

January 28, 2024

WELCOME! We're glad you joined us! Some things you might like to know:

This bulletin can be viewed online where all the gray, underlined sections of text are web links to contacts, event registrations, websites for our mission partners, and other useful information. View the online version at messiahchurch.org/bulletin.

Let us know you worshiped with us. If you joined us in person, you should have received a Connect Card from an usher. Online, click on "[Let Us Know You're Here](#)" at the bottom of your screen to register your attendance. You can also share a prayer request; our Prayer Team prays through these requests each week. Watching on demand? You can register your attendance, send a prayer request, and give online, just like on Sunday!

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 by checking a box on your Connect Card, or during online attendance registration by clicking on "[Let Us Know You're Here](#)," and selecting a recipient from the list at the bottom of the form. You're making an impact in this community just by being here today!

Thank you for financially supporting Messiah Church! There are many ways to give: A secure offering box is available as you enter or leave the sanctuary; give online by clicking on "[Give](#)" at the bottom of your online worship experience; mail a check to: Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447. Thank you!

TRADITIONS WORSHIP

(8:30 AM)

MGN - Messiah's Good News

Prelude

Welcome / [Attendance](#)

* Call to Worship

* Hymn #144 (vv 1, 2)

This is My Father's World

Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release

Hymn #399 (vv 1-3)

Take My Life and Let it Be

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

* Scripture: [Luke 2:41-52](#)

Shirley Buehler

Message

Live the Questions

* Hymn #664 (vv 1, 2)

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

* [Offering](#)

Closing Song

JOURNEY WORSHIP

(10:30 AM)

MGN - Messiah's Good News

Gathering Music

Welcome / [Attendance](#)

* Praise Song

Raise a Hallelujah (Helser)

Children's Prayer & Sunday School Release

Prayer Song

Prayer

Scripture: [Luke 2:41-52](#)

Mary Tucker

Message

Live the Questions

Anthem

[Offering](#)

* Closing Song

* Please stand as you are able

WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

GROW PRAY STUDY (GPS)

A Daily Devotional

Monday 1/29	<u>Romans 15:30-32;</u> <u>2 Corinthians 12:7-10</u>
Tuesday 1/30	<u>Luke 22:31-34;</u> <u>Matthew 26:36-39, 45-47</u>
Wednesday 1/31	<u>Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23;</u> <u>Luke 5:16, 11:1</u>
Thursday 2/1	<u>John 17:9, 14-24</u>
Friday 2/2	<u>Philippians 4:5-9</u>
Saturday 2/3	<u>2 Corinthians 1:10-11,</u> <u>4:8-9, 16-18</u>

Find the weekly GPS online at MessiahChurch.org or [here](#). To receive the daily GPS by email, contact Carolyn Loeffler at cloeffler@messiahchurch.org.

PRAYER

Lift Up Our Church Family in Prayer

Prayers for Health and Healing for:

Donna B, Brenda B,
Johnna H, Muriel J,
Ralph V, Dennis L,
Ed P, Delphie E, Bill S

Prayers for Those Serving in the Military:

Grant C, Jin J, Matthew M,
Nicholas P, Tyler W,
Haden W, Elisabeth W

Today we welcome Rev. Cynthia Williams, the District Superintendent (DS) for the Twin Cities District of the Minnesota Annual Conference, making her Messiah Church's District Superintendent. Previously, Williams served as DS in the River Valley District for six years, Associate Pastor at Park Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, and Director of Congregational Life at Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church in St. Paul.

Music at both services today is provided by the 29:11 International Exchange Choir, who will also be sharing special music between services in Heritage Hall. 29:11 International Exchange is a music ministry based in South Africa and the United States. Their mission is to facilitate hope and reconciliation through music, cross-cultural relationships, and individual artist development. By recognizing that each of us is worthy of love and understanding, we can bridge the ideological, racial, and socio-economic gaps that divide us, and live together as citizens of the world. For more information on the 29:11 International Exchange, visit 2911intl.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 at 8:30 and 10:30 am. Kids begin in worship, are released to Sunday School mid-service, and can be picked up downstairs after worship. **Youth in grades 6-8** will gather in the Youth Room for Sunday School during both the 8:30 and 10:30 am worship services. Youth begin in worship and are dismissed with the kids mid-service. Youth Sunday School offers age-appropriate teaching that follows the sermon series and scripture stories used in Sunday worship. The nursery, for **infants and toddlers (through age 3)**, is available at both services, and these children may be dropped off downstairs in 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.*

Altar flowers this morning are given by Gail Dahl in memory of Bob, beloved husband, Dad & Papa.

For those with t-coil equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants, an **induction hearing loop** is installed for use in our sanctuary.

COMING UP @ MESSIAH

Stay connected to all things Messiah during the week at www.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.

Messiah Church has received an "Investing in Congregations" grant from the Minnesota Annual Conference to support our efforts around becoming a more diverse and inclusive faith community. This grant will fund our [Honoring our Differences speaker series](#) as well as provide funding for leadership development opportunities. **A Charge Conference for the purpose of approving the grant agreement will be held today, January 28 at 10 am in the church office.** All members of Messiah are welcome to attend and vote.

Join us on Friday, February 9 from 6:30-8 pm for a fun night of BINGO games, prizes, and snacks. Mark your calendar and invite your friends!

Sunday, February 11, is Scout Sunday at Messiah. All boys and girls in scouting activities in grades K-12 at Messiah are invited to wear their uniforms, participate in a processional and other worship

— continued

— continued

roles, and be recognized for their good deeds. Contact Mrs. D at dbdalton21@yahoo.com for more information about Scout Sunday and the rehearsal on Saturday, February 10 from 1-2 pm.

Join us Sunday, February 11 for the next topic in our **speaker series on Diversity & Inclusion: Honoring Our Differences: Why Racial Justice & Diversity?** We'll gather in Heritage Hall at 9:35 am with coffee and treats to discuss the barriers to racial justice and equity that exist in our own communities. Kevin Ward, Executive Director of Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, will help us examine subconscious beliefs and behaviors that may keep us from being inclusive and welcoming to persons of color. In 2023, Messiah Church issued an [Inclusion Statement](#) that expressed our desire to work together to be an inclusive faith community. This speaker series, developed by our Diversity & Inclusion Team, is designed to help all of us learn more about this important commitment.

Gather for **Ash Wednesday worship on Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 pm.** Guided by scripture and song, this worship experience prepares us for the next 40 days "in the desert" and will remind us that, in every season, God is still God and there is a reason to worship. This worship service will be offered in person and live streamed at MessiahChurch.org/live. In-person worship will include interactive prayer stations for all ages. **A free soup supper will be served in Heritage Hall from 5:30-6:15 pm** before the Ash Wednesday worship service. Everyone is welcome - no RSVP needed. **We could use some help with great hospitality** for this special evening

- greeters, ushers & clean-up crew. [Click here](#) for a list of serving opportunities and to sign up. Hospitality shifts are organized so that you can help serve AND attend the dinner and worship too. Contact Heather Felt at (763) 473-6968 ext. 114 or hfelt@messiahchurch.org with questions.

Explore the flavors of Kenya on Saturday, February 17 from 5-8:30 pm at St. Martin's by the Lake Church ([2801 Westwood Rd. Minnetonka Beach](#)). Cook a variety of dishes in teams, enjoy a tasting at the conclusion of the evening, and hear updates from the Imara House. This friend/fund-raiser is designed to be a fun girls' night out or date night. Everyone will take home a Kenyan-inspired spice rub to add unique flavors to future dishes. This event supports Imara International in providing education and life skills for Kenyan teenage mothers, and early childhood education for their children, so that they may achieve their full potential in their communities and the world. Cost is \$85/person; [click here](#) to register (by Wednesday, February 14), or to make a donation to Imara International. For more information on Imara, visit imarainternational.org.

Save the date! Join us June 10-14 at **Scuba Vacation Bible Camp** for music, art, games, science, and more! Kids preschool-5th grade will dive deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. Kids have the option of staying all day too, for even more adventures (optional afternoon care space is limited). All are welcome and registration is coming soon. To volunteer, or for more information about this exciting week, contact Kari Stern, Director of Children and Family

Ministry, at kstern@messiahchurch.org.

The Wizard of Oz Props Team is hoping you can loan us a few items for the upcoming spring musical. Search your basements & barns! Can we borrow:

- A vintage 20-24" women's bicycle
- 2 Identical baskets (with covers) large enough to hold a 9 lb dog
- Any bright green clothing
- Turban
- Hedge shears
- Huge butterfly or fish net
- Large fabric bag (black or brown)
- Rolled up parchment
- Toy firearm
- Long rope

Please leave any items you are willing to loan or donate in the church office on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm and Friday 9 am-12 pm). Label props with your name, phone number, and if you'd like the item returned. We'll be sure to have all borrowed items ready for you to pick up on Monday, March 25, after the shows are complete. Thanks for your help!

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 www.MessiahChurch.org/community/make-an-impact.


Our Second Mile Offering for January and February supports Emma Norton Services (ENS). Emma Norton has been serving women and families for over a century, thanks to the gift and vision of Emma Norton, a philanthropist and United Methodist woman from Winona. This year, Emma Norton will open Restoring Waters, a new supportive housing residence in St. Paul. Restoring Waters is built with trauma-informed design, keeping dignity,

— continued

— continued

independence, safety, and privacy in mind for its residents. This will be a first-of-its-kind in Minnesota, and will support women, children, non-binary individuals, and small families who have experienced homelessness. For more information on Emma Norton Services, visit emmanorton.org. You can **offer your support for ENS throughout January and February with a monetary donation, donating Welcome Basket items, and/or volunteering**: Give [online](#) by selecting "Emma Norton," or by check (indicate "Emma Norton" in the memo) in the box outside the sanctuary or mailed to Messiah Church, 17805 County Road 6, Plymouth, MN 55447. We are also collecting items to assemble for Welcome Baskets. **Donate** a completed basket or any of the individual items (lists are available in the atrium). Donations will be collected through Sunday, February 25 and can be dropped off in the marked location in the atrium at Messiah on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am- 5 pm and Friday 9 am-12 pm). **Volunteer** at Emma

Norton by helping with some kitchen cleaning or bringing a small activity for families (such as cookie decorating or a craft). Schedule your visit with Victoria at vvirasy@emmanorton.org.

 **Imara International is excited to welcome mission trip teams to their home in Nanyuki, Kenya** in 2024. Experience first-hand the journey and relationship of a Msafiri (Traveler) Mission Trip with Imara: connect with Imara's moms and kids, complete projects, and experience the culture. Find out more during an informational meeting today, Sunday, January 28 at 4 pm via Zoom. To receive the meeting link, contact Amy Rintamaki, Imara's US Director, at Amy.Rintamaki@ImaraInternational.org. If you are interested but unavailable, contact Amy for future meeting dates or a recording of this session. For more information on Imara, visit imarainternational.org.

Help fund our spring musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, with an individual or business sponsorship. All donations offset production costs,

making it possible to bring this show to life! You may decide to donate based on these categories:

- Friends: up to \$99
- Family: \$100-350
- Supporters: \$351-750
- Collaborators: \$751-1000
- Change Makers: \$1001 and up

Donors will be listed in the show program. To become an Oz Sponsor, you may [donate online](#) (preferred), or drop off your donation check to the church office on Sundays or during church office hours (Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm and Friday 9 am-12 pm). Please make checks payable to Messiah Church; in the memo, indicate "Oz Sponsor" AND your name or business as you would like it printed in the show program OR write "Anonymous." Please print clearly. The theater program at Messiah is an essential part of our community outreach and the life of our church, and we are so grateful for your support! The deadline for sponsorships featured in the program is Sunday, February 18. Questions? Contact Joy Ann Harmon, show director, at jharmon@messiahchurch.org or (763) 473-6968 ext. 113.

... I would like to beg you dear Sister and Brother, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

--Rainer Maria Rilke, from *Letters to a Young Poet*

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 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

Director of Worship

Joy Ann Harmon

jharmon@messiahchurch.org

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