

November 8, 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 ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*** (arr. Dobrinski)
Welcome / Attendance
* Hymn #598 ***O Word of God Incarnate***
Unison Prayer
Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release
Hymn #601 ***Thy Word***
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Anthem ***Christians Together in Praise!*** (arr. Besig & Price)
* Scripture: Psalm 119:97, 103-105 Marlene Eyres
Message ***Growing in the Word***
* Hymn #2004 ***Praise the Source of Faith and Learning***
Offering & Offering Prayer
* Benediction ***Aaron's Blessing*** (Ortega)
° Postlude ***Fantasia on "Isle Confessor"*** (Smith)

JOURNEY CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
10:30 AM

* Gathering Songs ***Joy of the Lord*** (Cash)
Hymn of Heaven (Wickham)
Welcome / Attendance
Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release
Prayer Song ***Great are You, Lord*** (Leonard)
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer
Scripture: Psalm 119:97, 103-105 Hal Broxey
Message ***Growing in the Word***
Anthem ***Trust in God*** (Lake)
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 11/9	Luke 10:38-42
Tuesday 11/10	James 1:2-5
Wednesday 11/11	2 Timothy 2:14-15, 23- 25
Thursday 11/12	Psalm 119:11-12, 103-105
Friday 11/13	James 1:22-25
Saturday 11/14	Ephesians 4:11-16

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

Prayers for Comfort and Peace for the family and friends of:
Joan Erickson - a Celebration of Life will be Monday, November 9 at 2 pm at the Folkestone Chapel, 100 Promenade, Wayzata; Loren Jepsen - a Celebration of Life will be held at Messiah on Wednesday, November 11 at 11 am with gathering time at 10 am.

Altar flowers today are given by Paul and Sally Hahn in memory of their son, Doug, and his grandmother, Cristol Hahn, and in honor of their granddaughter Kristina's 26th birthday. All three were born on November 14.

For the next four weeks our sermon series **Growing in Grace: Practices for a Deeper Faith** will be exploring the five essential practices of Christian discipleship: worship and prayer, study, serving, giving, and sharing. If you would like a copy of our Discipleship Pathway, you will find printed copies in the atrium or online at www.MessiahChurch.org/Resources**.**

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.

Eight out of 10 Americans have risk factors for developing diabetes. The good news is that diabetes can often be prevented. With November being **Diabetes Awareness Month**, it's a great opportunity to learn more about reducing your risk. Stop by Messiah's Health Team Diabetes Prevention table in the atrium this morning between services (9:45-10:30 am) to learn more about prevention and steps you can take toward better health. Visit with our nurses, take the "Rethink Your Drink" quiz, and enter a drawing to win an infusion pitcher for making healthy flavored water.

Calling all kids and youth in grades 3-6! Come ring with the Messiah Kids & Youth Handbell & Handchime Choir! No musical experience necessary — we'll teach you everything you need to know. Rehearsals will be Sundays from 9:45-10:25 am (between service) on November 15, 22, 29 (possibly), and December 6. This new bell choir will perform during both worship services on Sunday, December 13. Are your kids interested in joining? Please email Mrs. Dalton at ddalton@messiahchurch.org by tomorrow, Monday, November 9, so she can plan music for the group.

Calling all second graders (and their families)! Join us Sunday, November 15 at 11:45 am in Lakeside East (lower level) for the **Communion Milestone.** In this interactive experience, second graders will learn more about the significance of Holy Communion. (If your 3rd-5th grade child missed this Milestone,

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they are also invited to attend.) A pizza lunch will be served. To RSVP (by Thursday, November 12) or for more information on our Milestone Ministries program, contact Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at kstern@messiahchurch.org.

Looking for an opportunity to connect with other Messiah men? We're excited to announce Forks and Fellowship, a new group that will gather for lunch on the third Thursday of each month. The goals are simple: great food and great fellowship! Our first gathering will be Thursday, November 19, at 12 pm at Lucky's 13 Pub in Plymouth (3000 Harbor Ln N — located inside Comfort Inn). For more information, talk to Chris F or email chriscfriend2735@gmail.com. Bring a friend and join us. Hope to see you there!

On Thursday, November 19, all grieving hearts are invited to attend a **Candlelight Memorial Service** here at Messiah Church. This event, hosted by the West Suburban Grief Coalition, offers a meaningful time to honor lost loved ones and bring comfort, hope, and healing to those experiencing grief as we enter the holiday season. (You do not need to be a participant of the Grief Coalition to attend.) The service begins at 6 pm; please arrive between 5:30-5:45 pm for check-in and to receive your memorial candle. For more information on the Grief Coalition, visit their new website at westsuburbangriefsupport.org. **Messiah is a partner of the West Suburban Grief Coalition;** weekly meetings of this support group gather on Thursdays at various churches on a rotating basis. Through November 12, Grief Coalition meetings are here at Messiah from 4:30-6 pm. **Messiah's Congregational Care Ministry Team** also provides confidential, caring concern through personal contact with members of the Messiah family who have a special need for spiritual or emotional support. If this is the care you need, contact Pastor Brian Hacklander, Messiah's Pastor of Congregational Care, at bhacklander@messiahchurch.org or call the church office at (763) 473-6968 ext. 123.

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*

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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 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). If you have any of these items that you no longer need, Midwest Mission would love to distribute these to those who do! 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-Thursday 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.

The next time you go shopping, pick up something extra to **donate to Interfaith Outreach and ICA, our local food shelves**. Most needed items this week: juice boxes, cereal, quick oats (large containers, not packets), feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, and paper grocery bags. Also needed are new or like-new winter coats: warm, waterproof styles intended for being outside; adult sizes large-3XL are most-needed. We are always collecting food shelf donations in the round marked bins just inside the front doors at Messiah — drop off on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 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; or ICA (11588 K-Tel Dr, Minnetonka) during their donation hours: Mondays 10 am-6:30 pm, Tuesdays 10 am-3:30 pm, Wednesdays 9 am-3:30 pm, Thursdays 10 am-3:30 pm, Fridays 10 am-12 pm, and Saturdays 10 am-12 pm (1st & 3rd Saturdays only).

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

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