

November 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 — ***Thanksgiving Prayer*** (Martin)
Welcome / Attendance
* Hymn #694 — ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***
* Congregational Prayer
Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release
Prayer Hymn — ***Give Thanks***
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Anthem — ***A Hymn of Grateful Praise*** (Poorman & Poorman)
* Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; 1 Timothy 6:17-19 — Linda Munch
Message — ***A Generous Life***
* Hymn #402 — ***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian***
Offering & Offering Prayer
Reception of New Members
* Benediction — ***Aaron's Blessing*** (Ortega)
° Postlude — ***Welcome Happy Morning*** (Wilson)

JOURNEY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

10:30 AM

* Gathering Songs — ***Graves Into Gardens*** (Lake)
Living Hope (Wickham)
Welcome / Attendance
3rd Grade Bible Presentation
Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release
Prayer Song — ***Come Lord Jesus (Even So Come)*** (Tomlin)
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Scripture: Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; 1 Timothy 6:17-19 — Linda Brown
Message — ***A Generous Life***
Anthem — ***The Blessing*** (Brown)
Offering & Offering Prayer
Commission Imara Mission Team
Reception of New Members
* 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.

GROW PRAY STUDY (GPS)

A Daily Devotional

Monday 11/23	Mark 12:41-44
Tuesday 11/24	Matthew 6:19-24
Wednesday 11/25	Matthew 6:25-34
Thursday 11/26	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Friday 11/27	Luke 24:44-48
Saturday 11/28	Acts 1:3-8

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, Chuck E, Johnna H, Dennis L, Sandy M, Tom M, Ed P, Barb W

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:
Grant C, Jin J, Tim M, Tyler W, Elisabeth W

Today we finish our sermon series **Growing in Grace: Practices for a Deeper Faith,** exploring the five essential practices of Christian discipleship: worship and prayer, study, serving, giving, and sharing. Copies of our Discipleship Pathway are available in the atrium or online at MessiahChurch.org/Resources**.**



Altar flowers today are given by the Stagni family in celebration of Melissa's 38th birthday.

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 the service has ended. **Youth in grades 6-8** gather in the Youth Room for Sunday School during worship. 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)**. These children can be dropped off downstairs in the KID Street HQ before worship begins. ***Kids 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, activity 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.

For your comfort: An **induction hearing loop** is available in our sanctuary for those with t-coil hearing aids or cochlear implants. **Large print bulletins** are available from an usher. **Fragrance-free pews** are located in the far right section as you enter the sanctuary (nearest to the lake) for those who are sensitive to fragrances.

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.

The **Scouting America wreath pickup** is this morning, Sunday, November 22, outside the church under the pergola. Pick up your pre-ordered wreaths and holiday greens before or after each service. A limited number of extra wreaths are available for purchase — first come first served, cash or check only. Thank you for supporting Messiah's Troops 3570 and 5570!

There will be **no evening programming** for kids, youth, or adults, or music practice on Wednesday, November 25. The **church office and building will be closed on Thursday**, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. For pastoral emergencies, please call (952) 994-3683.

All Messiah women are invited to **Women's Night Out** on Monday, November 30. We will gather in Heritage Hall at 5:30 pm for a lasagna dinner followed by a fun holiday flower arranging class. Participants will leave with an arrangement that will help to deck their halls as the festive holiday season begins. Cost is $15 per person to cover dinner and supplies. Please bring a vase from home, ideally a shorter (4") wide vase for a centerpiece-style arrangement. Feel free to bring a friend or invite someone new! All are welcome.

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Please RSVP to Heather Felt at hfelt@messiahchurch.org by Friday, November27.

Moms and Dads — do you need a break? Time to holiday shop, wrap gifts, go out for dinner, or just enjoy a quiet evening at home? Sign up for **Parents' Night Out** on Friday, December 4, from 5:30-8:30 pm! While you enjoy three hours to yourself, your children will have a festive evening in the KID Street Headquarters (lower level). The evening includes a pizza dinner, playtime, organized games, Christmas crafts, and a movie, all supervised by our Sunday KID Street staff. Space is limited — visit tinyurl.com/MessiahPNO to sign up today! Please register by Wednesday, December 2. Cost is $20 for the first child and $10 for each additional child (in the same family). Children ages 3 (and potty trained) through 5th grade are welcome. Pick-up is no later than 8:30 pm. For questions or more information, please contact Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at kstern@messiahchurch.org.

This Christmas, we invite you to **dedicate 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 $20 for each dedication.) A list of those honored or remembered will be printed in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins. There are two ways to submit your dedications — online or with a paper form: *Online:* Visit MessiahChurch.org/poinsettias 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/MessiahPoinsettiaForm. Drop off your completed form and donation in the offering box on Sundays or to 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 "poinsettias" in the memo. The deadline to submit your dedication to be included in the Christmas Eve worship bulletins is Sunday, December 6. Questions? Please contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office Tuesdays-Thursdays at (763) 473-6968 ext 101, or email at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

Jingle those bells and grab your crew — there's a night of festive fun waiting for you! On Sunday, December 6, join us for Jingle Bell BINGO & Soup Supper, a FREE community event for all ages. Enjoy a warm soup supper from 5-6 pm, served with fresh bread and Christmas cookies, followed by BINGO at 6 pm with fun prizes and plenty of holiday cheer! Bring your friends, your family, your neighbors too — there's room at the table just for you! **A few hands are needed to host this event and welcome the community and Messiah family alike**. Visit tinyurl.com/JingleBellBingo2026 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. Would you like to bake Christmas cookies for this event? A **sign-up to bake cookies** is available on Sunday mornings at the name tag station, or contact Heather. Questions? Contact Heather Felt at hfelt@messiahchurch.org or (763) 473-6968 ext. 114.

Join us for **Christmas Eve worship** — special music, a message of hope, and the tradition of candlelight as we sing *Silent Night*. Experience the joy of Christmas at Messiah! Except where noted, services are in person, online live at www.MessiahChurch.org/Live, or on demand later at www.MessiahChurch.org/OnDemand.

- *Sunday, December 20 @ 7 pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship:* An "early" traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service with bells, organ, choir, and carols. Enjoy Christmas Eve worship before you leave town or your holiday schedule gets too busy! In person or online live at www.MessiahChurch.org/Live. Childcare is available. Please note: Advent Week 4 worship services will also be held Sunday, December 20 at our regular worship times: 8:45 and 10:30 am.
- *Thursday, December 24 @ 4 pm Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship:* A family-friendly Christmas Eve candlelight service with the story of Christ's birth, a pop-up Christmas pageant, and familiar carols. In person only.
- *Thursday, December 24 @ 7 pm Contemporary Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship:* A contemporary Christmas Eve candlelight service, led by The Way praise band, with contemporary music and carols.
- *Thursday, December 24 @ 9 pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship:* A traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service with bells, organ, choir, and carols.

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 Messiah Church.org/make-an-impact.

Our November Second Mile Offering supports Interfaith Outreach and their Sleep Out campaign — a community-wide effort to raise awareness and funds for struggling families in the west suburbs. Each year, gifts to the Sleep Out help more than 2,000 local families not only with food and housing, but also with life-changing

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support in areas like employment, clothing, early childhood education, and transportation. For more information on the Sleep Out, visit the Interfaith Outreach website at iocp.org/donations/sleepout. You can support Interfaith Outreach and their Sleep Out campaign through the end of November with a monetary donation and/or by volunteering: **Give!** Give online by selecting "Second Mile Offering," or by mailing a check (indicate "Sleep Out" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447. **Volunteer!** Interfaith Outreach is always in need of volunteers. Visit iocp.org/volunteers to register for New Volunteer Training or to view current needs.

As part of **Midwest Mission's distribution of health care resources**, they send medical supplies and equipment to developing countries. There is a great need for items we take for granted. Can you help? We are collecting: walkers; wheelchairs; crutches; canes; and other orthopedic supplies (walking boots, slings, braces, and knee scooters). Donations will be collected through Sunday, November 29 and can be dropped off in the marked bin in the atrium at Messiah on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Wednesday 9 am-4 pm). Midwest Mission sends tangible resources to those in need to make a difference in their lives through hope and empowerment — locally & around the world. They are one of eight cooperating depots in the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Supply Network. For more information on Midwest Mission, visit www.midwestmission.org.

Donations of new or gently used (clean, good condition) **winter coats are needed at Interfaith Outreach**. Each year Interfaith Outreach provides free winter coats to those who need them — adults, children, and seniors — free of charge. They are looking for warm, waterproof styles intended for being outside, especially in adult sizes large-3XL. Coat donations will be collected through Sunday, November 29 and can be dropped off in the marked bin in the atrium at Messiah on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Wednesday 9 am-4 pm). OR drop off your donation directly at Interfaith Outreach (1605 County Road 101 N, Plymouth) during their donation hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10 am-5 pm. For more information on Interfaith Outreach, visit iocp.org.

Round off your Thanksgiving weekend by supporting ICA Food Shelf while eating a delicious meal at Maynards (685 Excelsior Blvd, Excelsior)! On Monday, November 30 from 11 am-11 pm, come for lunch, happy hour, dinner, or order take-out and 100% of the proceeds will go directly to ICA to assist our neighbors in need. To make a reservation, call (952) 470-1800. If you can't come but would like to make a donation, or to learn more about the ICA Food Shelf, visit www.icafoodshelf.org.

Thrive Kenya is excited to begin planning its next mission trip scheduled for February/March 2027. This trip offers an opportunity to witness God's work firsthand, spend time with the 230 children supported through Thrive Kenya, and experience the lasting impact of this ministry in their lives and communities. Whether you have participated in a mission trip before or are considering your first mission experience, we invite you to learn more about this life-changing opportunity. If you are interested in joining the team or would like additional information for future Thrive Kenya mission opportunities, contact John Harmon, Thrive Kenya founder and Messiah Church member, at john@thrivekenya.org. Thrive Kenya rescues abandoned, abused, and orphaned children living in the slums of Kenya. They collaborate with existing children's homes operated by Kenyans who share the same values and passion for these children, striving to impact these young lives through love, hope, and a path toward stability. For more information on Thrive Kenya, visit www.thrivekenya.org.

New items in the bulletin this week.

Submit bulletin items by Tuesday at 3 pm to office@messiahchurch.org.

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 Finance and 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

17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447 | (763) 473-6968 | **MessiahChurch.org**