



November 26, 2023

WELCOME! We're glad you joined us! Some things you might like to know:

This bulletin can be viewed online where all the gray, underlined sections of text are web links to contacts, event registrations, websites for our mission partners, and other useful information. View the online version at messiahchurch.org/bulletin.

Let us know you worshiped with us. If you joined us in person, you should have received a Connect Card from an usher. Online, click on "[Let Us Know You're Here](#)" at the bottom of your screen to register your attendance. You can also share a prayer request; our Prayer Team prays through these requests each week. Watching on demand? You can register your attendance, send a prayer request, and give online, just like on Sunday!

First time here? We'd like to thank you with a donation in your honor to one of our community partners. Select the organization of your choice by checking a box on your Connect Card, or during online attendance registration by clicking on "[Let Us Know You're Here](#)," and selecting a recipient from the list at the bottom of the form. You're making an impact in this community just by being here today!

Thank you for financially supporting Messiah Church! There are many ways to give: A secure offering box is available as you enter or leave the sanctuary. Or give online by clicking on "[Give](#)" at the bottom of your online worship experience, by texting the word "FUNDS" to (763) 333-2673 and following the prompts, or by mailing a check to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447. Thank you!

TRADITIONS WORSHIP

(8:30 AM)

MGN - Messiah's Good News
Prelude *Lord Whose Love in Humble Service* (Cherwien)
Welcome / [Attendance](#)
* Hymn #2155 (vv 1-3) *Blest Are They*
* Congregational Prayer
Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release
Prayer Hymn #92 (vv 1, 2, 4, 5) *For the Beauty of the Earth*
Pastoral Prayer
Anthem *Give to My Eyes, Lord* (Corp) Sheila Gronemann
* Scripture: [Matthew 5:1-12](#)
Message *Releasing God's Blessings*
* Hymn #102 (vv 1-3) *Now Thank We All*
Our God
* [Offering](#)
* Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
* Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God* (Hobby)

JOURNEY WORSHIP

(10:30 AM)

MGN - Messiah's Good News
Gathering Music *Thank You For The Music* (Andersson)
Welcome / [Attendance](#)
* Praise Song *I'm So Blessed* (Smith)
Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release
Prayer Song *Gratitude* (Hastings)
Prayer
Scripture: [Matthew 5:1-12](#) Ed Miska
Message *Releasing God's Blessings*
Anthem *Blessed* (Ingram)
[Offering](#)
* Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
* Postlude *Gratitude*

* Please stand as you are able

WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

GROW PRAY STUDY (GPS)

A Daily Devotional

Monday 11/27	Matthew 5:1-12
Tuesday 11/28	Matthew 5:1-12
Wednesday 11/29	2 Corinthians 9:7-9
Thursday 11/30	2 Corinthians 9:11-15
Friday 12/1	Colossians 3:15-17
Saturday 12/2	Philippians 4:4-7

Find the weekly GPS online at MessiahChurch.org or [here](#). To receive the daily GPS by email, contact Carolyn Loeffler at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

PRAYER

Lift Up Our Church Family in Prayer

Prayers for Health and Healing for:

Donna B, Brenda B, Johnna H, Muriel J, Ralph V, Dennis L, Ed P, Delphie E

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:

Grant C, Nicholas P, Tyler W, Haden W, Elisabeth W, Jin J

At Messiah, we love walking with children and youth on their journeys to follow Jesus. To do that, we offer several Sunday morning classes:

Children in pre-K through 5th grade gather for KID Street Sunday School at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Kids begin in worship, are released to Sunday School mid-service, and can be picked up downstairs after worship. **Youth in grades 6-8** will gather in the Youth Room for Sunday School during both the 8:30 and 10:30 am worship services. Youth begin in worship and are dismissed with the kids mid-service. Youth Sunday School offers age-appropriate teaching that follows the sermon series and scripture stories used in Sunday worship. The nursery, for **infants and toddlers (through age 3)**, is available at both services, and these children may be dropped off downstairs in KID Street HQ before worship begins. *All children and youth are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary if your family prefers to worship together.*

Altar flowers this morning are given by Ann Egerer and family in memory of Bill.

For those with t-coil equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants, an **induction hearing loop** is installed for use in our sanctuary.

COMING UP @ MESSIAH

Stay connected to all things Messiah during the week at www.MessiahChurch.org, "Messiah United Methodist Church" on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) and the "Coming Up @ Messiah" weekly email. To receive our weekly emails, contact Carolyn Loeffler at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org, and she will place you on the email list.

The annual **Charge Conference** for the purpose of setting the pastors' salaries will be this morning at 10 am in the church office. Pastor Dick Ellis will be presiding - all members of Messiah are welcome to attend and vote.

All Messiah women are invited to **Women's Night Out** tomorrow, Monday, November 27 from 5:30-8 pm at Robert's Craft Kitchen in the Medina Entertainment Center ([500 Hwy 55, Medina](#)). Come and enjoy a glass of wine or some food (whatever you wish to order) and good conversation with Messiah friends old and new. Feel free to bring a friend or invite someone new! All are welcome. Please RSVP to Heather Felt by noon tomorrow at hfelt@messiahchurch.org so enough tables can be reserved.

Last Sunday was **Dedication Sunday**, when we invited all of our members to return their annual Estimate of Giving Cards toward the work of Messiah's ministry in 2024. This is an opportunity to make a

difference here at Messiah, in Plymouth, and around the world. You may return an Estimate of Giving Card any time during the month of November online at MessiahChurch.org/estimate-of-giving; or submit a paper Estimate of Giving Card by mail (Messiah Church, attn: Paul Lohse, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447), or in person to the box in the atrium during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm and Friday 9 am-12 pm). Paper Giving Cards were mailed, are available in the atrium, or can be downloaded and printed at home from the [link](#) at messiahchurch.org/estimate-of-giving. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve through your generosity this next year. We ask that everyone return an Estimate of Giving Card by Thursday, November 30, even if you can only make a limited financial commitment at this time. You can always increase or decrease your commitment if your situation changes. If you have questions about how to fill out your Giving Card contact Paul Lohse, Financial Secretary, at plohse@messiahchurch.org or at the church office Tuesday mornings at (763) 473-6968. **We are grateful for you!**

Do you love to **decorate for Christmas**? We are looking for

— continued

— continued

people to help create a joyous, festive feel to our sanctuary and atrium in time for the first week of Advent, the Fa La La Festival, and of course Christmas Eve! Messiah owns plenty of festive holiday decorations, but we need people with the "holiday touch" to add an artful appearance. Join us on Saturday, December 2 from 9 am-12 pm to deck the halls! Contact Joy Ann Harmon to let her know you are coming: jharmon@messiahchurch.org or (763) 473-6968 ext. 113.

Join us next Sunday, December 3, between worship services (9:30-10:30 am) for **Sunday Funday!** Come dressed in your festive Christmas sweater, then join us in Heritage Hall for cookies and milk, and to make a wooden nativity scene sure to be a family keepsake for years to come! We're also collecting socks & undies to donate to Simpson Shelter. Come early (if you plan to attend 10:30 worship), or stay later (if you plan to attend 8:30 worship). There's something fun for everyone!

Let's ring in the Christmas season together on Sunday, December 3 at Messiah's **Fa La La Family Fun Festival!** From 3-6 pm, you, your family, and the entire community are invited to experience the excitement of the season. Join us for holiday activities from 3-5 pm: Decorate cookies, make a holiday craft, play kids' games, visit the hot cocoa bar with all the fixin's, and enjoy live Christmas music. Then stay for a soup supper from 4:30-6 pm: Enjoy a hot bowl of soup, fresh bread, and Christmas cookies. There's something fun for everyone at this FREE community holiday event! Mark your calendar & invite a friend or neighbor! **Many hands are still needed to host this event and welcome the community** and Messiah family alike. Visit

tinyurl.com/FaLaLa2023 for a list of serving opportunities and to sign up today. Volunteer shifts are set up so that you can help serve AND attend the event. Contact Heather Felt at (763) 473-6968 ext. 114 or hfelt@messiahchurch.org if you have questions. **Can we borrow your hammer?** We have a craft project planned for the Fa La La Festival that requires hammers. Do you have one we could borrow for this event? Please label your hammer with your first & last name and leave in the church office through Friday, December 2. Borrowed hammers can be picked up the following week. Thank you!

This Christmas, we invite you to **donate a poinsettia** as a way of celebrating the birth of Jesus while remembering or honoring a friend or family member. Dedications can be made in "Celebration of,"

"Memory of," or "Honor of" a loved one. (Suggested donation is \$15 for each dedication.) A list of those honored or remembered will be printed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. There are two ways to submit your dedications:

- *Online* - complete the dedication form at Messiahchurch.org/Christmas-poinsettias, then [pay online](#).
- *Paper Form* - download and print the form from tinyurl.com/MessiahChurchpoinsettias2023 or pick up a dedication form in the church office. Drop off your completed form and donation to the church office on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm and Friday 9 am-12 pm), OR mail to Messiah Church, attn: Carolyn Loeffler, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth MN 55447. Please make checks payable to Messiah Church and indicate "poinsettias" in the memo.

The deadline to submit your dedications is Sunday, December 3.

Questions? Please contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office Tuesdays-Thursdays at (763) 473-6968 ext 101, or email at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

The gaiety of the holiday season has a way of emphasizing day-to-day struggles with grief, depression, anxiety, and fear. Join us Saturday, December 9 at 2 pm for a **service of comfort, hope, and healing**. Expect music that lifts the soul, prayers that comfort, and solitude that soothes. Know someone who is struggling? Invite a friend and sit with them...or slip in alone. All are welcome: in-person, online live at MessiahChurch.org/live, or on demand later at MessiahChurch.org/live/ondemand. A fellowship time with warm beverages and treats will follow.

To learn more about the Methodist faith, Messiah Church, our pastors, and getting connected, you are invited to attend **Discover Messiah** on Sunday, December 10 at 11:45 am in the Fireside Room (on the lower level). Even if you are not "new" here, if you have never attended a Discover Messiah, you are invited! Lunch will be provided - please RSVP to Heather Felt at hfelt@messiahchurch.org or (763) 473-6968 ext 114. Heather can also provide more information about this casual gathering and membership at Messiah.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Messiah is a church of compassion and outreach. We serve through mission, locally and internationally. For a complete list of opportunities visit www.MessiahChurch.org/community/make-an-impact.

Our November Second Mile Offering supports Haven for Heroes. A non-profit based locally in Anoka, Haven for Heroes provides a place of safety and refuge for service members,

— continued

— continued

veterans, and their families. They are a community of recovery, providing transitional housing and services. Their goal is to partner with each veteran to help alleviate and mend wounds, rebuilding and rejuvenating their whole person to live the life they deserve. For more information on Haven for Heroes, visit haven4heroesmn.org. Give [online](#) by selecting "Haven for Heroes," by texting a dollar amount to (763) 333-2673 and following the prompts, or by mailing a check (indicate "Haven for Heroes" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.

Round off your Thanksgiving weekend by supporting ICA Food Shelf while eating a delicious meal at Maynards ([685 Excelsior Blvd. Excelsior](http://685ExcelsiorBlvd.Excelsior))! Tomorrow, Monday, November 27, come for lunch, dinner, or order take-out from 11 am-11 pm and 100% of sales will go directly to ICA to assist our neighbors in need. To make a reservation, call (952) 470-1800. If you would like to make a donation, or to learn more about the ICA Food Shelf, visit icafoodshelf.org.

Through Thursday, November 30, purchase your very own **Messiah Church gifts & apparel!** Our online pop-up shop is open again - this time with NEW winter gift-giving choices! Visit tinyurl.com/MessiahMerchNov23 to purchase

Messiah quarter-zips, hoodies, t-shirts, knit beanies, tote bags, and coffee tumblers. Choose your favorite items, style, color, and size...then checkout online. Pay for shipping and your order will arrive at your door OR have your items shipped to Messiah for FREE (then pick them up from the church office). Items will arrive mid-December, ready for holiday gifting. Your order will make a difference in the community too! 10% of every purchase is donated back to our Christmas Offering - Bloom Totes for Hope and Imara International. If you have questions, or problems ordering, contact Miranda Spence at mspence@messiahchurch.org.

As part of our Fa La La Festival, we are collecting **new socks and underwear for Simpson Shelter**. Especially needed are women's briefs (sizes L-3XL or 11-13), women's white crew socks, and men's ankle socks. Simpson Shelter (located in downtown Minneapolis) houses, supports, and advocates for people experiencing homelessness. For more information on Simpson, visit SimpsonHousing.org. Donations will be collected through Sunday, December 3 and can be dropped off in the atrium at Messiah during the Fa La La Festival, on Sundays, or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm and Friday 9 am-12 pm). Monetary donations are also welcome. Donate [online](#) by selecting "Simpson Shelter," or by

mailing a check (indicate "Simpson Shelter" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.

It won't be long before the snow is flying! Interfaith Outreach is collecting **warm winter outerwear** to distribute to their clients. Especially needed are new or like-new snow pants, boots, and waterproof gloves and mittens. Please drop off your donation directly at Interfaith Outreach (1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth) during their donation hours: Mondays and Fridays 10 am-5 pm, and Wednesdays 10 am-7 pm. For more information on Interfaith Outreach, visit iocp.org.

The **Sleeping Mat Project** is a way to give people a place to sleep, and recycle & reuse plastic bags. Sleeping Mats are made out of "plarn," plastic yarn made from grocery bags, using a special loom. Midwest Mission delivered a loom to Messiah Church so that we can begin making these sleeping mats. Weaving one Sleeping Mat requires over 600 plastic bags! Bags for this project can be dropped off in the marked bin in the atrium at Messiah on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm and Friday 9 am-12 pm). *No trash bags, please - only plastic shopping bags from Target, Walmart, grocery stores, etc.*

New items in the bulletin this week.

CONNECT WITH US

Senior Pastor
Tami Luckhardt
tluckhardt@messiahchurch.org

Associate Pastor
Bethany Nelson
bnelson@messiahchurch.org

Pastor of Congregational Care
Brian Hacklander
bhacklander@messiahchurch.org

Director of Children & Family Ministry
Kari Stern
kstern@messiahchurch.org

Director of Youth & Family Ministry
Sami Tierney
stierney@messiahchurch.org

Director of Community Engagement
Heather Felt
hfelt@messiahchurch.org

Director of Worship
Joy Ann Harmon
jharmon@messiahchurch.org