



October 19, 2025 • Imara Sunday

WELCOME! We're glad you joined us!

At Messiah Church, we covenant to *become love* in word, action, and deed. **We welcome and affirm the full inclusion of all people** — all LGBTQIA+, all ages, all races and ethnicities, 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 *Pendaneni (Love One Another)* (Moklebust)
Welcome / [Attendance](#)
* Hymn #89 (vv 1, 2) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
Congregational Prayer
Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
Prayer Hymn #496 (vv 1, 3) *Sweet Hour of Prayer*
Pastoral Prayer
Anthem *Celebration Song* (Liebergen)
Message
* Hymn #378 (vv 1, 4) *Amazing Grace*
* [Offering](#)
* Benediction *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)
° Postlude *Take Up Your Cross* (Everest)

JOURNEY WORSHIP

10:30 AM

Welcome / [Attendance](#)
* Praise Songs *This is Our God* (Wickham)
Waymaker (Leeland)
Children's Prayer and Sunday School Release
Prayer Song *King of Kings* (Ingram)
Prayer
Message
Anthem *The Blessing* (Brown)
* [Offering](#)
* 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 10/20	John 15:1-12
Tuesday 10/21	Proverbs 3:27-28
Wednesday 10/22	Colossians 1:1-6
Thursday 10/23	Romans 12:9-13
Friday 10/24	Matthew 7:7-12
Saturday 10/25	Luke 14:7-11

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,
Johnna H, Dennis L, Ed P

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:

Grant C, Jin J,
Tyler W, Elisabeth W

Today is **Imara Sunday**, a day on which we highlight Imara International. Imara, one of Messiah Church's covenant mission partners, is a US-based nonprofit working in Kenya to provide an opportunity for teenage mothers to earn a high school degree and learn skills to support themselves and their children. They are building strong families and communities while breaking the cycle of poverty. **We welcome Bishop Tony Kiamah, Lead Pastor at River of God Church in Nairobi, Kenya & Imara International's Kenyan Board Chair** who will bring the message this morning and tell us more about Imara and its impact on young mothers and their children in Kenya. Between services, linger in Heritage Hall to meet our Imara guests and help us celebrate a special occasion. To learn more about Imara International, visit imarainternational.org.

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. *All children and youth are always welcome to remain in the sanctuary if your family prefers to worship together.*

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. 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.

We have been made aware of **phishing emails** circulating that appear to come from Pastor Tami. We want to remind you to be careful and alert with your internet safety. We will never ask you to verify personal or financial information, purchase gift cards, or make other requests for money through email. If something feels strange, please call our office at (763) 473-6968

and ask for confirmation of the request. Here are a few more tips:

- All Messiah Church emails will come from an email address ending in @messiahchurch.org.
- Watch for flags in the tone and grammar. Is the content, tone, and voice of the email/text what you would expect from this person?
- Do not purchase gift cards, give out personal information, or click on any strange links.
- If you're in doubt, ask! Call the church office to confirm any requests.

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.

Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church ([511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis](#)) is hosting author and pastor **Colby Martin** for a special presentation titled **Not An Oxymoron: Why LGBTQ Affirming Christianity Makes Sense** tomorrow, Monday, October 20 at 7 pm. Drawing from his book *UnClobber*, (featured on [Messiah's Fall Reading List](#)), Martin will explore the Bible verses most often

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used to exclude LGBTQ+ individuals from full inclusion in the church. He offers thoughtful, responsible reflection that can inspire healing and change for those impacted by non-affirming theology, especially those raised in conservative faith environments or those seeking to re-engage with scripture. Visit minnesotaumc.org/eventdetail/19355214 for more details on this FREE event; no registration is required.

Next Sunday, October 26, we'll worship together! We'll gather for ONE combined worship service at 9:30 am. Then join us in the parking lot for Trunk or Treat at 10:45 am — our FREE, fun-filled fall event for the whole community! (See Trunk or Treat details below).

Trunk or Treat is the place to be next Sunday, October 26 from 10:45 am-12 pm. We'll be in the parking lot for trick-or-treating, Halloween games, donuts, and cider — it's a FREE, fun-filled fall event for the whole community! The kids walk from vehicle to vehicle, collecting candy the way they would trick or treating door-to-door. (If it rains, we'll move the fun indoors.) Costumes are encouraged, and everyone is welcome to bring a friend or neighbor. **Can you host a "trunk"?** On Sunday, park in the marked location in our parking lot. Decorate your vehicle... especially the TRUNK! (You can be as simple or elaborate as you'd like.) Come dressed in costumes too, just for fun. Sign up at the KID Street table in the atrium, or contact Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at kstern@messiahchurch.org.

This November, our whole church is joining together in The Wesley Prayer Challenge. The Wesley Covenant Prayer has been used in Methodist services around the

world on the first Sunday of the year since John Wesley introduced it in 1755. It begins, "I am no longer my own but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt." Wesley expected that people would pray this prayer as a way of remembering, renewing, and surrendering themselves in complete trust to God. We'll be exploring the prayer through the November sermon series and a companion study. If you're already part of a Faith Group, you'll likely be engaging with this study in your group. If you're not currently in a group, you're invited to follow along on your own! Each day's reading from Chris Folmsbee's 21-day devotional includes scripture, a reflection, and a practical challenge to help you live out the words of the prayer. Copies of the book *The Wesley Prayer Challenge: 21 Days to a Closer Walk with Christ* are available for \$19 — see Heather Felt today or email her at hfelt@messiahchurch.org to reserve one. Used copies and a Kindle version are also available on Amazon for those who prefer to order on their own. Continue your learning from recent and upcoming sermon series or read for fun with book suggestions from our pastors, Creation Care & Inclusion teams, and Messiah's Book Club. Visit tinyurl.com/MessiahFall25Reading to download our **Fall Reading List** or find printed copies in the atrium or in the Messiah Church library (just inside the front doors, on your right as you enter the building). If you have any suggestions or questions about the library, contact Evie S at eseveryn@yahoo.com.

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.

Our September & October Second Mile Offering supports Massie's Mobile Mission. Massie's Mobile Mission provides emergency aid to people experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities. Their mission is to extend a compassionate hand to those facing adversity by providing essential supplies and fostering human connection. For more information, visit massiesmobilemission.com.

You can support Massie's Mobile Mission through the end of October:

- **Give!** Give [online](#) by selecting "Second Mile Offering," or by mailing a check (indicate "Massie's Mobile Mission" in the memo) to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447.
- **Donate!** We are collecting these specific items: men's & women's t-shirts (new; sizes M-XXL); peanut butter & jelly; dog bowls, leashes, and collars; cat litter; wet wipes; feminine hygiene products; flashlights; blankets & sleeping bags; travel-sized personal care items; hair brushes & combs (new); and drawstring bags & backpacks. All donations will be collected through next Sunday, October 26 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).
- **Volunteer!** Massie's Mobile Mission is always in need of volunteers to help with sandwich making, blessing pack assembly, and serving in the field. [Click here](#) for information or to sign up.

The annual **Scouting America holiday wreath sale** is going on now. Messiah scouts from troops 3570 and 5570 are taking orders after each worship service today. Orders must be prepaid with cash or check and items will be available for pickup at the church on Sunday, November 23.

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Join Messiah members and friends to **serve at Feed My Starving Children** in Coon Rapids ([401 93rd Ave](#)) on Saturday, October 25 from 2:30-4:15 pm. We'll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables, and a blend of vitamins into bags which are then boxed and shipped to reach the neediest children around the world. Ages 5 and up. Sign up by Thursday, October 23, at [Subsplash.com/messiahchurch/lb/ev/+gf68sj2](#). If you have questions, contact Gail S at [gklingbiel@yahoo.com](#). For more information about Feed My Starving Children, visit [FMSC.org](#).

Join the Imara International family for a night of friends, fun, and inspiration at their "**2025 Safari Sundowner Gala**" at the Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom ([5418 Wayzata Blvd, Golden Valley](#)) on Sunday, October 26 from 4:30-7:30 pm. The African tradition of the "Sundowner" is a ritual that marks the close of a fulfilling day, inviting one to pause with friends and gratitude — and it will be how we gather to celebrate the hope at Imara House in 2025. For event details, to purchase tickets (before October 21), or to make a donation, visit [imarainternational.org/2025-gala](#). To learn more about Imara International, visit [imarainternational.org](#).

Messiah is planning a mission trip to Re-Member April 18-24, 2026.

Re-Member is a nonprofit organization that works with the Oglala Lakota Nation on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Volunteers complete home improvement projects, work in the community gardens, and immerse themselves in Lakota culture. The cost for this trip is \$800/person; if you are interested in this mission trip opportunity, please contact Kay S at [kaylschultz@aol.com](#) by Thursday, October 30. For more information about Re-Member and the impact volunteers have there, visit [re-member.org](#).

Christmas Shoeboxes (in partnership with Spirit Lake Ministry Center) are packed with love for children on reservations in the Dakotas and Minnesota. On these reservations, up to 70% of the children would not receive gifts if not for this program and your generosity. Can you help? To start, get a shoebox (or two) and wrap the top and bottom of the box separately with holiday paper OR pack your gift in a clear plastic shoebox. Then start with a "wow" toy, and fill in with other smaller age-appropriate gifts. When the box is full, secure it with a rubber band and attach a label to the top identifying the age and gender of who would enjoy the gift. Mission Team members will be in the atrium today to answer questions and provide labels and lists of suggested gifts. Gift-filled

boxes are due back to Messiah by Sunday, November 9, so they can be delivered to children in time for Christmas. Or you can purchase gift cards to Target, Walmart, or Michaels, and Messiah volunteers will shop and pack shoeboxes for you! Leave gift card donations in the church office by Sunday, November 2. Gift cards and filled shoeboxes can be dropped off at Messiah on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-4 pm). Contact Pam L at [pslundgren@yahoo.com](#) with questions. For more information about Spirit Lake Ministry, visit [SpiritLakeMinistryCenter.org](#).

Current needs at Simpson Shelter include: hair care products for natural, textured, or curly hair; white crew socks; men's t shirts; shower shoes; combs; and items for the shelter kitchen - new, unopened, and unexpired mayonnaise, 20 oz containers of sugar/sweetener, napkins, and paper plates. Simpson is currently accepting ONLY these specific items. Drop off donations 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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