




## January 4, 2026 • Communion Sunday


**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](https://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](https://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 Unto Him* (Carver)  
Call to Worship  
\* Hymn #383 *This is a Day of New Beginnings*  
Welcome / [Attendance](#) / Second Mile Offering Video  
Children's Prayer and KID Street Release  
Anthem *God Will Never Forget You*  
(Kay Schroder-Hacklander)  
\* Scripture: [Philippians 2:5-11](#) Marlene Eyres  
Message *Courage to be Vulnerable*  
\* Hymn #399 *Take My Life and Let It Be*  
Communion  
Communion Music  
\* [Offering](#)  
Offering Prayer  
\* Benediction  
° Postlude *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)  
*Recessional March* (Guilmant)

### JOURNEY WORSHIP

10:30AM

\* Praise Songs *Christ Be Magnified* (Carnes)  
*Living Hope* (Wickham)  
Welcome / [Attendance](#) / Second Mile Offering Video  
Children's Prayer and KID Street Release  
Scripture: [Philippians 2:5-11](#) Gerry Tucker  
Message *Courage to be Vulnerable*  
Anthem *Holy Forever* (Tomlin)  
Communion  
Communion Music *House of God Forever* (Foreman)  
[Offering](#)  
Offering Prayer  
\* Benediction  
° Postlude *Aaron's Blessing* (Ortega)

\* 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 1/5	<a href="#">Philippians 2:5-8</a>
Tuesday 1/6	<a href="#">Mark 14:32-36</a>
Wednesday 1/7	<a href="#">John 13:3-15</a>
Thursday 1/8	<a href="#">Matthew 11:28-30</a>
Friday 1/9	<a href="#">2 Corinthians 8:1-9</a>
Saturday 1/10	<a href="#">Hebrews 4:11-16</a>

Find the weekly GPS online at [MessiahChurch.org/Resources](http://MessiahChurch.org/Resources). To receive the daily GPS by email, contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office at [cloeffler@messiahchurch.org](mailto: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 Those Serving in the Military:

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

Today we receive **Communion** both in person and online. At Messiah, we practice open communion; all are invited to the Lord's table regardless of age, denomination, or ability. If you need the elements to be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know. If you prefer not to be served, please take this time for reflection and prayer. To participate at home, be prepared with your own bread and a cup of juice or water.

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 will return for communion with their families. **Youth in grades 6-8** are encouraged to worship with their families today. **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.*

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.

Just a reminder that **Messiah Church follows the winter weather closings of the Wayzata School District**. If Wayzata Schools are closed or school district activities are canceled because of weather, Messiah will also be closed and all events canceled. We will do our best to communicate these changes — please check our website and social media for updates, watch local TV for Wayzata School closings, or call the church office at (763) 473-6968 if you are unsure about your event. As always, please use your best judgment driving in any winter weather. Worship is always available to stream online, from the comfort of your home, at [MessiahChurch.org/live](http://MessiahChurch.org/live).

### COMING UP @ MESSIAH

Stay connected to all things Messiah during the week at [MessiahChurch.org](http://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](mailto:cloeffler@messiahchurch.org), and she will place you on the email list.

All women are invited to join the next **Ladies Lunch Out** tomorrow, Monday, January 5 from 11:30 am-1 pm at Robert's Craft Kitchen in the Medina Entertainment Center ([500 Hwy 55, Medina](#)) for a meal, fellowship, and friendship — a great, casual opportunity to meet new people! This group meets on the first Monday of every month (except when the Monday falls on a holiday, then they meet on the first Tuesday). New faces are always welcome! Please RSVP by 5 pm today, Sunday, January 4 to Dana M at [dymarshall985@gmail.com](mailto:dymarshall985@gmail.com) so a seat can be saved for you!

**A faith group is starting back up to study *The Chosen*, a TV series about the life and ministry of Jesus told through the eyes of those who met and followed Him.** The group, co-led by Buck M, Mark G, John H, and Annette A, will meet weekly on Monday nights (starting tomorrow, January 5) from 6:30-8 pm in the Fireside Room (lower level). Each week they'll watch an episode together, followed by time for discussion and fellowship. Whether you're new to the series or already a fan, all are welcome to join! Please contact Buck at [buckmanning@comcast.net](mailto:buckmanning@comcast.net) for more details and to let them know to expect you in the group.

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Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to the **Messiah Youth Lock-In** overnight at Messiah Saturday, January 17–Sunday, January 18. Youth will gather Saturday at 7 pm for a pizza dinner and a Board Game Blitz, then head offsite for WhirlyBall. They'll return for movies, snacks, and night games. In the morning, they'll have a warm breakfast then attend the Worship Together Sunday service at 9:30 am. Parents should plan to pick up their youth following worship at 10:30 am. Cost is \$25/ per youth. For all the details and to register (by Wednesday, January 14) visit [tinyurl.com/MessiahYouthLockin2026](https://tinyurl.com/MessiahYouthLockin2026). We'll need adult chaperones to make this happen! Can you help with a meal? Drive to WhirlyBall? Play games? Chaperone overnight? Contact Sami Tierney, Director of Youth and Family Ministry at [stierney@messiahchurch.org](mailto:stierney@messiahchurch.org) or (763) 473-6968 ext. 116 with your interest or for more information.

🌸 **On Sunday, January 18, join us for a special day of Worship & Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We'll gather for ONE combined worship service at 9:30 am and come together to pack meals with Harvest Pack**, an organization that addresses food insecurity through meal-packing events. Our goal is to pack 16,500 fortified oatmeal meals that will be distributed to support those in need right here in our community. Visit [tinyurl.com/HarvestPack2026](https://tinyurl.com/HarvestPack2026) to sign up for a 45-minute shift to pack meals either BEFORE or AFTER worship. We'll have two stations set up — one UPSTAIRS in Heritage Hall and one DOWNSTAIRS in the Lakeside Room. (This event is similar to packing meals at Feed My Starving Children — involves standing and measuring ingredients into bags; some seated jobs are also available). Feel free to sign up for

more than one shift. (Sign ups help us plan, though walk-ins are also welcome as space permits.) *Note: Shifts after worship may be longer than 45 minutes; we will continue until finished — please stay as long as you are able.* This is a family-friendly event — children as young as 3 are welcome to participate! **Please note the special worship time and invite others to join us for this meaningful day as we honor Dr. King's legacy of community, justice, and compassion.** Contact Mary Beth M, Messiah Church's Missions Committee Chair, at [rambmazzoc@aol.com](mailto:rambmazzoc@aol.com) if you have questions about this event. For more info on Harvest Pack, visit [harvestpack.org](https://harvestpack.org).

**Calling all fifth graders! Join us on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Monday, January 19) for the Service Milestone.** Fifth graders will start at 10 am in the KID Street Headquarters (lower level) to learn more about what serving God looks like. Then at 11:30 am they'll head to Chanhassen to practice what they learned at Feed My Starving Children. Please RSVP (for kids and adult helpers) by Sunday, January 11 to Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at [ksstern@messiahchurch.org](mailto:ksstern@messiahchurch.org).

🌸 Continue your learning from recent and upcoming sermon series or read for fun with **book recommendations** from our pastors, Creation Care & Inclusion teams, and Messiah's Book Club. Visit [tinyurl.com/MessiahWinterReadingList2026](https://tinyurl.com/MessiahWinterReadingList2026) to download our Winter 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). Stop by the library cart on Sundays to learn more, check out a book, or make recommendations for new books. If you have any suggestions

or questions about the library, please contact Evie S at [eseveryn@yahoo.com](mailto:eseveryn@yahoo.com).

**Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary on a Sunday morning** with fresh flowers? Give flowers in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special event, or "just because" — your dedication will appear in the Sunday bulletin. When you sign up for a specific date, you are responsible for supplying the flowers, and ensuring they are at Messiah before 8:30 am on Sunday, in time for the 8:45 am worship service. (We do not provide the flowers, so no need to make a donation to Messiah.) Take your flowers home after the 10:30 am worship service, pick them up in the church office on Monday, or donate them to Congregational Care to take to those they visit. To reserve a date, sign up on the 2026 calendar across from the library, or contact Carolyn Loeffler in the church office at [cloeffler@messiahchurch.org](mailto:cloeffler@messiahchurch.org) or (763) 473-6968 ext 101.

### 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](https://MessiahChurch.org/Make-an-Impact).

🌸 **Our January & February Second Mile Offering supports Emma Norton Services (ENS).** Emma Norton combats poverty in our communities by partnering with women, children, and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. ENS provides affordable housing, basic needs, and support services in an environment that fosters stability and encourages personal growth. Each year, Emma Norton Services helps over 250 people by providing a supportive community, resources, and personal development opportunities while they work to

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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](http://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: razors, shaving cream, hair styling products, hair accessories (clips, hair ties, scrunchies, pins), kitchen scissors, baking sheets, spatulas, new bath towels, floor cleaner, sponges, dish soap, disinfectant wipes, and paper towels. All donations will be collected through Sunday, February 22 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).

**Make a difference in the lives of others by giving blood** — your donation could save a life! Every two

seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood due to accidents, surgeries, or ongoing treatments for illnesses, and your generosity provides hope and healing for patients who depend on it. **Consider donating blood at the American Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, January 13 from 12-6 pm in Heritage Hall.** Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter “MessiahPlym” to schedule an appointment. Save these dates for other upcoming blood drives at Messiah: Tuesday, March 10 and Thursday, April 30.

 New items in the bulletin this week.

Submit bulletin items by Tuesday at 3 pm to [office@messiahchurch.org](mailto:office@messiahchurch.org).

## NOTES

### CONNECT WITH US

Senior Pastor

Tami Luckhardt

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Associate Pastor

Bethany Nelson

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