



May 2023

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

I've been reading a book, "Beyond Welcome: Centering Immigrants in our Christian Response to Immigration" by Karen Gonzalez. In one section, "In Search of Place", Gonzalez argues that humans have been looking for place and belonging ever since Adam and Eve left the garden. Whether we call it displacement, movement, departure, migration or something else, this search for place has always been a part of the human experience. The Bible provides numerous examples: Cain is cast out from the land he had known as punishment for his crime; the flood forces Noah to move; God asks Abram to migrate to a new land; Jacob and his sons must move to Egypt because of the famine, Paul sets out on missionary journeys, the other apostles travel to places far and near....the list is lengthy.

Why is it important? We are reminded that there are many different reasons people move – sometimes by choice, or calling or difficult circumstances. All of it is normal, and none of it is treated as undesirable or unusual in the Bible. As science journalist Sonia Shah says, "it is easy enough for us to be lulled into the false perception that immigration movement is the exception to the rule – that what is normal is to stay in one place. But life is on the move, today as in the past."

I think it's good to consider that movement from one place to another is a natural experience. I also think it's good to remember that with movement always comes change. Just as with movement itself, it's easy to see change as undesirable or unusual, but it's not. Change is also a natural and normal part of human existence, and just as with movement, the Bible invites us to see change in a positive light as well. How?

What's a call to repentance if not a call to change? Or what about forsaking the acts of the flesh for the fruits of the Spirit? How about taking up one's cross to follow, or receiving living water, being baptized? Again the list is lengthy – infinite, really. Any encounter with God is a call for transformation and change within us. In other words, we cannot help but be changed when we open our hearts to God.

To see ongoing movement and change as not just normal but perhaps even God-desired and Spirit-led can help us see our lives and the lives of others in a new light. Such perspective can allow us to be more accepting of ourselves and one another, especially those we see as having different lifestyles or customs from our own. Recognizing movement and change as natural and normal helps us to see God at work in all people, all places, all times and gives us yet another way of looking at God's amazing grace for all.

Civic Life and Faith

The ELCA is in the process of writing a new social statement on “Civic Life and Faith”. Over the last few weeks we have been meeting to learn about this proposed social statement and to have great discussion on the topics! You can still join us at 9:30 am in the quilting room for these topics:

May 7th—Session 4: What Are the Objectives of Democracy in the United States?

May 14th—Session 5: What's Faith-based Living Got to Do With Civic Life?

May 21st—Session 6: How Do We Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord in Civic Life?

Blessing of Quilts

Join us on **Mother's Day, May 14th** as we bless all the quilts that were made by the quilting group. This year the quilts will be donated.

Many thanks to all the quilters that dedicate their time and talents working on 55 quilts: Mary Bergemann, Mary Borth, Kathy Fischer, Elaine Fossen, Nancy Frye, Bonnie Gunsolus, Jim Jilek, Janet Jones, Alice Keel, Lynn Klaber, Margery Lisle, Kay Lund, Sharon Patterson, Harriet Plotz, Betty Rafferty, Phyllis Skadah, and Sarah Suskovic.



Senior Recognition



Join us on May 21st as we recognize our high school seniors during both worships. Learn more about each of the seniors in next months newsletter. We will also be taking a special offering at our worship services that day for our continued support of both the Messiah and the Page Foundation scholarship programs.

This years seniors also received an invitation to come to a special brunch in their honor at 9:15 am. Please RSVP by May 15th.

Pentecost and Summer Worship

Celebrate Pentecost at 8:30 and 10:30 on May 28th! Summer worship schedule begins June 4. Messiah Worships United will happen that day at 10:00 am (part of the special “Hopening” weekend) and then Sunday services will be 8:30 am indoors and 10:00 am outdoors (weather permitting) each week. The worship team has had discussion about ways to try and make the outdoor service more accessible for those who prefer the 10:00 am service but struggle with mobility issues in the yard. If you are someone for whom that applies, we would love to hear from you and brainstorm with you about possible solutions or ideas. Please contact Pastor Trish or a worship team member (Linda Wenkel, Sandy Dahms, Marlene Buker, Peggy Mowery) for further conversation and to offer your input.

Hopening Weekend—June 2-4

Join in the fun community day planned for June 2nd from 4:00-6:30 pm. We'll be grilling and the “Special Delivery” band will play. The Bookmobile, North Mankato police and fire departments will also be present. Council is planning to do a day of service on June 3rd and the first outdoor summer worship will be on June 4th. Watch for more details coming soon.

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*
2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com
 - > Click on “OFFERING” on the home-page, or go to the “GIVING” tab
 - > Choose the amount you'd like to give and the frequency (e.g. one-time, weekly, monthly)
 - > Make donations by using a credit or debit card, or by using your bank account Know your gift is appreciated and helps support the ministry of Messiah.



FOCP—STOMP Volunteers Needed for June 15—August 31

Messiah has agreed to help with FOCP – STOMP (the SummerTime Outreach Meal Program) again this summer. We will be looking for volunteers that would be available from 10:45 am – 12:35 pm to drive to several locations in Mankato to deliver cold lunch meals from mid-June through the end of August. Messiah signs up for every other Thursday. Once sign-ups are available, you can sign-up for 1 day or more, whatever works best for you.

North Mankato Fun Days—Pie & Brat Stand

North Mankato Fun Days is July 6-9, 2023. Sign-up sheets/links to work the Pie and Brat Stand will be available in the coming weeks. This opportunity is available for anyone ages 13+ and a great way to get scholarship service hours. For questions, contact the church office or text Lynell Senden @ 507-380-1483.

Refugee Update



The Cruz family has settled into their new home and Ariac and Andrea are busy attending English classes, with Kamil in daycare while they are in class. Randy is enjoying first grade, and they are all looking forward to warmer weather to be outside, riding bikes, etc. Volunteers continue to provide transportation to and from schools and other activities, and helping the family access other services as needed. The core WELCOME team is now looking at legal needs for the family, and hoping to resolve the issue of employment soon, but there's lots of bureaucracy in that area. The Messiah congregation and many individual members have now given \$7000 to support this family since their arrival last December. Your generosity in both your time and treasure is VERY much appreciated!



Youth Summer Activities



We are teaming up with Christ the King and Epiphany for Vacation Bible School this summer. Mark your calendars for June 19-22 from 12:30-5:00 pm hosted at Christ the King. This adventure is for Kindergarten—5th grade and costs \$20 per child. Click the QR code to the right and register by May 15th.



Sun & Service is back July 10-12 for students going into 6th-9th grade. We will spend the mornings doing local service projects and then do something fun in the afternoon—a water park and a Moon Dogs game are on the schedule so far. Cost is \$50 (make checks payable to Christ the King). Click the QR code to the right to register.



Valleyfair Day on August 9th for grades 6-12. As of this writing, we are partnering with the other Mankato area ELCA churches and hope to take a bus to/from the park. Cost will include bus and your ticket; money for food will also be needed.



Volunteers are needed VBS June 19-22. This is open to both middle and high school students. Let Pastor Trish know if you can help!



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North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

Please Pray For...

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Craig V, Earl W, Judy F, Arthur H, Sally M, Debbie S, Mike F, Heather S, Trudy N, Mike T, Linda R, Bonnie O, Patty A, Neal L, Jean Z, Lowell R, Kay L

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Dan P, Carley, Alex

Prayers for the refugee family we are assisting: Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil

Good Earth Village Wish List

Good Earth Village sent a list of items they are looking to gather donated items such as Program Supplies (ie: tents, life jackets, etc.), Property Supplies (ie: couch, chairs, vehicles, etc.), and Retreat Ministry Supplies (ie: bluetooth stereo PA system, Blu Ray player, etc.). For a full list of wishes check out their website: <https://goodearthvillage.org/wishlist> .

Mankato Church Community Events

Holy Rosary Catholic Church —

You are invited to a free social, showing of “The Chosen”, and optional small group discussion on Wednesday, May 3rd @ 6:10-7:50 pm OR Sunday, May 7th @ 3:00-4:40 pm. Click on the QR code to sign-up as seating is limited.



Crossview Covenant Church Event—

You are invited to join us at the Global 6K Run raising water for World Vision on May 20th. Click the link below to learn more and register at: <https://crossview.church/events/2023/5/20/global-6k>

CHURCH COUNCIL

April Highlights

Stewardship & Finance would like to share a new way of looking at offerings. Each month, in the bulletin, we will compare our current giving with an average of the past two years. As of March 31, contributions still look good: 28% of budget compared to 26% on average for the past 2 years. Due to the exorbitant cost of snow removal so far this year, we find ourselves behind in income vs. expenses by \$4,422. So, we have used up our pre-pay amount given in December for 2023.

Fellowship and Rec discussed the Pie & Brat stand for North Mankato Fun Days in July and the HOPening Weekend Community Event coming up the first weekend in June. More discussion on snow removal costs for next winter. Discussion on capital improvements needed include HVAC to replace a boiler, fix/replace some AC units, and parking lot resurfacing.

Next council meeting will be Tuesday, May 9th at 6:00 pm.

Worship Participants and Communion Assistants

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please call the church office or Linda Wenkel (345-6180) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:30 am</u>
5/7	Ushers: Steve Jones & Chuck Dulas Reader: Georgia Holmes Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost	Paul Henkelman & Dayle Moore Kay Lund Gina Henkelman & Marlene Buker
5/14	Ushers: Steve Jones & Chuck Dulas Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Mike Hanson	Paul Henkelman & Dayle Moore Sandy Hatlestad Sheryl Gulden & Dee Nolan
5/21	Ushers: Barb Pingel & Brad Heilman Reader: Kim Henrickson Comm: Steve Lenz & Cheryl Christofferson	Frank Steichen & Steve Carlberg Eva Borneke Jodi Himmer & Jim Jilek
5/28	Ushers: Barb Pingel & Brad Heilman Reader: Sarah Suskovic Comm: Judy Funk & Elaine Fossen	Frank Steichen & Steve Carlberg Lynn Klaber Swede Mundell & Lisa Benson
	<u>8:30 am</u>	<u>10:00 am (Outdoors Weather Permitting)</u>
6/4	Messiah Worships United Outdoors at 10:00 am	Karla Elmore & Mark Gulden Lucette Hurley Marlene Buker & Jan Waller
6/11	Ushers: Greg Guyer & Greg Ous Reader: Carla Butcher Comm: Sylvia & Scott Norman	Karla Elmore & Mark Gulden Kimberly Moore Sheryl Gulden & Dee Nolan
6/18	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Ron Leiferman Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Jane & Paul Zweig	Dave Dahl & Chuck Rafferty Shawna Merrill Kara Pipes & Judy Spencer
6/25	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Ron Leiferman Reader: Greg Suskovic Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost	Dave Dahl & Chuck Rafferty April Rosendale Phyllis & Peter Skadah

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00 am SAIL Group	2 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	3 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	4 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows	5 8:00 pm 8th-12th Grade Event	6 8:00 am-5:30 pm SE MN Synod Assembly
	Pastor Trish Off May 1-3					
7 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am LAST Sunday School 9:30 am Civic Life & Faith Forum 10:30 am Worship w/ band (<i>SS children sing @ worship</i>) 1:00 pm Private Event	8 9:00 am SAIL Group	9 9:30 am Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Council Meeting	10 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	11 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	12	13
14 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:30 am Civic Life & Faith Forum 10:30 am Worship w/ band	15 9:00 am SAIL Group	16 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	17 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	18 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	19	20 8:00 am-12:00 pm Master Gardeners' Sale in Parking Lot
21 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) (<i>Senior Recognition</i>) 9:15 am Class of 2023 Senior Brunch 9:30 am LAST Civic Life & Faith Forum 10:30 am Worship w/ band (<i>Senior Recognition</i>)	22 9:00 am SAIL Group	23 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	24 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace	25 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 pm WELCOME Team Meeting	26	27
28 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:15 am NO Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ band	29 OFFICE CLOSED for Memorial Day 10:00 am Pathstone	30 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	31 9:00 am SEE Bible Study			