. Let compassion guide your inner dialogue.

June 25 – Pray with Color

Use color to pray—doodles, paints, markers. Let the act of creating become a sacred offering.

June 26 – Reclaim Sacred Words

Choose a word from faith that has hurt or inspired you. Sit with it again. Ask God to restore its meaning with truth and grace.

June 27 – Build Bridges

Reach out to someone across a divide—of belief, identity, or experience. Seek understanding over agreement.

June 28 – Remember the Movement

Reflect on the people who sparked change—activists, dreamers, protestors, preachers. Give thanks, and ask: Where do I stand?

June 29 – Imagine the Kin-dom

Picture a world where every person is honored, loved, and safe. Let that vision shape how you speak and act today.

June 30 – Prayer for Sacred Worth

Pray: *“God of love, thank you for making me in your image. Help me live with courage, speak with kindness, and see your beauty in all people. Amen.”*

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@messiahlutheran-mqt.org. The cost of the Radio Broadcast or Livestream sponsorship is \$110.00 each.

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.

Medication Help Available

If you have questions or concerns regarding your medications, you can contact retired pharmacist, Barb Salmela. Contact the office to get her number. All inquiries are confidential. She can help find discounts for medication, ways to possibly obtain them for free, or suggest less expensive alternatives.

Global Mission Team Bake Sale Results!

Thanks to the generosity of all of you, the Global Mission team was able to raise \$591.00 from the bake sale held at Messiah last weekend. Thank you all so much for your help to reduce global hunger. We appreciate you!

We Did It!

The generous folks at Messiah came through again. A total of \$7,902.00 was sent to the Synod Assembly offering this year. We continue to focus on the core ministry of our church – to “Love Our Neighbors”. Note the correspondence below:

Special Recognition from ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Our congregation has recently received recognition from our national church as being among the congregations most generous to ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Response. The letter read in part:

“We are delighted to thank you personally for going above and beyond in your giving and being one of our most dedicated supporters of these ministries. Thank you for your dedication to working toward a just world where all are fed. I thank God for the faithful generosity of members of your congregation as you make an impact now and inspire hope for the future.”

Rev. Daniel Rift, *ELCA World Hunger Director*

The certificate we received is on display outside the office – check it out. A heartfelt thanks to all who support this ministry.

- - - *Global Mission Team*

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.

Support Local Lions Club

Support the Marquette Lions Club by renting a 3 x 5 American Flag for your front yard for Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day. Flags will be delivered prior to each holiday and picked up after the event. The minimum donation requested is \$35. If interested please contact Kerry McGinley at 231-250-1092. Make checks payable to Marquette Lions Club. Thank you for your support.

Assistance Fund Requests

Some of the people we see are hard to forget:

A young woman came to us in 2023, referred by St. Vincent de Paul, with needs that made me weep. They were in danger of being evicted, both parents had lost their jobs and were scrambling to find work. They had five young children. Childcare was not affordable for them with the low paying jobs they were applying for, so they were considering sending their kids out of state to be cared for by relatives so they could both work. They resorted to selling their plasma to keep going. We were unable to satisfy what they needed to prevent eviction, but contributed \$200 toward the huge amount, and referred them to another program I knew of that was able to keep them in their home. I still think of them, and pray they are doing OK.

Mary Lou Blomquist

2025 Graduating Seniors

Maija Maki-Warne - Maija is graduating from Marquette Senior High School in the Distinction category for GPA and a member of the National Honor Society and an athlete on the Cross Country and Track & Field Teams. She plans to attend *Northern Michigan University* to study Nursing and run Cross Country and Track & Field. She is a Local Scholarship Recipient.

Jacob MacPhee - Jacob will be graduating from Marquette Senior High School. His GPA earned him the recognition of High Achievement. He will be attending *Michigan Tech* next fall and he will be playing basketball for them.

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, As I write this, we are in the midst of spring in the U.P. I daresay that even spring in northern Wisconsin cannot compare as the residents at the southern edge of our Synod will welcome tulips and daffodils weeks, weeks! before their northern siblings.

Spring in the U.P. is characterized by heavy, wet, snow – frozen mud - dirty snowbanks – sap buckets hanging off of dead looking trees – and weather whiplash as temperatures vacillate between the arctic cold of January and the tease of sunshine warmth that has the power to thaw.

But just as Easter follows Good Friday, so also will spring eventually make a solid appearance (by summer). The sleeping earth will awaken. And what had been dormant and quiet within the darkness of snow and frozen dirt will once again grow and be green in the longer light of summer days.

I do love it that the light lingers longer. But let us not forget the value and blessing of darkness. In darkness, there is rest. When we finally get to plant seeds in warm soil, there is anticipation and hope for new life. It is in dark-

ness that a seed gathers what it takes to grow. It is in darkness that its energy coalesces in preparation for change. Plant a seed in rested, thawed, and warm dirt....add water and Ta Da! In due time, the seed sends forth a shoot which grows exponentially - to become a potato plant or a tomato bush or a watermelon vine – something incredibly larger than the seed itself. It is miraculous even as it is ordinary.

When we plant seeds in our gardens, we have an expected timetable. We generally know how long a seed will lie in dark earth before we can predict when we will see the first signs of growth. Knowing the length of time helps us be patient even as we are expectant.

However, the germination of seeds of faith or the expectant hope of when some effort of ministry will bear fruit is a complete unknown. There is no timetable to which we can refer to bolster our patience. We cannot predict the future. We cannot even know for certain whether the seeds that have been planted will grow. It may well be that given the uncertainty of these days – both in and out of the Church, that it feels like we are “in the dark”.

But again, let us not forget the value and blessing of darkness. What if the darkness, or this time of expectant hope, need not be a time of anxiety or fear but rather a time of coalescing our energy in preparation for future change? What if we are receiving now, when we cannot see the future, all that we need for the challenges ahead? The value of darkness can be in the waiting, in the hopefulness, in the preparation, in the being watered so that we have what we need for future growth. As we focus this year on “Apollos watered”, we think of what seeds of faith and ministry need in order for growth and new life to happen, not only for what we contribute to nurture seeds, but also in what we receive for new life to grow in and through us.

Jesus was planted in the darkness of a tomb for three days. While in that darkness, perhaps he rested, or perhaps God gave him what he needed to prepare him for transformation, or perhaps something coalesced in him so that he could burst forth from the tomb with light and life. Whatever his time in darkness looked like and felt like, it gives us hope that darkness and waiting, death and dormancy, are not the enemy.

In the pattern of the Christian life, we loose our grip on what we love: familiarity, certainty, what we think we need - and instead open our hand to receive what is good from God – even if it is only, at least for now, the gathering energy in preparation for change, for transformation, for the new life that will come... unexpectedly... from darkness.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Events

Grief Support Series – 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 series will take place every other Thursday from June 5th – August 14th from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Facilitated by Lisa Martilla, Bereavement Coordinator & Social Worker. Please call our office at 906.225.7760 to sign up no later than 6/4/2025.

Grief Support Group - Grief can be overwhelming, and navigating it alone can make the pain feel even heavier. A grief support group is a safe, compassionate space where individuals who have experienced loss come together to share, listen, and heal. Guided by trained facilitators, these gatherings offer comfort, understanding, and connection through shared experiences. Whether you've recently lost a loved one or are still coping with grief from the past, attending a support group can help you process your emotions, reduce isolation, and find strength in community. Healing doesn't mean forgetting — it means learning to carry your loss with support beside you. Choose the location that works best for you! Free & open to the public. No affiliation to our hospice is required. Please call 906.225.7760 if you have any questions.

Gwinn

Forsyth Senior Center
165 N. Maple St
June 11
2:00 - 3:00 pm

Marquette

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice
914 W. Baraga Ave
June 26
4:00 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
June 11 from 2:00-3:00 pm
Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice
914 W. Baraga Ave

Telephone Based:

3rd Wednesday of every month
June 18 from 2:00-3:00 pm
Call 906.485.5527 to register
Landline or Cell phone required to participate

June 2025 Worship Volunteers

Sunday, June 1 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Larry Pagel
Reader 1 Judy Quirk
Ushers 2 Bruce Robertson, Sam Elder
Communion Assts. 3 Larry Pagel, Judy Quirk
Greeters 2

Sunday, June 1 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Molly Luty
Reader 1
Ushers 2
Communion Assts. 3
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1

Saturday, June 7 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Kotila
Communion Assistant 1 Barb Salmela

Sunday, June 8 -8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Harkness
Reader 1 Larry Pagel
Ushers 2 Joe & Chris Harkness
Communion Assts 4 Beth Krznarich, Larry Pagel & Judy Quirk
Greeters 2 Penny Streeter

Sunday, June 8 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Jeanne Groos
Ushers 2 Fred & Jeanne Groos
Communion Assts. 4 Karen Burkman & Kerry McGinley, Sandy Lindberg
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1 Lesley Williams

Saturday, June 14 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Kotila
Communion Asst 1 Barb Salmela

Sunday, June 15 -8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Louise Reichert
Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka
Communion Assts. 3 Larry Pagel
Greeters 2

Sunday, June 15 -10:30 am

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

Saturday, June 21 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Karen Kimar-Johnson
Communion Asst 1

Sunday, June 22 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Brenda Blett
Reader 1
Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka
Communion Assts 4 Beth Krznarich
Greeters 2

Sunday, June 22 -10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1
Ushers 2
Communion Assts 4 Sandy Lindberg
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1 Abby LaForest

Saturday, June 28 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell
Communion Asst 1

Sunday, June 29 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Brenda Blett
Ushers 2
Communion Assts 4
Greeters 2

Sunday, June 29 -10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1
Ushers 2
Communion Assts 4
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1

Messiah's Church Staff:

Pastoral Staff:

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

Support Staff:

Parish Administrator.....Jennifer Dodge
Administrative Assistant ..Kathy Codec
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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