



MESSIAH

lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

Sharing the love of Jesus

January 2025

Winter Donations

New Year—New Beginnings

As we move forward into a new year, we all reflect on many blessings. Thankful we have a roof over our heads, surrounded with all the essentials of life. Many of us say we really don't "NEED" anything else. However, there are many people transitioning into housing or the homeless who do need our help. Messiah will be focusing for 30 days on two non-profits we support, from January 12-February 9.

Connections – Homeless Shelter

The Connections shelter is an emergency shelter in Mankato that houses men, women, and families. The shelter is open from 6 pm-8 am daily and has a 35-bed capacity with nightly meal. The current needs are: Thinsulate or water-repellent gloves for men and women (size: Medium-Large), wool and/or thermal men's socks. These items need to be new. Also, Cub Foods, Hy-Vee, or Kwik Trip gift cards \$10 each.

A Fresh Start

Amy Klugherz was at Messiah a month ago and her statement said it all. When you walk through your home, everything you see is what families need to start. This can be gently used or new: Kitchen dishes and utensils, bath towels, bedding blankets, comforters, furniture, etc. This year we are also going to focus on: toilet paper, paper towels, brooms/dustpans, plungers, multi-surface cleaners, laundry baskets and garbage cans.

We will have tables in the narthex to collect all these items. Please note that any gift cards should be placed in the small offering box labeled "Connections Gift Cards".

Thank you for your support.



Opportunities exist to make a meal and serve at the Connections Shelter. Please see sign-up sheets for the coming month in the narthex the 2 weeks leading up to the serve dates. These are the dates: February 1 & 2, March 3 & 4. If you are unable to help make, serve, or deliver food, please consider a donation to purchase the food.

We also encourage members to form serving groups. Ask your friends, relatives, neighbors to join you in providing a meal for 40 people and serving, once a season or more. You would sign up on-line through the Connections Website on the date of your choosing. Barb Meier can assist in giving more information on organizing and there are church funds set aside for purchasing food if not enough donations are provided.



On Tuesday, January 21st it is Messiah's turn to serve at Crossroads again. Sarah Suskovic has volunteered to spearhead another food preparation on Monday the 20th at 10:00 am at church. There will be a sign up for those who prefer to donate money or food items. Tuesday the food needs to be delivered to Crossroads by 10:45 a.m. Sarah and Greg delivered it previously but are unavailable. In addition, 3 people are needed from 11:00 am - 1:15 pm to serve. Look for the sign-up sheets in the narthex in the next several weeks.



- A Message from LaDonna Thomas -

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

By the time you read this, Christmas day and all of its festivities will have come and gone. You may have begun or you soon will begin to pack away the decorations and ornaments, make your gift returns and exchanges, and move into the gentle rhythm of winter.

As you pack the symbols of Christmas away, we remember, though, that the love and goodwill of the Christmas season is meant to live in us and through us all year long. Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader put it this way in his poem,

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

As you move into the gentler rhythm of winter, I invite you to prayerfully reflect on the ways the work of Christmas continues and/or begins in your life. Messiah offer many opportunities for you through our partnership with Connections shelter (a meal cooked and served to guests at our local shelter for the unhoused), Crossroads lunch (for local college students), worship assistants, teachers and helpers for our faith formation for children and youth, and more. You can get connected to any one of these ministries by contacting the church office.

Together, let's let the light of our faith shine bright as we do the work of Christmas in this new year.

With gratitude for each of you,
Pastor LaDonna

MESSIAH KIDS on Sundays & CLUB MESSIAH on Wednesdays

Elementary aged activities begins again on Sunday, January 5th during 10:30 worship with Messiah Kids being dismissed to classrooms after Children's Time.

Club Messiah begins Wednesday, January 8th with family dinner at 5:30 pm, family worship at 6:00 pm, and student class-time from 6:30-7:00 pm.

Leaders—you should have received an email from Heather Von Bank regarding signing up for the next few months, if not, please reach out to her.

NOTE: Sunday, January 12th will be a very special intergenerational "Generous Together" worship at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. We will not have Messiah Kids on this day, we welcome your entire family to attend worship together and participate in an fun interactive all-ages worship in the Gathering Place.

Middle School Ministries

MSM begins again on Wednesday, January 8th for Club Messiah. Dinner at 5:30 pm. Worship at 6:00 pm. Class-time from 6:30-7:30 pm.

NOTE: Sunday, January 12th will be a very special intergenerational "Generous Together" worship at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. We welcome your entire family to attend worship together and participate in an fun interactive all-ages worship in the Gathering Place.

Wednesday Worship in December

All are invited to join us again in January as we worship with Pastor LaDonna. Worship is Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 pm. Feel free to stop in before worship from 5:30-6:00 for a bite to eat as well. This is a great opportunity for those who are busy on Sundays and/or those who only have time for a shorter worship. Holy communion is celebrated each week and offering trays are available in the narthex.

After worship, enjoy some adult conversation as parents wait for their Club Messiah and MSM students to finish class.

Anti-Racism Team

Stay tuned for more information from Lynn Klaber on the next meeting for the Anti-Racism Team.

Quilting 2025



Messiah Quilting begins again in January 2025! We are excited to get cutting, pinning, stitching and tying in the new year! Quilting is on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month and begins January 14, 2025. Our quilting season ends in April and the quilts are displayed on Mother's Day. We start at 9:00, have our coffee break (a very Lutheran must have!), quilt, enjoy lunch together and quilt some more. And, of course, socialize! We are typically done around 2:00. (**Please Note:** In January, the quilters will meet 2 weeks in a row: January 14th and 21st.)

HOW CAN YOU HELP??

We are desperately in need of gently used bed sheets. We use these for the backs of our quilts. *Any size is welcome. They can be one color or prints.*

Join us! NO SEWING SKILL IS REQUIRED! We have plenty of jobs for the non-sewer; pinning, cutting and arranging blocks, matching backs and tops, tying the finished quilts.



Questions? Please call Lynn Klaber at 507-380-5465 or email at lynnklaber@gmail.com



Generous Together

Experience Community. Experience Giving.

Discover the Joy of Being “Generous Together” – A New Intergenerational Journey

Our congregation is excited to join “Generous Together,” a year-long, intergenerational stewardship program! This immersive pilot project of the SE MN Synod & NE MN Synod combines congregation-wide intergenerational Sunday experiences & monthly cohort-based learning about wise stewardship practices. Members of our congregation’s team include: Greg Suskovic, Bill Halstead, Dave Frye, and Bob Rothenbuehler. (We would like additional members with some female representation.)

Our congregation will experience generosity in new ways through the use of The Generosity Project curriculum and 6 intergenerational Sunday experiences! By connecting generations and using all our senses, we will explore God’s story at work in our lives and community, fostering a spirit of giving. We invite you to join our monthly interactive Sundays, where we will learn, play, and discover the joy of generosity together. Join us in the Gathering Place for our first session on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at our 8:30 am and 10:30 am worship services. Your participation in the congregational Sundays will make a difference—let’s be “Generous Together”!

A Note from Your Visitation Team

If you know of anyone who is homebound or would like a visitor, please let the office know, and we’ll have a member of the Messiah Visitation Team reach out to you.



**American
Red Cross**

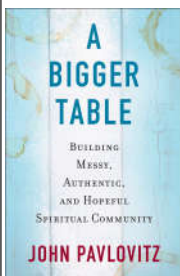
Heroes Saving Lives

January 28th, 2025 from 1:00-6:00 pm

at Messiah

Join Us. Save Lives.

Be Proud.



Messiah Congregational Book Read

You’re invited to participate in a Congregational Book Read with small group book study options. The book is [A Bigger Table](#) by John Pavlovitz. Sign up and get your book on January 5th between services at Messiah. Your donation of \$10 for the book, to offset costs, is appreciated, but not required.

This is a wonderful opportunity to engage or re-engage with members of our congregation and build relationships with our fellow servants in Christ. You are encouraged to be in a small group, but it is not required. Feel free to pick up a book and read along with our congregation.

COUNCIL UPDATES

2024 council members: Greg Suskovic, Janet Jones, Jean Zandstra, Britta Petersen, Heather Von Bank, Dustin Runkle, Swede Mundell, and Kim Henrickson.

From Stewardship and Finance: As of November 30, we slipped to 78% of budget compared to 91% last year. We are now \$41,000 expenses over income for the year. As this is being written, we have three more Sundays plus Christmas services. We ask that you catch up on your planned giving or prayerfully consider helping Messiah make up our year-to-date deficit. We thank you in advance. Our 2025 pledges now total just over \$200,000.

Remember, you are able to use the following methods of giving:

1. Online banking
2. Simply Giving (credit card or checking account accepted)
4. Put your dollars in the Sunday worship plate

Church Council met on December 15th and the following was discussed:

Treasurer—Unfortunately expenses are over income this last month and for the year. Our percentage of income is lower this year than last year at this time.

Property Team—Archie Kendall is stepping down as chair on the property committee and we are looking for a replacement. We are thankful for Archie's years of dedication.

Social Ministry—An update was given about the Cruz family and fundraising activities that are being developed for them.

Old Business— More discussion on possible ways to provide an updated church directory. Endowment committee would like to change wording in the Constitution to make their duties and responsibilities more clear.

New Business—Remaining \$7600 budgeted for benevolence was allocated to several different groups in the community.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 12th at 11:30 am.

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*

2. 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.



Annual Meeting / Annual Reports

February 2, 2025

Join us for the annual meeting after the 10:00 am Messiah Worship United service on Sunday, February 2, 2025. A light lunch will be served. We will hear team reports from 2024 and discuss the budget and plans for 2025.

Team leaders, please submit final reports ASAP.

Messiah Senior Lunch —Tuesday, February 11th

The monthly lunchers will take a "brrrrrr"reak in January but will meet again for a Valentine's lunch at Olive Garden on Tuesday, February 11th at 11:30. This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. We hope you will join us for good food, lively conversation, fun, and a chance to know other Messiah members. Come and go as you please. Call the church office (387-5537) or email Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com if you have any questions.

January / February Worship Participants and Communion Assistants

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 (387-5537) or Linda Wenkel (345-6180) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

1/5	Ushers: Barb Pingel & Brad Heilman Reader: Victoria Hanson Comm: Jane & Paul Zwieg	Dave Dahl & Frank Steichen Kay Lund Darci Karau & Judy Spencer
1/12	Ushers: Barb Pingel & Brad Heilman Reader: Carla Butcher Comm: Linda Wenkel & Marilyn Hanson	Dave Dahl & Frank Steichen Jeff Pribyl Marlene & Jim Jilek
1/19	Ushers: Greg Guyer & Rande Bowman Reader: Janet Jones Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic	Mark Gulden & Jim Jilek Julie Olsen Marlene Buker & Swede Mundell
1/26	Ushers: Greg Guyer & Rande Bowman Reader: Renee Guyer Comm: Victoria & Mike Hanson	Mark Gulden & Jim Jilek Eva Borneke Sheryl Gulden & Jan Waller
2/2	Worship United at 10:00 am Annual Meeting & Lunch to Follow	Ushers: Dayle Moore & Peter Skadah Reader: Lisa Benson Comm: Jodi Himmer & Gina Henkelman
2/9	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Greg Ous Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Diane Halvorson & Mary Borth	Dayle Moore & Peter Skadah Lucette Hurley Deb & Frank Steichen
2/16	Ushers: Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Reader: Mike Hanson Comm: Elaine Fossen & Marilyn Hanson	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Shirley Rosenau Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
2/23	Ushers: Les Altenburg & Ron Leiferman Reader: Greg Suskovic Comm: Janet Jones & Deb Leiferman	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Sandy Hatlestad Dee Nolan & Lisa Benson

Worship Volunteers NEEDED

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex at the Usher's Stand, for volunteers willing to assist with 8:30 screens and 10:30 screens and/or Facebook livestream. Anyone who knows how, can sign up on a week-by-week basis. If you're interested, but don't know how, it's easy and we can train you whenever it works best for you—it only takes 30 minutes to get the hang of it. This is a great opportunity for students who are looking for volunteer hours.

Please Note: We will stream 8:30 am worship each week and will add 10:30 livestream when we have volunteers.

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	2 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	3	4
5 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i>	6 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	7 10:00 am Worship Mtg 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Private Mtg	8 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	9 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	10 OFFICE CLOSED	11
12 Generous Together 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship NO <i>Messiah Kids Today</i> 11:30 am Council Meeting 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	13 Open Until 12pm 9:00 am SAIL Group	14 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 Quilting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	15 Open Until 12pm 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	16 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	17 Open Until 12pm	18
19 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i>	20 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	21 9:30 Quilting 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	22 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	23 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	24	25
26 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i>	27 9:00 am SAIL Group	28 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 1-6 pm Blood Drive	29 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Worship 6:30 pm MSM Class time 6:30 pm Club Messiah	30	31	



Messiah Lutheran Church
 1706 Lee Boulevard
 North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PHONE: 507-387-5537

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

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

PRAYER list

Thoughts and Prayers: Brooke, Cheryl, Arthur, Lyndsey, Bonnie, Swede, Brian, Norm, Bob, Lisa

Continued Thoughts & Prayers: Craig, Earl, Linda, Patty, Neal, Lowell, Emma, Peggy, Heather, Mollie,
 Carolyn, Trudy, Elle

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Carley, Alex, Tyler, Cole

Prayers for the Cruz family: Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil

Many Thanks

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church inside and out for Christmas; from lights and trees to poinsettias and spruce pots. We receive many comments on how beautiful Messiah looks at Christmastime.

Church Office Hours—January 10th-17th

Amy will be on vacation from January 10th -17th, so there will be limited office hours during this time. Contact Pastor LaDonna directly to arrange time to meet with her.

Open Mornings from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm: Monday 1/13, Wednesday 1/15, and Friday 1/17

Closed All Day: Friday 1/10, Tuesday 1/14, Thursday 1/16

Please note that doors will be open for regularly scheduled activities as usual.