

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



October 26, 2025

Reformation Sunday

- Flowers:** **To the Glory of God & In Loving Memory of...**
- * Lowell R. Johnson from Helen M. Johnson
 - * Our father, Leonard Johnson on October 25 from Tina, Judy & Billie
- Radio:** **To the Glory of God & in Honor of ...**
- * Jim Lahti for his birthday from his children & grandchildren
- Livestream:** **To the Glory of God...**
- * from our Messiah family

Siblings in Christ,

By the time you read this, the light will be slipping earlier behind the trees. The afternoons will carry that unmistakable November chill — the kind that asks you to slow down, wrap up, and maybe light a candle before you even think about dinner.

This time of year is both comforting and sobering. The rhythm of the season slows us, draws us inward. But it can also bring a certain heaviness. The skies turn gray more often. The headlines are wearying. Many of us are carrying grief — fresh or ancient — and the world rarely pauses long enough to honor that.

But the Church does.

We begin November with All Saints' Day, a time to name the beloved ones we've lost and to trust that we are still, somehow, held together in God's eternal communion. We light candles not to erase the dark but to remind ourselves that love and memory still shine within it.

Later this month, we'll arrive at Thanksgiving — a holiday I hold with both affection and caution. Gratitude is good and necessary, but for many, this season brings complex emotions: about family, about history, about abundance and scarcity. Maybe you're feeling some of that complexity this year. I am too.

And still, I believe gratitude has power — not when it pretends everything's fine, but when it lives honestly in tension with the brokenness of the world. Real gratitude is not passive; it's a form of resistance.

And then, just as the month closes, Advent begins. Not with spectacle, but with shadows.

Advent always surprises me in this way. It doesn't start with carols or coziness, but with longing. With people crying out — for mercy, for justice, for God to show up and make things right.

It feels a lot like where we're living, doesn't it?

This year, we'll be working with a devotional and worship resource from A Sanctified Art that asks bold questions — like "What do you fear?" and "What are you waiting for?" But more than that, it invites us to imagine how hope can take root even in anxious soil. Not glittery, saccharine hope — but sturdy, courageous, grown-up hope. The kind that resists despair. That links arms with others. That prays even when it doesn't have the words.

Speaking of prayer: I'd love for you to join me this month in reading *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools* by Tyler Staton. It's honest, hopeful, and beautifully challenging. It won't offer easy answers, but it will open a deeper way into prayer — not as escape, but as engagement. As formation. As relationship with the God who shows up not in palaces, but in mangers.

This season is asking something of us. Not perfection. Not performance. But presence.

So let's light our candles. Let's name our grief. Let's give thanks — not because everything is fine, but because defiant gratitude is part of how we hold each other up. Let's wait for what is coming — not passively, but actively, faithfully, together.

See you in the dark.

In Christ,
Pr. Andrew

Community Meal - November 5

Our next Community Meal will be on Wednesday, November 5th at 6:00 pm. Our cooks will be making a Thanksgiving meal! Please join us for an evening of food & fellowship. We look forward to seeing you & sharing a meal with you!

All Saints Worship – November 1st & 2nd

Each year on All Saints, we pause to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us—those we've lost in the past year, and those whose memory still lives deep in our hearts.

During worship on **Saturday, November 1 (5:00pm)** and **Sunday, November 2 (8:30am & 10:30am)**, we'll honor the names of loved ones who have died this past year and light candles in remembrance. It's a tender, holy space to grieve, to give thanks, and to find hope again in the promise of resurrection.

Whether your loss is recent or from years past, you are invited to come, remember, and be held in God's love—together with your church family.

Messiah Calendar

Monday, October 27

10:00 am OWLs Walk
5:30 pm 11-Step Centering Prayer
5:45 pm Handbells
7:00 pm AA

Tuesday, October 28

11:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Centering Prayer
1:00 pm Knotty Knitters
5:30 pm BYPEO Meeting
5:30 pm Superior Handbells
6:00 pm Synod Conference
7:00 pm Male Chorus

Wednesday, October 29

5:00 pm Senior Choir

Thursday, October 30

10:30 am Koinonia Bible Study
1:30 pm Centering Prayer
6:00 pm Global Mission Meeting

Friday, October 31

9:00 am Senior Men's Bible Study

Saturday, November 1

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, November 2

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

An Invitation to Advent

Advent begins Sunday, November 30

"Even one step with shaking knees is a step toward home." — Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

As the nights stretch longer and the world quiets down, Advent returns — not with answers, but with an invitation: to pay attention. To notice where fear meets longing, where grief brushes against hope, where something holy still flickers in the dark.

This is a season for honest faith. We won't pretend all is calm or all is bright — we know better than that. The headlines, the heaviness, the heartache are all real. And yet, so is the promise that love takes flesh even in the most unlikely places.

So we will gather — not to escape the world, but to face it with open eyes and open hearts.

To light candles precisely because the night is long.

To tell old stories that still have power.

To listen for angels, even if they sound more like our neighbors.

To practice courage, joy, and tenderness in community.

Come as you are:

with your doubts and your to-do lists,

your questions and your quiet hopes,

your yearning for something more whole, more just, more true.

Come and walk with us toward the manger —

toward the mystery that God is still showing up in this world,

still choosing human form,

still whispering, *"Do not be afraid."*

Advent begins the weekend of November 29/30. Let's make room — for hope, for each other, for the holy — together.

In The Hospital

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

Pr. Andrew Plocher will be out of the office from November 10-14, 2025 for continuing education

On-Call

Pr. Andrew Plocher: November 2-5, 9, 16-19, 23-26, 30
Pr. Molly Hunter: November 6-8, 10-15, 20-22, 27-29

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our December newsletter is **Monday, November 17, 2025**.

Messiah's Newsletter

October 26, 2025
Volume 107, Issue 11

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

Help with Communion Setup

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to set up communion for the 8:30 am service and then reset for the 10:30 am service on Sundays. Larry Pagel did this every week for years but he has moved to Iowa. We will provide training. We would set up the schedule for the month and ask a different volunteer to do communion set up each Sunday. It takes 10-15 minutes to set up communion before the 8:30 am service and 10-15 minutes to reset after the 8:30 am service is over. If you are interested in helping out or if you know someone who might, please let me know. Thanks. Kathy

Messiah's Birthdays

November 2025

Saturday 1	Val Dragon, Etta Jo LaFayette
Sunday 2	No birthdays
Monday 3	David Nocerini
Tuesday 4	No birthdays
Wednesday 5	Leslie White
Thursday 6	Jane Kamps
Friday 7	Kate Ziegler
Saturday 8	Theresa Delpier, Janice Johnstone
Sunday 9	Mary Davis, Jeremy Labbe
Monday 10	Wayne Hanmer, Viola Sundman
Tuesday 11	No birthdays
Wednesday 12	Linda Carlson
Thursday 13	Lynette Suckow
Friday 14	Julia Dellangelo, Marcia Heron, Mary Ruman
Saturday 15	Ray Jarvis, Brexton Reece
Sunday 16	Shirley Teed
Monday 17	Peggy Kapfhamer, Wayne Phillips, Sally Wilson
Tuesday 18	Mark Dellangelo
Wednesday 19	Shelly Johnson, Anna Mendelin
Thursday 20	No birthdays
Friday 21	Brooklyn Fortin, Rachel Skaw
Saturday 22	Peggy Bagley, Bradley Brow
Sunday 23	Alison Cory, Steve Murto, Hannah Ruuska
Monday 24	Donna Marlbor, Tina Peterson, Jean Whitman-Shelby
Tuesday 25	John Bleckiner, Sally Davis
Wednesday 26	Linda Chapman, Kerry Wiese
Thursday 27	Leonard Beaudoin, Becky Blom, Bill Davis

Friday 28	Anna Rector
Saturday 29	Kayla Dennis-Benam, Molly Hunter, Kerry McGinley
Sunday 30	Darlene Martin

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in November:

Peter & Cindy Kotila	November 4
Bob & Mary Beals	November 9
Jim & Julie Elder	November 9
Andrew & Sarah Stevens	November 13
Rick Beyers & Wayne Hanmer	November 28

Advent Devotional Ideas

What Do You Fear? Advent Devotional – A Sanctified Art (free on the Welcome Table)

This year's devotional offers honest, artful reflections for Advent that name our collective fears while nurturing courage and hope. With powerful poetry, visceral artwork, and soul-stirring questions like "What if it's beautiful?", this daily guide helps readers move through uncertainty with faith — not by avoiding fear, but by listening for God's voice within it.

Other wonderful resources:

Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas (Orbis Books)

This classic anthology gathers daily reflections from writers like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, and Dorothy Day. It invites honest prayer, deep waiting, and quiet hope when the world feels heavy. Each reading helps us notice God's quiet work in the shadows and prepares our hearts for the light of Christ.

The Meaning Is in the Waiting by Paula Gooder

Paula Gooder explores Advent through the stories of Abraham, Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Mary — people who trusted God in uncertain times. This short, accessible book helps us see waiting not as passive, but as a spiritual practice that opens us to God's presence, even when it's hard to see.

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.

UP Wild November Events

*Friday, November 7th from 6:00-8:00 pm: Crafting in Community

Bring a project, share a project or just lay on the floor. DIY makers space. Candles, twinkle lights and mellow music for a calming atmosphere. St. Paul's Church at 201 E Ridge. St. Marquette

*Our Fall/Winter Wilderness Walks will be coordinated via our point leader, Rachel C. If you would like to be added to the hike specific group, please email info@upwild.org. During the winter season, those interested in hiking/snowshoeing/ect will coordinate the times and locations within this wild group.

*Thursday, November 20th at 12:00-1:00 pm: Coffee in Community

An invitation to get to know each other more over a cuppa! We will share how we find our spirituality in nature. Open to newcomers to ask questions. New location -- Velodrome Coffee, 1125 N. Third St. Marquette

*Sunday, November 30th at 3:30pm: Wild Church Service

New location for winter is potentially the Marquette Commons (TBA www.upwild.org) This is an indoor space with a gas fireplace located in the heart of downtown with an optional outdoor area for wander & ponders.

Passages

In Sympathy to:

* Herb Grenke & family upon the passing of his wife, Sandy on September 27th. Sandy's visitation, funeral service and luncheon were held at Messiah on Saturday, October 4th.

* Family & friends of Lois LaBrecque who passed away on October 5th. The visitation, funeral service and luncheon for Lois were held at Messiah on Tuesday, October 14th.

Brookridge Worship

Our worship service at Brookridge is held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Some 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.

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 - November 2025

November 2

First Reading
Gospel

All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Luke 6:20-31

November 9

First Reading
Gospel

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 19:23-27a
Luke 20:27-38

November 16

First Reading
Gospel

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a
Luke 21:5-19

November 23

First Reading
Gospel

Christ the King

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 23:33-43

November 30

First Reading
Gospel

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5
Matthew 24:36-44

Quilting

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

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.

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!

Together for Good: A Season of Generosity (That's Still Growing!)

Commitment Sunday may have come and gone, but the spirit of stewardship at Messiah is still very much alive. We are so grateful for every household that has submitted a plan for giving and shared your time and talents for the year ahead. Your commitments—of finances, time, and gifts—are building up our shared ministry in beautiful, meaningful ways.

And if you haven't had a chance to participate yet, there's still time. Together for Good reminds us that generosity is not about perfection, but about movement—forward, together, in faith. Growth looks different for each of us, but even small steps make a difference when we take them together.

Ways to Grow in Generosity

- Make giving a regular habit by setting up automated online donations
- Try an extra one-time gift when you're able
- Increase your giving by a small percentage
- Explore new ways to share your time and talents

Facing Financial Challenges?

If your circumstances have changed, your giving might need to as well—and that's okay. Consider giving a consistent percentage of your income, even if the total amount is smaller. What matters is a spirit of faithfulness and intention.

Together, we are building a church and a community that will be here for good. Let's keep growing, giving, and showing up for one another—together for good.

Need a commitment form or help setting up online giving? Forms can be found online, but for questions please contact the church office.

--- In gratitude, *Messiah's Stewardship Team*

Coats for 'Cats – Winter Drive for NMU Students

The '90s are back, vintage is in, and your old winter coat might just be the coolest thing a college student wears this year (while staying warm, of course). Let your past be someone else's present—literally!

We're collecting lightly used, clean, and winter-ready coats, hats, mittens/gloves & snowpants for Northern Michigan University students now through November 23rd. Drop yours in the bin in the narthex and give the gift of warmth. Thanks for spreading the love (and the layers)!

Marigold Hunter's Baptism

Pr. Molly's baby, Marigold Hunter, will be baptized at the 5:00 service on November 29th. This service will meet in the sanctuary instead of the atrium that evening, all are welcome.

Book Study: Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools

What - An Invitation to the Wonder and Mystery of Prayer

When - Monday, December 8th, 7:00 pm in the Atrium

In a world that often feels chaotic, prayer can begin to feel like a distant or fragile practice. Tyler Staton's *Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools* invites us back to the heart of it—not as a task to master, but as a relationship to enter. Drawing on ancient Christian practices and everyday experiences, Staton helps us rediscover prayer as both wonder and grounding presence.

We'll gather for a conversation exploring how prayer can meet us in seasons of weariness, uncertainty, and hope. This is not a lecture but an open, honest space to reflect, question, and imagine new rhythms of prayer together.

All are welcome—whether prayer is a daily practice or something that feels far away right now. Books will be available the first week of November in the church office for \$10.

A Daily Guide for November 2025

November 1 – All Saints Day

Light a candle and remember those who've shaped your faith and your story. Say their names aloud. Prayer: *"God of all generations, thank you for the saints who carried your light. Let their love live on in us."*

November 2 – Letting Go

What do you need to release this season—an expectation, a fear, a grief? Offer it to God. You don't have to carry it alone.

November 3 – A Prayer for the Heavyhearted

Pray for those who find these darker months difficult—those grieving, isolated, or struggling. Ask God to be a quiet companion for them.

November 4 – Before Sunrise

When you wake in the dark, resist the urge to rush. Light a lamp, a candle, or sit near a window. Let the darkness be a place where God meets you.

November 5 – Together for Good

Reflect: *What does it mean to live "together for good" in this season?* Where are you seeing that hope take shape?

November 6 – Scripture of Endurance

Read Romans 5:3–5 – *"Suffering produces endurance... and hope does not disappoint."* Where has hope held you steady in the past?

November 7 – A Small Act of Hope

Do something hopeful today—light a candle, write a note, make a plan. Small gestures can hold big weight in dark months.

November 8 – Share a Memory

Call or write to someone and share a story from years past. Memory can warm the cold edges of the day.

November 9 – Watch the Wind

Look out at the movement of snow, branches, or water today. Let it remind you that unseen things can still be powerful.

November 10 – Pray for Helpers

Pray for those who serve others in the cold: caregivers, shelter staff, hospital-workers, teachers, and volunteers.

November 11 – Stewarding Peace (Veterans Day)

Pray for veterans and for peace in every sense—global, communal, personal. Hope often begins with peace.

November 12 – Candle Prayer

Before bed, light a candle. Sit quietly. Let its glow be your prayer: flickering, faithful, enough.

November 13 – Quiet Gratitude

Name three ordinary things you're thankful for on a cold day—a warm blanket, a working furnace, a neighbor's kindness.

November 14 – Stay Connected

Reach out to someone who might be feeling winter's early isolation. A simple check-in can be a lifeline.

November 15 – Scripture of Light

Read John 1:5 – *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* Let that truth steady you.

November 16 – Create a Winter Corner

Set aside a small, warm corner for prayer or quiet: a lamp, a chair, a cup of something hot. Let it be a refuge.

November 17 – Speak a Blessing

Offer this aloud to someone—or whisper it to yourself: *"May you be held. May you find light. May you know you are not alone."*

November 18 – Remember the Forgotten

Pray for those unsheltered or vulnerable in the cold. Ask God to stir your heart toward tangible care and communal hope.

November 19 – Generosity in Small Things

Buy someone a warm drink, donate socks or gloves, send a card. Small acts of warmth carry great weight this time of year.

November 20 – Honor Grief

Name something—or someone—you've lost. Sit with it. Light a candle in remembrance. God meets us in the shadows.

November 21 – Watch the Sky

The U.P. sky holds its own kind of beauty—gray, heavy, clear, or starlit. Notice it tonight. Let it remind you of vastness and wonder.

November 22 – Offer Your Hands

Shovel a walk, deliver soup, hold a door. Stewardship is also what we do with our bodies.

November 23 – Scripture of Belonging

Read Isaiah 43:1 – *"I have called you by name, you are mine."* Let that promise wrap around you like a warm coat.

November 24 – Reconnect

Reach out to someone you've drifted from. Even a short message can be a light in a long night.

November 25 – Thank Your Body

Your body has carried you through cold mornings, icy sidewalks, and the weight of days. Offer thanks—not for perfection, but for endurance.

November 26 – Make Space for Gratitude

Prepare for Thanksgiving by making room—clearing clutter, softening your heart, pausing long enough to notice.

November 27 – Thanksgiving Day

Pause. Breathe. Give thanks—to God, to those around the table (or screen), to the land beneath the snow. Prayer: *"Generous God, thank you for grace that finds us in winter's chill, in warm hands, and in bread we share."*

November 28 – Rest in the Quiet

The day after a holiday can feel still and heavy. Don't rush to fill it. Let quiet be a gift, not a void.

November 29 – Begin Again

As Advent nears, ask: *What hope am I carrying into the new season?* Write it down. Keep it close.

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

Light the first candle. Pray: *"God of hope, awaken us again. Let your light rise in the darkness, and in us."* We wait together—not for easy answers, but for the light that always comes.

Fortune Lake News!

The preliminary numbers are in. After totaling LIVE Auction bids, VIRTUAL Auction bids, draffle ticket sales, Country Store sales, Bake Sale proceeds, donations, and the dollar-for-dollar match, we can proudly say that ...

WE'VE REACHED OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL!

With a few things yet to be tallied, our tentative total is \$26,949!

THANK YOU to all who participated in any way: quilters and crafters, bakers, bidders, donors, and all participants.

These funds support outdoor ministry at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, helping to make these experiences accessible to all, regardless of ability to pay.

Thank you, and thanks be to God for another successful Fall Fest!

**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*

Medication (Centering Prayer) and Contemplation

Christian mysticism has traditionally made a very clear distinction between meditation and contemplation. Put simply, meditation is what we are able to accomplish on our own, while contemplation is what comes as sheer gift. Meditation includes all the acts and exercises of prayer and spiritual practice—the things one does intentionally. In contrast, contemplation cannot be practiced. Contemplation is entirely God's gift of grace. There is no way to make it happen. It cannot be achieved or acquired. It happens when it happens, and all we can do is be willing, say yes to it, welcome it.

Teresa of Avila likens the human soul to a garden, with God dwelling in the center. The garden contains many exquisite flowers which she says are the virtues. It is only natural that we would want our soul-garden to be beautifully cultivated and fragrant so that God will take delight among these virtues.

The beginning soul-gardener need not worry about tilling the ground, planting seeds, or even uprooting weeds, because God has already done these things by the time a soul is determined to practice prayer. Too much concern over virtues and vices may distract us from our primary task in tending the garden, which is only to see that the garden receives sufficient water. For Teresa, the water is nothing other than prayer, and prayer is nothing other than loving attentiveness.

Teresa describes four degrees of watering. The first degree is meditation; the other three are deepening dimensions of contemplation in which the person's sense of autonomous effort in prayer is increasingly replaced by a feeling of God's deep and obscure divine activity.

The first way of watering the garden is by hauling the water from a well in a bucket. This is meditation—a great labor that provides very little water. Still, it helps the virtues sprout. The second way is by means of a waterwheel, which is less work and gives more water. This is the prayer of quiet, the beginning of contemplation, and it brings the virtues to bud. In the third way, a nearby spring does most of the watering naturally. The gardener needs only to supplement it occasionally. This third prayer brings the virtues to flower. In the fourth way, rain waters the garden. This is the prayer of union, where there is no effort on the person's part at all, and the virtues bear fruit.

Teresa's degrees of prayer are not to be understood as occurring in a strictly linear way. They continually overlap and recur in cycles. The different kinds of prayer mix with each other and are not steady states but rather experiences that happen intermittently in prayer. No one, Teresa says, can predict when or how the contemplative degrees of prayer will be experienced. Relinquish all attempts to achieve more advanced states of prayer. The important thing is not to think much, but to love much. From *The Dark Night of the Soul* by Gerald May

We meet on Tuesdays from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm to practice centering prayer—the first step towards contemplation, and follow this with *Lectio Divina*. All are welcome. Come when you are able.

Each session stands on its own. --- *Nancy Hamlin*

Giving Tuesday at Messiah: Support the Community Assistance Fund - December 2

Tuesday, December 2 from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

This Giving Tuesday, December 2 from 11:00 am – 6:00 pm, we invite you to stop by Messiah for a day of generosity, community, and compassion in action. We'll have lunch and snacks available, and all are welcome to stay, connect, and enjoy fellowship as we come together to support our Community Assistance Fund.

This vital fund—entirely supported by donations and a few small grants—is not part of our church budget, yet it is one of the most impactful ways we serve our neighbors. By year's end, it will have provided over \$50,000 in emergency assistance to more than 500 individuals & families right here in our community.

These funds help people caught in the gaps—those facing urgent needs like rent, utilities, medical bills, transportation, and more. When no other help is available, the Community Assistance Fund often becomes a lifeline.

Your presence and your gifts help ensure that this ministry of mercy and justice continues. Whether you stop by for a bite, drop off a donation, or stay and visit—we're grateful to be in this work with you.

Additionally, if you cannot join us on the 2nd, gifts can also be made online at messiahlutheranmqt.org/give or via Venmo @messiahlutheranmqt.

Let's give generously. Let's give hope.

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Every Monday at 10:00 am the OWLs walk at the lower harbor/Mattson Park. If the weather is rainy they will walk at the Dome. Afterwards they go to Provisions for coffee. They walk at different rates and all are welcome. If you're not interested in walking join them for coffee. Questions? please contact Betsy or the church office.

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: The family of Lois LaBrecque upon her passing; Herb Grenke and family upon the passing of his wife, Sandy; former and current CDC employees; Sam Elder; Jan Vickstrom; Doug Morton; Tom Osier; Jackie Greising; Al Ortlieb; Christine and Jason; Darlene Dreisbach; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Jan Brown; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jeremy; Sally Olson; Charlie Blake; Carol Bell; Dorothy; Lynne Robertson; Karen; Rose Collins; Don Hillegas; Grant; Kai Dolan; Samantha; Ted; Bruce Lindberg; Grace Chien; Jamie; Donna; Brian; Ben; Evelyn; Akira Carlson; Karen Eldevick; Grace; Shannon; Marshall Lovan; Peter; Shawn; Mae Desonia; Lisa Douros; Tina; 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!

Food Drive for Those in Need

Messiah is once again joining the TV6 Can-A-Thon and collecting non-perishable food items for our greater food pantry for those in need in our community. If you are able to contribute to this worthy cause, please do. We will collect food for the month of November. Look for our grocery cart out for display to fill up!

Thank you from the Quilters

The Messiah Quilters would like to thank the Church Council and the Congregation for the grant to purchase two new sewing machines. Also, thank you for your donations of sheets and fabric. And a big thank you to Jennifer & Jeff Dodge for setting up/taking down our heavy, custom tables we use for quilting. It all makes our work easier! Thank you again! - - *Messiah Quilters*

No cash or checkbook? No problem
You can donate through Venmo
or on our website at:
messiahlutheranmq.org/give

If you wish to designate your
donation to a specific fund, please be
sure to do so. Any undesignated
donations automatically go to our
general fund which supports the
entirety of our ministry.

Thank you for your generosity!

Messiah Evangelical
Lutheran Church
[@messiahlutheranmq](https://twitter.com/messiahlutheranmq)



venmo

A Smart Way to Give...

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

Did you know that you can give through your IRA?

This is a wonderful giving opportunity for those over 70½: Federal legislation allows you to make tax-free distributions from your IRA directly to a charity, such as our church. This distribution means no increased income or payment of additional tax. This opportunity may be used for your annual stewardship gift or a planned gift to our church.

Some of the details of the IRA Rollover:

- Donors must be age 70½ or older at the time of transfer.
- Distributions must be made (1) directly from the trustee (2) to the qualified charity, such as our church.
- This qualifies toward the IRA owner's Required Minimum Distribution.
- Distributions are not included in the owner's adjusted gross income.
- No taxes are paid on qualified charitable distributions.
- Please consult your qualified professional advisers on how this gift would fit into your overall plans and your eligibility for tax benefits.

We are grateful for your generous giving and want to assist in any way we can. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our financial secretary, Anne Rydholm (anne@messiahlutheranmq.org).

Thank you from our Global Mission Team

Thank you! From September 19 to October 1, Messiah Lutheran hosted nine members of our companion congregation, Azania Front, from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Our guests were diverse in age, education, and personal interests, but they all shared two things in common: a passionate love for God, and a desire to know our church family. Our Messiah community met them with arms and hearts open wide. We thank each of you for your participation, prayers, and financial gifts that made this visit a stunning success. We were blessed to share meals, conversation, tours, and laughter with our new sisters and brothers in Christ. Their visit was a needed reminder of our connections with people throughout the world, and the wondrous ways God touches our lives. Your Global Mission Team is excited to further strengthen our connections with both Tanzania & Colombia in the years to come. Asante sana!

Community Meal Cook Team

We are in need of one more cook team to make our community meal program a success. Have you ever considered doing this? Do you have questions regarding our community meals? If so, please do not hesitate to inquire in the office. You can cook with a friend or two or you and your spouse/partner could cook... the options are endless. Please consider participating in this ministry!

Upcoming Events in November

November 2	All Saints Sunday
November 5	Community Meal at 6:00 pm in Magnuson Hall
November 12	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
November 14	Male Chorus Concert at 7:30 pm
November 18	Finance Committee
November 19	Red Cross Blood Drive in the atrium from 11am-6pm
November 19	Council at 6:30 pm
November 21	Movie Night at Messiah for Sunday School kids
November 26	Brookridge Worship at 1:30 pm
November 27	Thanksgiving Day - church office closed
November 29	5:00 pm worship in the Sanctuary
December 2	Giving Tuesday! from 11am - 6pm

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.

November Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental Floss & Denture Cleaner

December Laundry Soap, Dish Soap, Bar Soap

Women's WELCA

Please join us for an informational meeting to start a new WELCA (Women of ELCA) Circle at Messiah. We will discuss an annual group focus, monthly meeting date & time, and browse the Gather magazine materials to guide our focus. Any person is welcome as we start up this new WELCA Circle. Our first gathering will be Wednesday, November 19th from 6:30-7:30 pm in Messiah's Atrium.

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.

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.

This Advent: Preparing Your Heart for Hope

This year we will explore how we work our way through fear and prepare our hearts for the hope of the gospels in this season leading up to Jesus' birth. Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, the whispers of angels deliver a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope? We've crafted an Advent series that takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. – Taken from "A Sanctified Art"

Mark your calendars for Advent events and be sure to grab a devotional from the welcome table outside of the church office.

November 30	<i>First Sunday in Advent</i>
December 3	Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 5:30 pm followed by the community meal
December 7	<i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> , Pizza & Advent crafts in Magnuson Hall following 10:30 worship
December 8	Book Study with Pr. Andrew "Praying Like Monks, Living Like Fools" at 7:00 pm
December 10	Age UP Age Well: a workshop on Aging with Chris Harkness – 12:00 pm in Magnuson Hall
December 13	Confirmation Caroling the community is invited to join the confirmation students as they carol at various nursing homes 9:30 am
December 14	<i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> , Sunday School Program during the 10:30 worship service followed by a soup potluck
December 17	Organ Recital at 12:15 pm in the sanctuary
December 19	Marquette Choral Society Carol Sing
December 20	Longest Night Service at 5:00 followed by a soup supper
December 21	<i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i>
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship services-4:00, 7:30, and 10:00 pm

Sunday School – November & December

In November Pr. Molly and the Sunday School teachers will host a movie night in the Atrium. Drop kids off at 5:00 pm & pickup at 7:00 pm. We will provide pizza for dinner and watch Wall-E. Wear your pajamas bring blankets/pillows to be cozy. Sign-up sheet will be on the welcome table.

November 30	-Sunday School does not meet
December 14	-The Sunday School Christmas Program will take place during the 10:30 worship Service
December 28	-Sunday School does not meet
January 4	-Sunday School does not meet

Fall Bazaar at Prince of Peace - November 8

Messiah Prince of Peace will be holding their Fall Bazaar on Saturday, November 8th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. There will be pies, crafts, baked goods & a tea table.

Messiah Sweatshirts for Sale!

We have gray sweatshirts with Messiah's logo on the front, for sale. We have them in the following sizes: XL, XXL. You can purchase one for \$20.00. The proceeds of these sweatshirts will go to Messiah's Global Mission Team to help support our companion congregations.

Quilting Needs

The Quilters are in need of sheets for the quilts they make. The sheets need to be clean (no stains), colored (not white), cotton or cotton blend (no microfiber). It is ok if elastic bands on fitted sheets are stretched or cut. The cost of sheets at the thrift stores has really gone up. We would appreciate any donations. Thank you!

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.

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.

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!

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

Drop-in Grief Support: Marquette – Nov. 26th at 4:00 pm Grief doesn't follow a schedule - and neither do we. Our drop-in grief support group offers a safe, welcoming space for anyone navigating the loss of a loved one. Join us to share, listen, or simply be among others who understand. No registration required. Come as you are when you need it most. Takes place on the 4th Wednesday of every month. No registration or affiliation to our hospice is required. 914 W. Baraga Ave. Marquette.

Caregiver Support Groups Marquette – Nov. 12th from 2:00 – 3:00 pm 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. Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice Office, 914 W. Baraga Ave.

Telephone Based Caregiver Support Group: Nov. 19 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. 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 our new phone-based support group. For family, friends, and other caregivers who are caring for a person with a chronic illness or disability. This group is a great opportunity for caregivers who are unable to leave the person they are caring for. Please call Jamie Barbieri at 906.225.7760.

A Slice of Support: Caregivers Pie Social -Being a caregiver can be both rewarding and challenging. This Hospice Month, we want to support you. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of **pie and coffee**, connection, and conversation. We'll start with a **brief 15-minute presentation** on "5 Things You Didn't Know About Hospice", offering insights and helpful information for anyone in a caregiving role. Afterward, we'll open the floor for a **supportive, informal discussion**, where you can share experiences, ask questions, and find

solutions to the challenges you face as a caregiver. This event is open to **all caregivers**. Come enjoy a slice of pie, sip some coffee, and connect with others who understand what it means to care.

Big Boy Marquette

Friday, November 14, 2025

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Registration is encouraged but not required 906.225.7760 or outreach@lakesuperiorhospice.org. Free to attend.

Find Your Balance — and Keep It!

Informational Presentation: “A Matter of Balance”

Worried about falls or avoiding activities because of balance concerns? A Matter of Balance is an award-winning program that helps older adults reduce fall risk and stay active through practical strategies and gentle exercises.

Join us for an in-person informational session to learn about the program, meet the facilitators, and receive registration materials and the required waiver to participate in the upcoming class series.

November 20th at Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice, 914 W. Baraga, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Who should attend:

- Anyone concerned about falls
 - Those wanting to improve balance, flexibility, and strength
 - Individuals who have fallen or limited activities due to fear of falling
- Take control and keep moving safely.

Pop in for Hospice — A Feel-Good Film for Hospice Month

A free movie that celebrates what really matters—life.

Celebrate National Hospice Month with Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice at Thomas Theatre! Join us for a special showing of the heartwarming and inspiring film *The Bucket List* — a story about friendship, purpose, and living life to the fullest. This event is our way of honoring life, cherishing memories, and highlighting the compassionate work hospice provides to patients and families. Take a moment to reflect, laugh, and be inspired — because every moment counts, and life is meant to be lived fully.

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Thomas Theatre, Marquette

Cost: Free Admission

Concessions: Small popcorn & pop combo available for \$6.00

Pre-Registration Encouraged: Call 906.225.7760 to reserve your seat

Unmask Your Grief: A Creative Healing Workshop

Grief can feel heavy — and sometimes the masks we wear hide what we’re really feeling. Join us for a creative, healing experience as we explore the masks we wear in grief and create a personal mask that tells your story.

Date & Time: Thursday, November 20 th at 5:00 pm

Location: Peter White Public Library, Lower Level

Cost: Free & open to the community

Sponsored by: *Lake Superior Life Care and Hospice*

Step into a safe, supportive space, honor your journey, and let art help you express what words can’t. Pre-Registration is encouraged but not required at 906.225.7760.

Mindful Aging - Aging U.P. Learning Series. Shifting attitudes and perspectives as they relate to getting older. Have you ever walked into a room and forgotten why you are there? You’re not alone! Join us for a 4-part Virtual Zoom workshop series that explores the everyday “Senior moments” we all experience. We’ll guide you through understanding how our brains work, what sets us up for forgetfulness, and — most importantly — practical strategies to strengthen memory and cognitive connections. Walk away with tips you won’t forget and plan to turn those senior moments into senior momentum! Registration is Open, but limited.

Date & Time: Wednesdays, Jan. 14 – Feb. 4 from 10:30–11:30 am

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Cost: Free & open to the community

Note: Participants must have a device with internet connection & an email address to attend. Register now by calling Jamie Barbieri at 906.225.7760 or Outreach@LakeSuperiorHospice.org.

Personalized Ornament Request: Forever in Our Hearts

A Tree to Remember, a Season to Celebrate

This holiday season, Lake Superior Life Care and Hospice invites you to honor your loved ones as part of the 2025 Winter Solstice Art Exhibit at the Peter White Public Library. Our Remembrance Tree will be adorned with personalized ornaments—each one a heartfelt tribute to those we’ve loved and lost. You’re invited to share the name of someone special, and we’ll create an ornament in their memory to shine among the trees.

Submit your loved one’s name by November 30, 2025

906.225.7760 or Outreach@LakeSuperiorHospice.org

Ornaments will be available for pick-up from our Marquette office in 2026. Details of the Peter White Library Tree Exhibit will be in December’s newsletter. Join us in celebrating love, memory, and the light our loved ones leave behind.

Marquette Male Chorus

The Marquette Male Chorus will present their Fall Concert “Autumn Echoes” on November 14th at 7:30 pm at Messiah. The program will feature music by Godon Lightfoot. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 at the door. For further information, please contact Wayne Hanmer.

November 2025 Worship Volunteers

Saturday, November 1 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell
Communion Asst 1

Sunday, November 2 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Harkness
Reader 1 Louise Reichert
Ushers 2 Bruce Robertson, Cathy Seblonka
Communion Assts. 3
Greeters 2 Chris Harkness,

Sunday, November 2 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Mike Hill
Reader 1
Ushers 2
Communion Assts. 3 Mike and Joan Hill,
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1 Lesley Williams

Saturday, November 8 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Kathy Godec
Communion Asst 1

Sunday, November 9 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Fred Maynard
Ushers 2
Communion Assts 3 Beth Krznarich,
Greeters 2

Sunday, November 9 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Mike Hill
Reader 1
Ushers 2
Communion Assts. 3 Mike and Joan Hill, Kayleigh Beaudoin
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1 Abby LaForest

Saturday, November 15 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Carol Bell
Communion Asst 1

Sunday, November 16- 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Brenda Blett
Reader 1 David Echelbarger
Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka,
Communion Assts. 3
Greeters 2 Penny Streeter, Sherry Labbe

Sunday, November 16-10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Mark Paulsen
Ushers 2 Brooklyn Fortin,
Communion Assts. 3
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1 Kathy Godec

Saturday, November 22 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Kotila
Communion Asst 1

Sunday, November 23 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Harkness
Reader 1 Brenda Blett
Ushers 2 Joe and Chris Harkness
Communion Assts 3 Beth Krznarich,
Greeters 2

Sunday, November 23—10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1 Laurel Kniskern
Ushers 2
Communion Assts 3 Evan Busick,
Greeters 2
Projection Technician 1 Lesley Williams

Saturday, November 29 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Kotila
Communion Asst 1

Sunday, November 30 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1
Reader 1
Ushers 2
Communion Assts 3
Greeters 2

Sunday, November 30—10:30 am

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