

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

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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



February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

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

* Bill Maki

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

* Sandy Grenke on her birthday from the Rachel Circle

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

* Sandy Grenke on her birthday from the Rachel Circle

Siblings in Christ,

Lent arrives each year as a threshold season. The snow begins to soften. The light lingers just a little longer. The earth, though still quiet, is preparing for something new. Lent meets us in that in-between space—between winter and spring, between what has been and what will be, between death and resurrection.

This year, we are walking through Lent with the beautiful series Tell Me Something Good. At first glance, that phrase might feel almost surprising for a penitential season. Lent is often associated with ashes, wilderness, and self-examination. And yet, at the very heart of our faith is good news—good news that does not ignore hardship but moves through it. Good news that is rooted in radical welcome, justice, mercy, love of neighbor, and the stubborn hope of resurrection.

In times of transition and seasons of change, we need that good news more than ever. As a congregation, we are living in a season of transition. Transitions can stir many emotions—gratitude for what has been, uncertainty about what lies ahead, grief, anticipation, hope. Lent reminds us that God is deeply present in these in-between spaces. The wilderness is not empty. The tomb is not the end. The story is still unfolding.

And so, even as we acknowledge change, we listen carefully for the good news alive among us. We see it in your faithfulness. We hear it in your singing. We feel it in shared meals, quiet prayers, and courageous conversations. We witness it in your ongoing commitment to be an inclusive, affirming, justice-seeking community in Marquette and beyond. The good news is not abstract: it is embodied in you.

It is also a gift in this season to welcome Pastor Steve Solberg as our part-time interim associate pastor.

Pastor Steve has served the ELCA for over 37 years, with ministries in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Many of you may know him from his years at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Negaunee, where he served until his retirement in 2022. In retirement, he continues to live out his call—as chaplain for UP Home Health & Hospice, as a preacher in congregations across the Northern Great Lakes Synod, in interim ministry settings, as a member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Ishpeming, and even as a baritone in the Negaunee Male Chorus and Strictly Gospel.

He lives in the woods on the west side of Ishpeming with his daughter, Dr. Anna Solberg, and son-in-law, Patrick Houlahan, along with dog Autumn and grand-puppy Peabo. His daughter Sara lives in Manistique. Many in our wider church community also remember his dear wife, Pastor Marcia Solberg, who died in 2017, and whose ministry continues to bless so many.

Pastor Steve shares these words with us:

“Dear ones of Messiah, it is my privilege to serve with you now as your part-time interim associate pastor.”

We receive his presence and leadership with gratitude. In this season of transition, his steady pastoral care and deep experience in the wider church are gifts to our community.

Lent calls us back to what is central. It invites us to clear away distractions and remember who we are and whose we are. As we journey through this season together—through ashes and song, through reflection and hope—may we be people who dare to ask, and to answer, the question: Tell me something good.

May we see the mustard seeds taking root.

May we notice water becoming wine.

May we trust that even now, God is bringing life out of wilderness and resurrection out of loss.

Beloved church, the good news is still alive in the world. And by God’s grace, it is alive in us.

In Christ,

Pr. Andrew

Community Meal - March 4th

Our next community meal will be on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:00 pm in Magnuson Hall. The meal will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans & dessert. A vegetarian option will be available. Please join us for a warm meal on Wednesday, 3/4 at 6:00 pm. We look forward to it!

Messiah Calendar

Monday, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

11:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Centering Prayer
1:00 pm Knotty Knitters
5:30 pm Superior Handbells
6:15 pm Cub Scout Meeting
7:00 pm Male Chorus Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 25

1:30 pm Brookridge Worship
5:00 pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 26

10:30 am Koinonia Bible Study

Friday, February 27

8:00 am Choral Festival
9:00 am Senior Men's Bible Study

Saturday, February 28

5:00 pm Worship

Sunday, March 1

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

Lent Evening Worship: Simple, Beautiful Prayer in Community

March 4 & 18, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary

Lent invites us to slow down, to breathe a little deeper, and to turn our hearts again toward God's steady love. This year at Messiah, we'll gather on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm for two beautiful and simple settings of evening prayer that create space for reflection, song, and quiet hope.

On Wednesday, March 4, we will worship using Mountain Vespers. Rooted in contemplative prayer and gentle music, Mountain Vespers offers a peaceful rhythm for the middle of the week. The service is simple and grounding—an opportunity to rest in God's presence and reconnect with what matters most.

That evening, you're also invited to come early for our community meal at 6:00 pm. Share a table, enjoy good conversation, and then stay for worship at 6:30 pm. Lent is not meant to be a solitary journey—we walk it together, nourished by food, fellowship, and prayer.

Then on Wednesday, March 18, we'll gather again at 6:30 pm for Holden Evening Prayer. Many in our congregation hold this beloved service close to heart. Its lyrical setting, memorable melodies, and spacious liturgy gently draw us into reflection. Holden's beauty lies in its simplicity—it allows the Word, the music, and the community's voice to carry us into a deeper awareness of God's presence among us.

Both evenings offer different expressions of the same invitation: come as you are. Come weary or hopeful, questioning or confident. Come to sing, to listen, to pray, and to be reminded that even in the wilderness season of Lent, God's light continues to shine.

We hope you'll join us for these meaningful Lenten gatherings—and consider inviting a friend. There is room at the table, and there is room in prayer, for all.

In The Hospital

Please inform the church office when you are hospitalized. Pr. Andrew Plocher & Pr. Steve Solberg 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: March 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 22-25, 29-31
Pr. Steve Solberg: March 5-7, 12-14, 19-21, 26-28

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in our April newsletter is **Monday, March 23, 2026.**

Messiah's Newsletter

February 22, 2026
Volume 108, Issue 3

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

Confirmation Update: March Gathering

Our next Confirmation gathering will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Messiah. We're looking forward to a great morning together!

Thanks for staying engaged and growing in faith. See you in worship—and on the 21st!

Messiah's Birthdays - March 2026

Sunday 1	Henryk Fitzpatrick
Monday 2	Darlene Dreisbach, Chris Harkness, Dave Luoma
Tuesday 3	Alesia Braund
Wednesday 4	Alexis Armstrong, Gabriel Armstrong
Thursday 5	Lucas Boehlke, Angie LeDuc, Kathy Maynard, Sara Moyle
Friday 6	Camden Fitzpatrick
Saturday 7	Sheryl Dellangelo
Sunday 8	Jacob MacPhee, Violet Rector, Marina Shinkarenko, Matt Wiese
Monday 9	Kevin Johnson
Tuesday 10	No birthdays
Wednesday 11	Julie Blemberg
Thursday 12	No birthdays
Friday 13	Fred Maynard
Saturday 14	No birthdays
Sunday 15	Beth Krznarich, Kathy Strazzinski
Monday 16	Hazel Benam, Molly Dellangelo, Jim Ketchem, Lori Nelson
Tuesday 17	Sara Parks
Wednesday 18	Sam Elder, Dave Gilbert, Kristen Gordon
Thursday 19	Keith Abraham, Marybeth Marin
Friday 20	Leah Heron
Saturday 21	Maddie Dykema
Sunday 22	Morgan Matthews, Brad Muscoe, Michael Sauer
Monday 23	Bruce Gauthier
Tuesday 24	Dan Niemi
Wednesday 25	Herb Grenke, Allan Johnson
Thursday 26	Darren Smith
Friday 27	No birthdays
Saturday 28	Dick Balding, Janice Gebeau, Jerry Godec

Sunday 29 Jack Mendelin

Monday 30 Jeff Dodge, Dennis Gustafson

Tuesday 31 Brenton Fitzpatrick, Janet Skytta

Happy Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary to the following couples in March:

Sharon Fluette & her husband	March 1
Larry & Betty Brunton	March 7
Jon & Diana Magnuson	March 13
Scott & Deb Vanlerberghe	March 15
Jim & Cathy Winkler	March 20
Al & Gail Edgar	March 30

Passages

In Celebration of:

* Jacob & Emily Schmeltzer's new daughter - Rosalie Claire born on Saturday, February 14th. Rosalie has an older brother and sister.

Lenten Series: Tell Me Something Good

This Lent, we are journeying together with the devotional Tell Me Something Good by A Sanctified Art. Rooted in the good news of Jesus' life and ministry, this series invites us to ground ourselves in what is true, beautiful, and life-giving—even in a world that can feel heavy.

Each week explores themes at the heart of our faith: radical welcome, love of neighbor, justice, mercy, nonviolence, and resurrection hope. Through art, poetry, scripture, and reflection, the devotional reminds us that the good news is still alive in the world—growing like mustard seeds, overflowing like water turned to wine, and expanding like a table with more than enough room.

We invite you not only to read the devotional, but to share the journey. This Lent, consider signing up to gather in a small group (around four people) or one-on-one to discuss the weekly reflections, share stories, and build deeper community. Sometimes the good news becomes even clearer when we hear it in one another's voices.

You can add your name to the sign-up sheet on the welcome table. Whether you've been part of Messiah for years or are just finding your way here, there is space for you at the table—and in this conversation.

Let's look for the good together.

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School 2026

Mark your calendars—Vacation Bible School is coming to Messiah!

June 22–26, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Please note the NEW afternoon time!)

This summer we'll be using Shine Curriculum's #kidsconnect, a creative and justice-centered VBS experience that helps kids explore how we are connected—to God, to one another, and to the world around us. Through storytelling, music, art, movement, and hands-on activities, kids will discover how faith calls us into community, compassion, and courageous love.

Our afternoon schedule is a change from previous years, so be sure to make note of the 1:00–4:00 pm time frame. We hope this new time will make VBS accessible for even more families!

VBS at Messiah is a joyful, inclusive space where all children are welcomed, celebrated, and invited to grow in faith. Whether your family is part of Messiah or new to our community, there is room for you.

More details and registration information coming soon—but for now, save the dates and spread the word!

UP Wild March Events

Friday, March 6th from 6:00 - 8:00pm: Crafting in Community
St Paul's Church @ 201 E Ridge. St.

Thursday, March 19 12:00 -1:00 pm: Coffee in Community

We will see how meeting around the gas stoves in Caribou Coffee goes for our monthly coffee time. Econo Foods, 1401 Odovero Dr.

Sunday, March 29 3:30pm: Wild Church Pine Sunday Service
Outdoor Bonfire area TBA. Check website www.upwild.org

Quilting

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

Brookridge Worship - March 25th

Messiah has a worship service on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. Our next worship at Brookridge will be on Wednesday, March 25th at 1:30 pm. Please join us for this worship service if you are able.

Lectionary Readings - March 2026

March 1

First Reading
Gospel

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Luke 7:36-50; Matthew 25:35-40

March 8

First Reading
Gospel

3rd Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Mark 6:32-44 & Ephesians 3:20-21

March 15

First Reading
Gospel

4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Matthew 19:13-15 & Deuteronomy 24:17-22

March 22

First Reading
Gospel

5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 8:2-11 & Matthew 23:23

March 29

First Reading
Gospel

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Mark 11:1-11

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.

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.

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!

Fortune Lake - Upcoming Events

Renew & Restore Young Adult Retreat - March 27-29

For young adults (ages 18-35 and must be a high school grad)

Fortune Lake invites all adults ages 18-35 to our Renew & Restore Young Adult Retreat. This unique retreat provides an opportunity to unplug from the busyness of daily life to rest and recharge.

Our retreat schedule will include sessions pertaining to the many facets of self care, opportunities to spend time in the natural beauty of Fortune Lake, self-guided activities such as arts 'n' crafts and saunas, optional worships, and a community-centric approach to the weekend. While our full schedule is still developing, highlights from years past include snowshoe hikes, singing bowl and gong baths, worships about burnout, various sessions about mindfulness, games and conversation in the evenings, and a collaborative campfire worship.

Our adult retreats lean into a "Choose your own adventure" model, meaning we encourage participants to attend sessions that resonate with them and take advantage of the myriad of self-guided activities throughout the weekend. This retreat is intended to send people away with a renewed sense of energy and more insight into how to better care for themselves. A full schedule will be shared closer to the retreat, but anyone with questions is encouraged to reach out to our Guest Services Coordinator, for more information by calling the camp office at 906 214-2267 or by emailing hospitality@fortunelake.org.

Due to the support of a generous donor, this retreat is only \$30 for the first 30 people who register! Use discount code "YA2026" at registration.

Claim your spot today! The deadline to register is 11:40 pm CT on Friday, March 20.

Hands & Feet: Jr/Sr High Retreat - April 10-11

For grades 7-12

Current 7th-12th graders are invited to our upcoming Hands & Feet: Jr/Sr High Retreat set for April 10-11. This one-night experience is the perfect chance for returning campers to get their fill of camp before summer and for new folks to try things out. Attend with a group, bring a friend, or come on your own!

Our theme, Hands & Feet, will center around our call to serve. Together we will complete a service project as a group, engage in conversations that ground our work in Scripture, and debrief what it means to serve others. Our schedule will feature camp favorites such as a campfire worship, hot saunas, games, songs, art 'n' crafts, and more.

While youth are welcome to attend on their own, parents and adult leaders are encouraged to attend with their youth! We will be offering an adult training component on Saturday April 11 that is included in the experience

for every adult chaperone. Details about the adult training portion will be shared as they are finalized. Adults can lodge in duplexes with their youth for the full experience or opt to stay in one of our retreat lodges for an additional fee.

Have questions? Reach out by calling the camp office at 906 214-2267 or by emailing Charlotte at hospitality@fortunelake.org.

You Are Invited: Ash Wednesday & the Journey Through Lent

This Lent at Messiah, we begin with a simple yet profound truth: all are invited.

In a world that often draws lines and builds walls, the gospel does the opposite. It pulls up another chair, opens the door wider, and reminds us—again and again—that there is a place for every one of us at God's table.

On Ash Wednesday, we'll gather to mark the beginning of this holy season. With ashes on our foreheads and grace in our hearts, we'll remember who we are and whose we are: beloved, dust-born, and held by God. This is not a journey of shame or scarcity, but of invitation—into deeper connection, community, and love.

This year's theme, "Tell Me Something Good," (from A Sanctified Art) invites us to ground ourselves in the good news of the gospel. And the good news is this: no matter who you are, no matter where you've been, you are loved. You are welcomed. You are enough.

Bell Choir - Members Needed

The bell choir needs some additional players. The Easter season is approaching and the bell choir has a need for players. We can never replace Pastor Molly but we need players to fill her spot. I say players because she filled one slot but often picked up other bells that were not covered but needed. Join us for rehearsal on Monday evenings from 5:45-6:45 pm. When we play we gather Sunday morning at 7:30 am so the senior choir can rehearse at their usual time. We usually play at both Sunday services.

OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)

Every Monday at 10:00 am the OWLs walk at the Dome. After their walk, 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.

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

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Pie Day - π

Friday, March 13, 12:30 pm, Magnuson Hall

Once again it is time to celebrate math in a delightful way. Join the OWLS to share pies of all varieties. Will we surpass the 13 kinds of pies that appeared last year? Will a mince meat pie make the menu? Sweet or savory, all pies are welcome to meet their fate at the end of our forks.

Anyone can join the Owls for the feast. Bring a pie to share if you can. Please join us on Friday, March 13 at 12:30 pm!

Judy Quirk

Keep the Leprechauns Happy—Give Them JAM!

Generally speaking, we love leprechauns because they leave us gold at the end of the rainbow. But they can actually be pretty mischevious! Keep the leprechauns happy & buy them JAM! The small jars are only \$3—a perfect sample size for the littler leprechauns. And the large jars (\$6) are perfect for the taller leprechauns! There is a convenient QR code located near the jam section for payment. Or simply use one of the available envelopes to pay. Questions? Contact Rebecca Ulland (rjulland@yahoo.com).

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.

March Shampoo (male/female), Feminine pads & tampons

April Laundry Soap, Dish Soap & Bars of Soap

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.

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.

Centering Prayer

"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Matthew 6:6

"Meditation, it is said, is a way to evoke the relaxation response. Meditation, others say, is a way to train and strengthen awareness; a method for centering and focusing the self; a way to halt constant verbal thinking and relax the body-mind; a technique for calming the central nervous system; a way to relieve stress, bolster self-esteem, reduce anxiety, and alleviate depression.

All of those are true enough; meditation has been clinically documented to do all of those things. But I would like to emphasize that meditation itself is, and always has been, a spiritual practice." From "Grace and Grit" by Ken Wilber

Centering prayer is meditation with the intention of accessing the God within, or the Holy Spirit, or the Christ within, or whatever you identify with as the "God of your understanding." In order to do that, one must release all one's concepts about God. In other words: Be still. It does not mean that we won't feel emotions, or have thoughts or desires or expectations...it only means we do not allow those things to distract us for too long from our quiet listening for the Voice for God.

There are "fruits of the spirit" to be received from a regular meditation practice. Those "fruits" help us to discern how close we are to doing God's Will. Those fruits also help us become peaceful, more compassionate, less judgmental, firmer in faith and trust, and remind us that our happiness lies in serving our Creator. We serve our Creator when we treat everyone as though they are the Christ. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." *Matthew 25: 40*

-- Nancy Hamlin

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.

Upcoming Events in March

- March 4 Community Meal at 6:00 pm - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans & dessert
- March 4 Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm - Mountain Vespers
- March 5 Building & Grounds Meeting at 5:00 pm
- March 13 OWLs Pie Day Celebration at 12:30 pm
- March 18 Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm - Holden
- March 25 Brookridge Worship at Brookridge Heights at 1:30 pm
- March 29 Palm Sunday



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
inclusive. inquisitive. imperfect.

Am I welcome?

*Young or old. Traditional or progressive. Male, female, non-binary or trans. Church veteran or new to faith. Black, white, or brown. LGBTQIA+, straight, or questioning. Have-it-all-together or picking up the pieces. Neurodiverse, differently abled. Single, married, widowed, divorced. Kiddos or none. Pierced, tattooed, or clean-cut. However you are, whoever you are.
All y'all are welcome here!*

Wherever you find yourself, we invite you to join us as we seek hope in God's love this Holy Week and Easter.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30 PM

Ecumenical Good Friday, April 3rd at 6:30 PM

(@ First Presbyterian Church)

Easter Vigil, April 4th at 5:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY (April 5th):

Sunrise Service at McCarty's Cove: 7:00 AM

Traditional Worship: 8:30 AM, on 101.9 FM, & livestream

Contemporary-ish Worship: 10:30 AM, livestream

For the latest information on worship and programming, go to www.messiahlutheranmqt.org

305 West Magnetic Street

www.messiahlutheranmqt.org | 906.225.1119

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.

Radio Broadcast & Livestream Sponsorship

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

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

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!

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!

In Our Prayers

Please remember the following people in your prayers at this time: Those who seek help from our financial assistance program; Fred Maynard; Laura Goodney; Karen Sundeen; Linda Ruohoniemi; Charlie Blake; Rick; Jan Brown; Sam Elder; Doug Morton; Jackie Greising; Al Ortlieb; Ruth Koehler; Sherrie Wagner; Betsy; Carrie Oslund; John Collins; Myra; Katie; John Kiltinen; Mary Ruman; Jeremy; Sally Olson; Carol Bell; Dorothy; 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!

A Daily Guide for March 2026

March 1 – Second Sunday in Lent

Read Luke 7:36–50. A woman brings what she has. Jesus protects her dignity. Today, show love in a way that fits your capacity: Draw a picture for someone. Make a phone call. Pray for someone by name. Say, “I’m sorry.” Give a small gift.

Prayer: *God of mercy, help me love with what I have. Amen.*

March 2 – Say Thank You

Write, text, or say thank you to one person. If writing is hard, simply speak it aloud in prayer.

March 3 – Practice Receiving

When someone helps you today, don’t wave it away. Smile and say, “That means a lot.”

March 4 – Share Something Small

Share a cookie, a story, a memory, or a joke. Goodness grows when shared.

Prayer: *Generous God, open my hands. Amen.*

March 5 – Stay Present

Sit with someone for five full minutes — in person or on the phone — without multitasking. If you’re alone, sit quietly with God.

March 6 – Feed Someone

Bring soup to a neighbor. Donate canned goods. If mobility is limited, pray for those who prepare meals for others.

March 7 – Rest Without Guilt

Take a nap. Read a chapter. Sit in sunlight by a window. Lent is about honesty, not exhaustion.

March 8 – Third Sunday in Lent

Read Mark 6:32–44. The disciples think it isn’t enough. Jesus says, “Bring it.” Make a list of what you do have: Time, Prayer, Encouragement, Creativity, Experience, Energy (even a little). Choose one to offer this week.

Prayer: *God of abundance, use even my small offering. Amen.*

March 9 – Ask for Help

Call someone and say, “Can you help me with this?” Or offer help to someone else.

March 10 – Donate Something Useful

Clean out one drawer and give away something in good condition.

March 11 – Encourage the Young

Tell a child or young person something you admire about them.

March 12 – Learn a Name

If you encounter someone regularly — nurse, cashier, custodian — learn or use their name.

March 13 – Eat Simply Together

If possible, share a simple meal. If alone, pray for others eating at the same time.

Prayer: *God, thank you for daily bread and daily people. Amen.*

March 14 – Share a Story

Tell someone a story from your life that shaped you. Passing on wisdom is holy work.

March 15 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Read Matthew 19:13–15. Jesus moves toward children others dismiss. Today, move toward someone easily overlooked: A shy person, an elder, a newcomer, or someone who feels different. Offer simple attention.

Prayer: *God of welcome, teach me to notice who is missing. Amen.*

March 16 – Gentle Words

Lower your voice in one tense moment. Tone matters.

March 17 – Pray for Protection

Pray for children, elders, and those living without stability.

March 18 – Write a Card

Send a note to someone in a nursing home, hospital, or far away.

March 19 – Practice Patience

In a line, in traffic, in conversation — breathe instead of reacting.

March 20 – Offer Warmth

Shovel snow. Drop off tea. Call someone as winter lingers. If you cannot go out, pray for those who are outside.

Prayer: *God, make me someone’s warmth today. Amen.*

March 21 – Invite Participation

Ask someone, “What do you think?” Make space for another voice.

March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Read Matthew 23:23. Jesus names what carries weight: justice, mercy, faithfulness. Choose one word for your week. Write it somewhere visible.

Prayer: *God of justice and mercy, anchor me in what matters most. Amen.*

March 23 – Practice Justice

Learn one local issue affecting your community. Pray for wisdom and courage.

March 24 – Practice Mercy

Let go of one small irritation. Say, “It’s okay.”

March 25 – Practice Faithfulness

Keep one small promise — take medication on time, show up to worship, follow through on a task.

March 26 – Repair

Mend clothing. Fix something broken. Repairing is an act of hope.

March 27 – Budget with Intention

Look at one area of spending. Does it reflect who you want to be?

March 28 – Show Up

Attend worship, a community event, or call into an online gathering. Presence builds community.

Prayer: *God, help me keep showing up. Amen.*

March 29 – Palm / Passion Sunday

Read Mark 11:1–11. The crowd made hope visible. Where can your faith be visible this week? Kindness in public, a word of truth, standing with someone, wearing a symbol of welcome.

Prayer: *God of courage, give my hope hands and feet. Amen.*

March 30 – Choose Peace

In conversation or online, refuse sarcasm and cruelty. Let your words build rather than break.

March 31 – Slow Down

Holy Week begins tomorrow. Remove one unnecessary task so you can pay attention.

Prayer: *God who walks toward the cross, steady me for what is ahead. Amen.*

Lake Superior Life Care & Hospice

Drop-in Grief Support: Marquette – March 25 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.

Caregiver Support Groups Marquette – March 11 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: March 18 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.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers – Virtual Workshop: Caring for a loved one can be deeply meaningful—and incredibly demanding. If you're feeling stretched thin, overwhelmed, or just in need of practical support, our Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop is here for you

Beginning **March 19, 2026**, this 6-week virtual workshop meets weekly from 1:30–3:00 pm via Zoom and is designed for unpaid family caregivers. Participants will learn proven tools to help reduce stress, improve self-care, communicate more effectively, and feel more confident in their caregiving role—all while connecting with others who truly understand.

This evidence-based program offers a supportive, judgment-free space to:

- Manage caregiver stress and emotions
- Set boundaries and solve problems
- Build confidence and resilience
- Take better care of yourself while caring for others

Workshop Dates: March 19 – April 23, 2026

Time: 1:30–3:00 pm

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Registration Deadline: March 2, 2026

To register, call 2-1-1. Registration is required and space is limited.

You don't have to do caregiving alone—let us walk alongside you.

Easter Lily Sponsorship

If you would like to order an Easter flower for the sanctuary, please fill out this form & return it with your donation to the office by Tuesday, March 31st.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

From _____

Phone number _____

Suggested donation is \$20.00



The Way of the Dream, God's Forgotten Language

A Lenten Opportunity - A series of three workshops on the role of dreams in Scripture and the appropriation of listening to one's own dreams as part of personal spiritual practice.

Led by Jon Magnuson, Barb Ojibway, Will Sharp, and Ken Kelley. Saturdays, February 28, March 21 and March 29 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal's Morgan Chapel, 201 E Ridge St. Participants are invited to consider making a donation of \$25 per workshop to cover meal and resource materials. To Register call: 906-228-5494 or email: jonwmagnuson@gmail.com

Sponsored by The Cedar Tree Institute in partnership with the NGLS Lutheran Synod of the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

March 2026 Worship Volunteers

Sunday, March 1 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1 Mary Lou Blomquist

Ushers 2 Bruce Robertson, Sam Elder

Communion Assts. 4

Greeters 2

Sunday, March 1 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1 Simeon MacIvor-Andersen

Ushers 2

Communion Assts. 4 Kerry McGinley, Karen Burkman, Gayle Mack,

Greeters 2

Projection Technician 1

Saturday, March 7 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1

Communion Asst 1

Sunday, March 8 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Harkness

Reader 1 Fred Maynard

Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka,

Communion Assts 4 Dave Blomquist, Beth Krznarich,

Greeters 2

Sunday, March 8 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1

Ushers 2

Communion Assts. 4 Sandy Lindberg,

Greeters 2

Projection Technician 1

Saturday, March 14 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1

Communion Asst 1

Sunday, March 15 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Brenda Blett

Reader 1 Louise Reichert

Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka,

Communion Assts. 4

Greeters 2 Penny Streeter, Sherry Labbe

Sunday, March 15 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1

Ushers 2

Communion Assts. 4

Greeters 2

Projection Technician 1 Lesley Williams

Saturday, March 21 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1

Communion Asst 1 Barb Salmela

Sunday, March 22 - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1 Brenda Blett

Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka,

Communion Assts 4 Beth Krznarich,

Greeters 2

Sunday, March 22 - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Inga Banitt

Reader 1

Ushers 2

Communion Assts. 4 Sandy Lindberg,

Greeters 2

Projection Technician 1 Abby LaForest

Saturday, March 28 - 5:00 pm

Assisting Minister 1

Communion Asst 1

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday) - 8:30 am

Assisting Minister 1 Chris Harkness

Reader 1

Ushers 2 Cathy Seblonka,

Communion Assts. 4

Greeters 2

Sunday, March 29 (Palm Sunday) - 10:30 am

Assisting Minister 1

Reader 1

Ushers 2

Communion Assts. 4 Bronce Reece, Gayle Mack

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 Godec
Parish Accountant.....Mike Hill
Financial Secretary.....Anne Rydholm

Music Staff:

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

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

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