



MESSIAH
lutheran church

Sharing the love of Jesus

1706 Lee Boulevard, North Mankato, MN
507-387-5537
messiahnorthmankato.com

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

We are entering into the time of year when many of us will be celebrating milestones in our own lives or the lives of others. A quick glance at our calendars shows us the graduations, weddings, housewarmings, birthdays and anniversaries we'll attend and celebrate. We call them milestones because they mark a significant achievement of our own lives or the life of someone we love and care about. It is a blessing to gather with friends and family to celebrate!

In our life of faith, we don't speak so much of milestones as we do steppingstones. Our relationship with God is not something we achieve or succeed at, as is characteristic of a milestone. Rather, our life of faith with God is marked by experiences and events that are stepping-off places to an ever deepening relationship with God.

Receiving the sacrament of Baptism is one of those faith steppingstones. In water and word God makes an eternal relationship with us that neither time nor death can destroy. But that relationship has many, many dimensions to it that are revealed as we grow and mature in faith and in life.

Our relationship with God is not static; it is dynamic. There are other faith steppingstones that occur in our lives: receiving our first Bible and learning how to read and use it; participating in Holy Communion, affirming our baptism as an middle or high schooler; choosing a vocation that is aligns with the gifts and talents God has given us; committing to a life-long partnership in marriage; and eventually, even our resting into God's grace at the moment of our death.

On Sunday, May 3rd at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, eight of our middle school youth take another step in their life of faith as they affirm their baptism through the rite of confirmation. They will publicly claim for themselves the Christian faith into which they were baptized. If you have been with Messiah for a dozen years or so, you may even remember witnessing the baptism of some of these youth at our baptismal font. Now, we witness their own expression of faith in God and the intention to continue in a life of faith that is characterized by worship, Bible study, Prayer, receiving communion, serving others, and working for God's reign of justice in the world.

As they affirm their faith, we are each called to recall the intentions we have set and the commitments we have made to a life-long growth in relationship to God. Are there intentions around worship, prayers, the use of the means of grace, serving and justice-making that you want to reaffirm in your relationship with God? Are there more recent faith steppingstones in your life like dealing with an illness, grief, or loss that have or are calling you to a more robust, deeper relationship with God? To what is God calling you in this season of life to which you want to say "yes?"

As we come to this faith steppingstone for these youth, we also pause to give thanks for Nate Brekke and Tim DeSutter, who have served as their small group guides during Middle School Ministries. One of the strengths of our ministry with middle school youth are the caring adults who make themselves available as a significant adult in their lives beyond their parents.

With gratitude for each of you,

Pastor LaDonna

NEWSLETTER

MAY
2026

Gardeners

It's almost time to plant the church gardens for the summer. If you are interested in participating in this seasonal activity, please reach out to Karna Swenson-Stock at 507-317-0510.



Adopt -a- Highway

Coming Soon

Dust off your gloves, closed-toe shoes, hat and sunglasses!

It's almost time to walk for Adopt-a-Highway.

Specific date will be noted in announcements, weekly email, and on Facebook.



Consider walking road ditches with your Messiah family; bring a friend or two! This is a great way to show our stewardship efforts toward improving our land and water. Families invited! NOTE: walkers MUST be ages 12 and up.

How it works: gather for instructions, vests and bags are provided, go out to our section of Hwy 14 for about 2 hours, then enjoy a meal at Big Dog (provided by the Fellowship & Recreation Team). Email Lynell at lynellsenden@hotmail.com OR text her at 507.380.1483 with your interest and how many will be participating.

Messiah Senior Lunch Group

The Messiah May lunch will be at Hooligans (1400 Madison Avenue) on Tuesday, May 5th at 11:30 am. Hooligans offers a wide variety of foods and has their menu available online. This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends, men and women. Join us for good food, fun, and wonderful conversation.

This monthly lunch will take a summer break from June through August. We will begin meeting again in September.

Senior Recognition

Join us on May 17th as we recognize our high school seniors during worship at 10:30 am.

See below for information on the special offering that will be received at both worships on this day.

Class of
2026

Gather

For adults of all ages seeking more social interaction, join us weekly on **Wednesdays at 10:30 am** for coffee and a free will offering lunch. If you need a ride, contact Barb Meier.

Blessing of Quilts

Join us on Mother's Day, May 10th as we bless all the quilts that were made by the quilting group. This year the quilts will be donated to the following local charities: Connections, A Fresh Start, Partners for Affordable Housing, House of Hope, American Red Cross, Welcome Manor, and CADA House. Many thanks to all the quilters who dedicated their time and talents working on 45 quilts: Mary Bergemann, Mary Borth, Kathy Fischer, Elaine Fossen, Sherry Henrickson, Jim Jilek, Marlene Jilek, Janet Jones, Alice Keel, Lynn Klaber, Kay Lund, Sandi McGarry, Dee Nolan, Kat Parrish, Harriet Plotz, Phyllis Skadahl, and Sarah Suskovic.

First Communion

Congratulations to the following youth who received their first communion on Sunday, March 29th.
Tyler Runkle, Beckett Thom, Bryson Thom, Briggs True, Allison Landgraft, and Emmy Nelson



Wednesday Evenings

Youth activities for the 2025-26 school year have wrapped up and with that, Wednesday evening worship. Families will receive information regarding registration for the 2026-27 school year in August. Wednesday worship will continue again in September.

Mankato Youth Place "My Place" - Spring Collection

Messiah will be collecting the following items for My Place from April 12th through May 10th.

Mankato Youth Place is committed to providing a nurturing environment that empowers youth to build the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to reach their full potential.

New or Gently Used:

Boys' pants (activewear, sweatpants, etc.) sizes 5-10

Boys' shorts, sizes 5-10

Girls' pants (activewear, leggings, sweats, etc) sizes 5-10

Girls' shorts, sizes 5-10

Boys' and girls' socks, small sizes

New Only:

Boys' and girls' socks, small sizes

Boys' underwear, sizes 5-10

Girls' underwear, sizes 5-10

Property Fund Reminder

A dedicated fund as been established to cover major repairs and maintenance of our 50+ year old building and grounds.

Your generous donations are invited, over and above contributions to support our annual budget.



Congregational Book Read - Celebration Potluck

You are invited to the End of Book Celebration Potluck for An Altar in the World at Messiah on Monday, June 8th at 6:00 pm. Please come regardless of whether you bring something or not; there will be plenty to eat. RSVP to Janet Jones at 507-340-7093 | jonesjan12@gmail.com or the list at church or just show up!

Fair Trade Tea Event

The Fair Trade Tea will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 27th at 1:00 pm. The cost is \$20. The organizer inquired about the possibility of a Messiah table. We would need 6-7 interested people for a table. Please contact Lynn Klaber for more information: 5071-380-5465 or lynnklaber@hmail.com.

Pie & Brat Stand



Our Pie and Brat Stand is an annual fundraiser to support Messiah missions, needs & various activities throughout the year. This year, Fun Days is scheduled to run Wednesday, July 8 - Sunday, July 12th.

Individuals ages 13+ may work the stand....but ALL ages are able to support it by purchasing some or all of the delicious menu items: grilled dogs, brats or chicken, chips, whole dill pickles, root beer floats, and most importantly...pie and ice cream.

As you look at your summer calendars, consider signing up for a shift or two. It is great fun. Sign-ups coming in June.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the behind the scenes of this fun project, contact Lynell Senden @ 507.380.1483. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Council Updates

2026 council members: Nate Brekke, Jean Zandstra, Katie Hendrickson, Swede Mundell, Julie Olsen, Jodi Himmer, and Janet Jones.

March 2026 offerings were \$31,617 vs expenses of \$32,089 resulting in a deficit of \$472 for the month. Income for March 2025 was \$22,098 vs. expenses of \$33,425 which left us with a deficit of \$11,326. Therefore, our giving is \$3,859 less than last year while expenses are \$2,369 higher.

YTD 2026 = \$98,363 revenue vs. \$92,755 expenses creating a surplus of \$5,609.

(revenue includes \$20,239 2025 contributions for 2026)

YTD 2025 = \$102,222 revenue vs. \$90,386 expenses creating a surplus of \$11,837.

(revenue includes \$16,035 2024 contributions for 2025)

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 18th at 5:30 pm. -

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code:
2. or Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com
 - > Click "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.



May-June Worship Participants

Please look through the entire calendar for the dates you have been scheduled. If you are unable to serve as scheduled please call the church office (507-387-5537) or Dee Nolan (507-340-2162) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

May		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
5/3	Ushers Reader: Communion Assistants:	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Renee Guyer Greg & Sarah Suskovic	Jim Jilek & Paul Henkelman 8 th Graders 8 th Graders
5/10	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Diane Halvorson Mary Borth & Deb Leiferman	Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman Lynn Klaber Sheryl Gulden & Jane Unzeitig
5/17	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Ous & Scott Madigan Steve Lenz Carl & Kathy Fitzloff	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Jan Waller Chuck & Betty Rafferty
5/24	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Ous & Scott Madigan Myra Kluck Scott & Sylvia Norman	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Karen Wright Jan Waller & Dee Nolan
5/31	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Lenz & Kyle Vogt Sarah Suskovic Jeremy & Amy Soost	Mark Himmer & Peter Skadahl Kimberly Moore Darci Karau & Lynelle Harms
June		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
6/7	Ushers Reader: Communion Assistants:	Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel Greg Suskovic Linda Wenkel & Elaine Fossen	Jim Jilek & Dave Dahl Kay Lund Doug & Karna Stock
6/14	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel Kim Henrikson Greg & Renee Guyer	Jim Jilek & Dave Dahl Lucette Hurley Kara Pipes & Lauren Pipes
6/21	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Guyer & Rande Bowman Sonja Parr-Baker Greg & Sarah Suskovic	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Dee Nolan Darci Karau & Swede Mundell
6/28	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Jones & Rande Bowman Janet Jones Paul & Jane Zwieg	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Julie Olsen Frank & Debra Steichen

July-August Worship Participants

Please look through the entire calendar for the dates you have been scheduled. If you are unable to serve as scheduled please call the church office (507-387-5537) or Dee Nolan (507-340-2162) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

July		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
7/5	Ushers Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Jones & Kyle Vogt Linda Wenkel Marilyn Hanson & Mary Borth	Dayle Moore & Mark Himmer Bernie Latulippe Lisa Benson & Gina Henkelman
7/12	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Guyer & Kyle Vogt Renee Guyer Carl & Kathy Fitzloff	Dayle Moore & Mark Himmer Joan Klanderud Bob & Cindy Rothenbuehler
7/19	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Myra Kluck Jeremy & Amy Soost	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Eva Borneke Jim & Marlene Jilek
7/26	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Georgia Holmes Breah Hendrickson & Deb Leiferman	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Shirley Rosenau Chuck & Betty Rafferty
August		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
8/2	Ushers Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman Diane Halvorson Scott & Sylvia Norman	Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman Lynn Klaber Mark & Jodi Himmer
8/9	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman Sarah Suskovic Steve & Janet Jones	Mark Gulden & Paul Henkelman April Rosendale Sheryl Gulden & Jane Unzeitig
8/16	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson Greg Suskovic Linda Wenkel & Al Narveson	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Sandy Hatlestad Peter & Phyllis Skadah
8/23	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Greg Ous & Kim Henrickson Steve Lenz Greg & Sarah Suskovic	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Jan Waller Lynn Klaber & Lynelle Harms
8/30	Ushers: Reader: Communion Assistants:	Scott Madigan & Steve Jones Janet Jones Greg & Renee Guyer	Peter Skadah & Steve Carlberg Karen Wright Judy Spencer & Kara Pipes

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 pm Private Event	2 SE MN Synod Assembly in Mankato
3 AFFIRMATION SUNDAY 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship & <i>Affirmation of Baptism</i>	4 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Endowment Mtg	5 11:30 am Monthly Lunch @ Hooligan's 6:30 pm Scout Group	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	7 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learning	8	9
10 QUILT BLESSING 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	11 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Meeting	12	13 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	14 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	15	16
17 GRAD RECOGNITION 8:30 am Worship 9:00 am Grad Breakfast 10:30 am Worship <i>w/Graduates</i>	18 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:30 pm Council Meeting	19	20 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	21 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	26	27 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch	28 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	29	30 10:00 am Private Mtg in Classroom 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Private Event in GP
31 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship						



Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

PHONE: 507-387-5537

Rev. LaDonna Thomas, Pastor: Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Non Profit Org

US Postage

PAID

Mankato, MN

Permit #370

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

L a b e l

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



Sharing the Love of Jesus

Prayer List

Health & Healing Requests: Greg, Mollie, Clara, Maddie & baby, Briana, Nancy, Jeff, Wayne, Brian, Ron, Joe, Swede, Jesse, Cory, Brian, Loren, Kim P

On-going Prayer Needs: Craig, Earl, Patty, Neal, Emma, Heather, Carolyn, Elle, Jackie, Carl, Dave, Jacob, Marya, Steve, Sandie, Lowell

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Tyler, Cole, Kyra

Prayers for the asylum-seeking family the Mankato Area ELCA churches are supporting.



Change in Messiah Communication

Scan the QR code or click link to stay informed of Messiah news and events. If you previously received our "What's Up" email, you will need to "opt" in to receive the new weekly message. Guests are invited to sign-up as well.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/mb3YWRp/messiah>