



February 22, 2026

WELCOME! We're glad you're here!

At Messiah Church, we covenant to *become love* in word, action, and deed. **We welcome and affirm the full inclusion of all people** — all ages, all races and ethnicities, all LGBTQIA+, all political affiliations, all economic statuses, and all abilities — into the life and ministry of the church. Moving forward in bold hope, we renew our commitment to follow the inclusive example and teachings of Jesus. We choose to *become love*.

This bulletin can also be accessed online on our website and church app. To view the online version, visit MessiahChurch.org/Resources. The online bulletin includes web links for any gray, underlined text.

 **Let us know you worshipped with us** by using our printed or online [Connect Card](#). You can also include a prayer request which will be shared with our Pastors and Prayer Team.

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 on your [Connect Card](#).

 **Thank you for financially supporting Messiah Church!** There are many ways to give: an offering box is just outside the sanctuary; online at MessiahChurch.org/Give; through our app; by scanning the QR code; or by mailing your offering to Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.

TRADITIONS WORSHIP

8:45 AM

Prelude *40 Days in the Desert* (Peters)
Welcome / [Attendance](#)
* Hymn #269 *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*
Congregational Prayer
Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
Prayer Hymn *I Need Thee Every Hour*
Pastoral Prayer
Anthem *Mercy* (Courtney)
* Scripture: [Luke 23:32-34; Matthew 18:21-35](#)
Sheila Gronemann
Message *Father, Forgive Them*
* Hymn #365 *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*
* [Offering](#) / Offering Prayer
* Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
° Postlude *Rock of Ages* (Krug)

JOURNEY WORSHIP

10:30AM

* Praise Songs *Death Was Arrested* (North Point Worship)
What a Beautiful Name (Hillsong Worship)
Welcome / [Attendance](#)
Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
Prayer Song *Great Are You Lord* (All Sons and Daughters)
Pastoral Prayer
Scripture: [Luke 23:32-34; Matthew 18:21-35](#)
Gerry Tucker
Message *Father, Forgive Them*
Anthem *Lead Me to the Cross* (Ligertwood)
[Offering](#) / Offering Prayer
* Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
° Postlude

* Please stand as you are able.

° You are invited to be seated and enjoy the postlude or to leave the sanctuary quietly.

LOVING GOD. LOVING EACH OTHER. LOVING THE WORLD.

GROW PRAY STUDY (GPS)

A Daily Devotional

Monday 2/23	Matthew 16:21–28
Tuesday 2/24	Luke 23:32–34
Wednesday 2/25	Matthew 18:21–35
Thursday 2/26	Luke 6:27–32
Friday 2/27	Luke 7:36–50
Saturday 2/28	Romans 8:1–6

Find the weekly GPS online at MessiahChurch.org/Resources. To receive the daily GPS by email, contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

PRAYER

Lift Up Our Church Family in Prayer

Prayers for Health and Healing for:

Carol B, Brenda B,
Donna B, Chuck E,
Johnna H, Dennis L,
Ed P

Prayers for Comfort and Peace for the Family and Friends of:

Donna Bergquist, who
passed away February 19;
service arrangements are
pending

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:

Grant C, Jin J, Tim M,
Tyler W, Elisabeth W

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 during worship. Kids begin in worship, are released to Sunday School mid-service, and can be picked up downstairs after worship. **Youth in grades 6-8** gather in the Youth Room for Sunday School during both the 8:45 and 10:30 am worship services. Youth begin in worship and are dismissed with the kids mid-service. **Nursery care** is available during worship for infants and toddlers (through age 3). Children can be dropped off downstairs in the 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.*

Prefer to keep your little one with you? We're not bothered by wiggles or noise! If it's helpful, **"busy bags"** are available at the back of the sanctuary, and worship is streaming in the atrium and Heritage Hall. Ushers are happy to help guide you.

An **induction hearing loop** is available in our sanctuary for those with t-coil hearing aids or cochlear implants.

COMING UP @ MESSIAH

Stay connected to all things Messiah during the week at 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.

This Lent, **our whole church is joining together to read and study *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross*** by Susan Robb. Throughout this six-week sermon series, we'll reflect on Jesus' "seven last words" from the cross — words that reveal his deep love, full humanity, and unwavering trust in God. If you're already part of a Faith Group, you'll likely walk through this study with your group. If you're not currently in a group, you're invited to follow along on your own. A few copies of the book are still available from Messiah for \$7 — see Heather Felt today or email her at hfelt@messiahchurch.org to reserve one. Or you can order a copy from Amazon or your favorite bookseller. If you'd like more information about Faith Groups or want help finding a group that's right for you, Heather can assist with that as well.

BINGO Night is coming to Messiah! Join us this Friday, February 27 from 6:30-8 pm for a fun night of BINGO games, prizes, and snacks —

all for FREE! Fun for all ages - mark your calendar and invite your friends or neighbors!

🌸 **On Sunday, March 1, we'll gather for ONE combined worship service at 9:30 am** with music led by our choir, praise band, and organ. **Then stay for our annual all-church meeting at 10:45 am in the sanctuary.** In this time together, we'll take a look back at 2025 and all the ways we worshiped, played, and made a kingdom impact! You'll hear a 2025 Year End financial report, meet the 2026 leadership teams, and learn more about how we are living into Vision 2030. Both worship and the meeting will be streamed online live at www.MessiahChurch.org/Live (and on demand later). Childcare will be available during the meeting in the KID Street headquarters (lower level). Save the date, note the special worship time, and remind others you usually see on Sundays!

🌸 **This Easter, we invite you to donate spring flowers and Easter lilies as a way of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus while remembering or honoring a family member or friend.** A list of those honored or remembered will be printed in the Easter worship bulletin. Suggested donation is \$20 for each dedication. Submit your dedications either online or with a

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paper form:

Online - visit messiahchurch.org/easter-flowers to complete the dedication form, then visit messiahchurch.org/give to pay online (select "Worship Flowers"). Paper Form - pick up a dedication form in the church atrium or download and print the form at tinyurl.com/MessiahEasterFlowers. Drop off your completed form and donation in the offering box on Sundays or in the church office during office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-4 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 "Easter Flowers" in the memo. **The deadline to submit your dedications is Sunday, March 15.** (Dedications received after this date will not be included in the Easter bulletin.) Questions? Please contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office Tuesdays-Thursday at (763) 473-6968 ext 101, or by email at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

Tickets for Messiah's Glory Players production of Cinderella are now on sale! Show dates are March 13-15 and 20-22. Tickets are \$25 for adults ages 13 and up, \$15 for children ages 5 to 12, and preschoolers ages 4 and under are free. The show is best enjoyed by ages 6 and up, but all ages are welcome. All theatergoers, regardless of age, must have a ticket. Reserve your tickets at the box office in the atrium after each worship service with check or credit card. Don't know your plans yet? Buy online at MessiahChurch.org/Cinderella. (In-person purchases are encouraged, to reduce fees paid by Glory Players to our ticketing platform.) *Cinderella is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.*

The **Cinderella Props Team is hoping you can loan us a few items** for the musical. We are still looking to borrow a gong and a 5-foot-tall vertical mirror. Please leave items you are willing to loan in the church office on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-4 pm). Label props with your name and phone number. We'll be sure to have all borrowed items ready for you to pick up on Tuesday, March 24, after the shows are complete. Thanks for your help!

An important part of creating an exceptional experience for our guests at Cinderella is through spectacular hospitality. We are looking for greeters, ushers, and concession volunteers for each of the 7 performances (dress rehearsal on Thursday, March 12 and performances on March 13-15 and 20-22). Your smile and helpful servant heart are all that's needed — training and more information will be provided at a required training session on Monday, March 9 at 6 pm or Tuesday, March 10 at 3 pm (choose just one date to attend). Visit tinyurl.com/MessiahCinderellaHospitality to sign up. Contact Heather Felt with questions at (763) 473-6968 or hfelt@messiahchurch.org.

June 8-12, join us at Rainforest Falls Summer Vacation Bible Camp for music, art, games, science, and more! Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids preschool-5th grade will plunge into an adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their safe place in life's storms. Rainforest Falls will immerse kids in five mornings (9 am-12 pm) of faith-building fun. All are welcome! Kids have the option of staying all day too, for even more adventures. Extended afternoon camp (for children already attending

Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible Camp) is available Monday-Thursday until 4 pm. Kids eat lunch at camp then continue their camp adventures through art, service projects, and games. Sign up for the extended day as part of camp registration (optional afternoon care space is limited). If your child is staying for extended afternoon camp, late pick-up (as late as 4:30 pm) is also available. Please indicate if you need late pick-up when you register. *Please note: Afternoon extended camp is NOT offered on Friday, June 12; all children must be picked up by 12 pm. Registration is now open!* Please register by Monday, May 18 to guarantee your child's t-shirt size and your family's music gift preference (digital download or music CD). Online registrations will be accepted through Monday, June 1 (as space permits), but we appreciate early registrations to help us plan. Visit vbspro.events/p/events/messiahcamp2026 to register & for all the details. Rainforest Falls Summer Camp is just \$40/child (\$80 family maximum). Optional extended afternoon camp is an additional \$50/child. Scholarships are available — we believe that no child should miss this! **Summer Camp requires a lot of volunteer support!** Adults and youth finishing 6th grade and older are welcome to volunteer for this high-energy week. Register today, at the same link above! For more information or questions about this exciting week, visit vbspro.events/p/events/messiahcamp2026 or contact Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at kstern@messiahchurch.org.

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 MessiahChurch.org/Make-an-Impact.

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Our January & February Second Mile Offering supports Emma Norton Services (ENS). Each year, Emma Norton Services helps over 250 people by providing a supportive community, resources, and personal development opportunities while they work to build a better life without having to worry about basic needs, like a safe place to sleep. For more information on Emma Norton Services, visit emmanorton.org. Messiah Church has been a long-time supporter of Emma Norton Services. **You can offer your support for this organization through the end of February with a monetary donation, and/or donating much-needed items:**

Give online by selecting "Second Mile Offering," or by mailing a check (indicate "Emma Norton" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.

Donate! We are collecting these specific items: new queen-size sheet sets, new pillows, new bath towels, hair styling products, hair accessories (clips, hair ties, pins, scrunchies), baking sheets, spatulas, floor cleaner, sponges, dish soap, disinfectant wipes, and paper towels. All donations will be collected through today and can be dropped off in the marked bin in the atrium.

We know you are praying and asking **how to support our immigrant**

neighbors. Lord, what is mine to do? Here are a few ways:

- **Give to our Emergency Food Drive fund.** Funds will provide groceries & other critical support for those unable to safely access basic needs. Your generosity helps provide hope and tangible support for those most affected. Give [online](#) by selecting "Emergency Food Drive," or by mailing a check (indicate "Emergency Food Drive" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.
- **Write a note of encouragement,** reminding our siblings in Christ they are not alone. Leave your card in the church office and we'll pass it along.
- **Join our Faith In Action Team** to be contacted as additional needs and opportunities arise. Sign up at tinyurl.com/messiahfaithinactionteam.
- **Pray together.** We're inviting all of Messiah Church to pray at noon each day: *Loving God, quiet my heart and open my mind. Shape me by your grace and form in me the mind of Christ. Guide me to ask honestly, What is mine to do? Give me the courage to live into this moment to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Amen.* Visit messiahchurch.org/faith-in-action to download a digital wallpaper of the prayer and place on the lock screen of your phone to keep it handy.

Consider donating blood at the American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, March 10 from 12-6 pm in Heritage Hall. Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter "MessiahPlym" to schedule an appointment. Save the date for other upcoming blood drives at Messiah: Thursday, April 30 from 12-6 pm.

Can you help with some much-needed items for Simpson Shelter? Current needs include: thermal underwear for women & men; women's bras; men's t-shirts; hair care products for natural, textured, or curly hair; Q-tips; nail care kits; washcloths; and pillowcases. Please note that **Simpson is currently accepting ONLY these specific items.** All items must be new, unused, and unopened. Simpson cannot accept clothing such as jeans, shirts, coats, and shoes. Underwear and socks in NEW condition are welcome. Personal-sized/travel toiletries are welcome. Full sized items are too heavy for guests to carry. **Donations can also be purchased from their [Amazon Wish List](#) and delivered directly to the shelter, or dropped off in the marked bin in the atrium at Messiah** on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-4 pm). For more information on Simpson Shelter, visit simpsonhousing.org.

New items in the bulletin this week. Submit bulletin items by Tuesday at 3 pm to office@messiahchurch.org.

CONNECT WITH US

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