



MESSIAH
lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, MN
507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

Sharing the love of Jesus

**November
2025**

- A Message from LaDonna Thomas -

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,



*I Stand on the Shoulders of Those Who
Stand on the Shoulders.*

- Oil on canvas by Matt Moberg -

Isaac Newton, in a letter to his rival, Robert Hooke, wrote:

“If I have seen a little further, it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants.”

Many of us have had a similar understanding in our careers, in organizations we lead, in parenting, and in life in general. Any expertise we have or any advancement we have made is due, in part, to the groundwork laid by those who came before us.

For example, I am part of the second generation of women ordained to the pastorate in the Lutheran Church. That was made possible by the careful theologians who brought the church to a more faithful understanding of the Biblical teachings about who may lead Christ's church. The women who came before me in ordained ministry overcame incredible prejudices and barriers to open doors for the next generation of us women called into ministry.

My faith, even that I am a person of faith, has been handed to me through those who came before me. It was my great uncle and aunt who encouraged my parents to join their church as young parents and raise me and my siblings in the Christian faith. My third grade Sunday School teacher was clear about the joys and promises of his faith in Jesus and invited his students into the fullness of a relationship with God. The pastor who taught my confirmation class left with me a legacy for the importance church history and liturgy have. The couple who led the youth group at church when I was in high school made faith an everyday matter, lived out in service to those most vulnerable. They taught me about the joys of a generous heart. Over the years Spiritual Directors have given me the gift of a contemplative life, where my spirit can be centered in God's spirit. These are all people on whose shoulders I have stood in the formation of my faith.

I've mostly seen myself at the top of the pyramid, standing on the shoulders of others and not realizing that others also stand on my shoulders. Most recently I realized this as I watched my now 3 year old granddaughter hold the basket for empty communion cups at her church. She's learning she has a part in that sacred meal and a grandfather-like figure in her life stands with her each week to teach her how it's done. My daughter, is one of her pastor's. She (like me before her) is now parenting and pastoring at the same time, passing the faith onto her daughter.

When I saw the oil painting above on display, it caught my attention and I wondered about where I see myself in the picture. I invite you to take a few minutes to sit quietly and really look at the picture. You could even set a timer for three minutes and take notice of each figure. Is there one you identify with? Why do you think that is? Whose shoulders do you stand on? Who is standing on your shoulders? What prayer of thanks can you offer from this reflection?

With gratitude for each of you and your shoulders of faith.

Pastor LaDonna



All Saints Worship—Sunday, November 2nd

Please join us for All Saints Sunday Worship on November 2nd at 8:30 and 10:30 am. The service will feature a time of remembering the saints who were a part of this congregation who died during the last year. The worship service will also have a time of remembrance for all loved ones who have gone before us. Many members of the congregation have experienced the death of loved ones in the past year and this service can offer a time for remembering both our grief and our hopes.

Howard Hanson

Brian Novak

Messiah Senior Lunch—November 11th

NaKato Bar and Grill is our choice for the November lunch. We invite you to join us on November 11th at 11:30 am at the restaurant, located at 253 Belgrade Ave., North Mankato. Check their online menu to see the wide variety of foods you can select. Remember the NaKato is famous for their beef commercials. This is a senior gathering for Messiah members and friends. Join us for good food, fun, and wonderful conversation. Both men and women are encouraged to dine with us.

Connections Ministry Volunteers Needed

A special thank you to Sandy Dahms and Nona Niemeier for leading the Connections teams on November 16th and 17th. Watch for possible sign-ups needed to provide food and service at the site. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex 2-3 weeks prior to the serving dates. If you're not available this month, the additional dates are: December 16 & 18, January 18 & 19, February 16 & 17, March 19 & 21, and April 20 & 21. If you are unable to help make, serve, or deliver food, please consider a donation to purchase the food. Contact Barb Meier with questions.

Transform the World.

BUILD COMMUNITY.

Kindle Generosity.

Generous Giving for 2026

Please faithfully consider the gifts you can share with the Messiah community moving into the new year. We are hoping to have pledges collected by November 23rd to help plan the 2026 budget. There is a box in the narthex for pledge cards.

Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship

Save the Date: Messiah will be hosting the Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship on **Wednesday, November 26th at 7:00 pm.** Fellowship and refreshments to follow.

Worship United—Sunday, November 30th

Messiah will worship united at 10:00 am on Sunday, November 30th. Join us as we enter into the first Sunday of the Advent season. Stay awhile after worship; join in fellowship with members you might not see often and introduce yourselves to those you may not recognize.

Messiah Kids & Club Messiah Fall Updates

Preschool – 5th grade students are meeting on **Wednesday evenings**. Parents and children are welcome to join in Wednesday dinner from 5:30-6:00 pm; join in a short 30 minute worship from 6:00-6:30 pm; then send their kiddos off with the classroom teachers from 6:30-7:00 pm. Parents are welcome to stay and socialize with other parents while waiting for class time to finish.

Please note for the month of November, we will not meet on the 19th or the 26th.

Middle School Ministries (MSM)

Middle School Ministries for 6th, 7th and 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening.

5:30 pm—meal

6:00 pm—worship

6:30-7:30 pm—large group & small group class time

Please note the following updates for the month of November:

On the 19th—Meet for pizza at 5:15 pm before students head over to Christ the King to enjoy Winter Warm-up.

On the 26th—MSM is off; instead, please join in the Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship at Messiah at 7:00 pm.

Worship on Wednesdays

All are invited to join us each Wednesday as we worship with Pastor LaDonna. Worship is 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, as we offer a free will offering meal. 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 adult conversation as some parents wait for their students to finish faith formation classes.

November Updates: No worship on the 19th. Thanksgiving Eve Community Service on the 26th will be at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday morning bible study is back this fall, **Wednesdays at 9:00 am**. This group meets weekly and joins in watching a video and having conversation with new and old friends. Look for more information in the coming weeks regarding a revamp of this bible study concept.

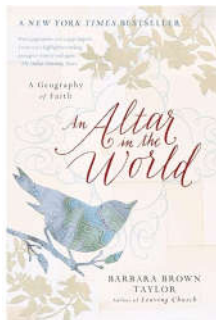
Thursday Men's Bible Study

This weekly bible study meets at **7:30 am Thursday mornings** at Happy Chef. Enjoy a tasty breakfast and conversation about the upcoming Sunday's scriptures. This is a great way to get to know others from Messiah and grow in faith and understanding together.

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 the church office.

Congregational Book Read



Groups have been formed to start the next Congregational Book Read featuring **An Altar in the World** by Barbara Brown Taylor. If you are interested in participating, please contact Janet Jones.

Leader	Location	Date and Time	Chapter
Steve Jones	Steve's	11/4 @ 7 pm	2
		11/18 @ 7 pm	3
Renee Guyer	Messiah	11/9 @ 9:30 am	2
		11/23 @ 9:30 am	3
Greg Suskovic	Messiah	11/9 @ 2 pm	2 & 3
Lynn Klaber	Kimberly's	11/10 @ 1:00 pm	2
		11/24 @ 1:00 pm	3

Decorating Outside of Church—Tuesday, November 11th @ 12 pm

While the weather is still nice out, we are hoping to gather up an outside decorating team to beautify the church grounds for Christmas. This is a fun opportunity for those who love to decorate. We are looking for some “strong” helpers that can lend a hand for decorating fun. There is an organized plan on how to accomplish this bright project, so everything is ready to turn on at Thanksgiving time. Anyone interested in decorating, please contact the office or Sandy Dahms and let us know so we can plan accordingly. Thank you in advance! If the weather doesn’t permit us to work outside on November 11th, the backup date will be Friday, November 14th at 12:00 pm.

Sharing Tree

For some, the holidays are an exciting time. For others, this is a worrisome time because they don’t know if they can provide gifts for their family or if they will even receive a gift for themselves. Messiah family, if you or someone you know could use some extra help this holiday season, please reach out to the office by **Monday, November 10th**, as we prepare to host our sharing tree. This opportunity is available for all ages, young and old. Even if you don’t need help with gifts, help is available for food and gas cards. All names are kept confidential. It is important you contact us each year at messiah@messiahnorthmankato.com or 507-387-5537 to be added to the list of recipients.

Poinsettia Orders

We invite you to support Messiah by filling the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season by ordering a plant. Orders need to be in by **Wednesday, November 26th**. The cost is \$15.00 and checks can be made out to Key City Sertoma. Forms are available in the Narthex.

Christmas Luminaries

To order a luminary for your loved one, complete a form and include a \$5.00 donation. Forms are available in the Narthex **November 30th until December 14th**.

Messiah Senior Holiday Potluck Lunch —Tuesday, December 9th

Happy Holidays! We cordially invite you to attend the third annual senior Messiah Holiday lunch on **Tuesday, December 9, 11:30 am** in the Gathering Place. We invite all seniors to attend and bring a small dish to pass. With our shared food, we can enjoy hot dishes, salads, breads, vegetables, and many kinds of desserts. **We welcome all seniors to join us for this traditional holiday event.**

Greg Suskovic and Steve Howard will provide some fun holiday music. Lynn Klaber will present a program on her Gustavus Adolphus culinary trip to France.

We could use a few volunteers to help decorate the tables and serve the food. Please call the church office to volunteer (507-387-5537)

Christmas Worship

Messiah will have Christmas Eve candlelight worships at 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm.
We will not be having Christmas morning worship this year.

COUNCIL UPDATES

2025 council members: Janet Jones, Nate Brekke, Jean Zandstra, Katie Hendrickson, Dustin Runkle, Swede Mundell, Julie Olsen and Greg Suskovic.

September offerings were \$26,673 vs expenses of \$29,188. This left us short by \$2,515 for the month. Income YTD 2025 is \$263,368 with expenses at \$268,391 or a shortfall of \$.5,022. Income YTD 2024 was \$242,933 vs. expenses of \$262,242 which left us at a \$19,309 deficit. Therefore, our giving is \$20,435 above last year while expenses are \$6,148 higher. Thank God and Thank You!

Church Council met on October 19th and the following was discussed:

- New HVAC should be installed in November.
- An Audit needs to be completed.
- There is still a need for musical support on Wednesday nights.
- Permanent name tags are available and can be requested by members.
- There are 37 people participating in the congregational book read and 4 study groups are available.
- The constitution is being updated. Watch for further details.
- Attendance pads and folders will be replaced with an updated version.
- Pastor LaDonna was presented with a gift card to the MN State Park System for pastor appreciation month.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 9th at 6:30 pm. -

Quilting Update

Mark your calendars! Quilting begins in January. It is always great coming back together to resume our work and fellowship once again. Starting January 13th, we meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of January, February, March and April. The quilts are displayed on Mother's Day and the Sunday following and then distributed where needed. New faces are always welcome whether you sew or not. There are several phases to finishing a quilt and all are fun to do and can be learned in minutes and lunch is included. Come join our group! Any questions, call Lynn Klaber 507-380-5465.

Noah Wilson Senior Recital

Noah will be performing his senior recital at MSU on Saturday, December 6th at 7:00 pm in the Elias Recital Hall (Performing Arts Building). Join him in celebrating this great accomplishment.

God's work. Our hands.

In the next few months some of Messiah's members will be highlighted in the monthly newsletter because of their generosity with their time/skills, energy, leadership, and creativity. Each are asked two questions: 1) What gift(s) has God given you? and 2) How have you been able to make use of these gifts at Messiah? In the community?

Bob Rothenbuehler is our first member to be interviewed. He indicates that one of his gifts is being **good with numbers**; this has helped him in his work on the Stewardship board. Bob also commented that his gift of **Leadership** has allowed him to serve as council president; Stewardship and Finance Chair; and on the Building committee for the education wing. Another of the gifts God has given Bob is the ability to do **Public Speaking**; he has made use of this gift in making presentations to the congregation.

In the community, Bob has shared his gifts by serving on the YMCA board; and by being involved with Meals on Wheels and A Fresh Start.

Our thanks to Bob for sharing his gifts and contributions to Messiah and the community.

How do you share the love of Jesus at Messiah and in the community?

November / December 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!

8:30 Worship

- 11/2** **Ushers:** Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman
Reader: Greg Suskovic
Comm: Janet & Steve Jones
- 11/9** **Ushers:** Steve Lenz & Rande Bowman
Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker
Comm: Diane Halvorson & Deb Leiferman
- 11/16** **Ushers:** Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel
Reader: Carla Butcher
Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic
- 11/23** **Ushers:** Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel
Reader: Steve Lenz
Comm: Mary Borth & Elaine Fossen
- 11/30** **Messiah Worship United**

10:30 Worship

- Steve Carlberg & Bill Halstead
Julie Olsen
Phyllis & Peter SkadahI
- Steve Carlberg & Bill Halstead
Jan Waller
Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
- Dave Dahl & Jim Jilek
Lisa Benson
Darci Karau & Dee Nolan
- Jeran Karau & Jon Karau
Lucette Hurley
Phyllis & Peter SkadahI
- Ushers:** Jeran Karau & Jon Karau
Reader: Kim Henrickson
Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer

8:30 Worship

- 12/7** **Ushers:** Ron Leiferman & Greg Ous
Reader: Sarah Suskovic
Comm: Jane & Paul Zwieg
- 12/14** **Ushers:** Ron Leiferman & Greg Ous
Reader: Renee Guyer
Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost
- 12/21** **Ushers:** Les Altenburg & Scott Madigan
Reader: Diane Halvorson
Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Al Narveson
- 12/28** **Messiah Worship United**

10:30 Worship

- Paul Henkelman & Mark Gulden
Sandy Hatlestad
Lauren Pipes & Judy Spencer
- Paul Henkelman & Mark Gulden
Shirley Rosenau
Sheryl Gulden & Gina Henkelman
- Mark Himmer & Peter SkadahI
Kay Lund
Marlene Buker & Jan Waller
- Ushers:** Peter SkadahI & Mark Himmer
Reader: Eva Borneke
Comm: Breah Hendrickson & Lynn Klaber

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	3 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	4 7:00 pm Steve's Book Club @ Steve's	5 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Wednesday Supper 6:00 pm Worship 6:30-7 pm PreK-5th Grade 6:30-7:30 pm MSM Classes	6 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	7	8 1:00 pm Private Event
9 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:30 am Renee's Book Club @ Messiah 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 4:00 pm 4H Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting	10 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Lynn's Book Club @ Kimberly's 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	11 11:30 am Monthly Lunchers 12:00 pm Outside Xmas Decorating 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	12 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Wednesday Supper 6:00 pm Worship 6:30-7 pm PreK-5th Grade 6:30-7:30 pm MSM Classes	13 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	14	15
16 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 5:45 pm Connections Serving	17 9:00 am SAIL Group	18 5:45 pm Connections Serving 7:00 pm Steve's Book Club @ Steve's	19 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 2:00 pm Greg's Book Club @ Messiah 5:15 pm Supper for MSM 5:45-8 pm Winter-Warm Up @ CTK *No worship or elementary faith classes tonight	20 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	21	22
23 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:30 am Renee's Book Club @ Messiah 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	24 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Lynn's Book Club @ Kimberly's	25 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	26 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 7:00 pm Thanksgiving-Eve Community Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 <i>Advent</i> 10:00 am Worship United (FB Live)						



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North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

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www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”



Thoughts & Prayers: Brooke, Lisa, Greg, Dave, Clara, Maddie & Baby, Briana, Steve, Sandy, Nancy, Jackie, Leverne

Continued Thoughts & Prayers: Craig, Earl, Linda, Patty, Neal, Lowell, Emma, Peggy, Heather, Carolyn, Bonnie, Elle, Barb, Carl, Dave

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Tyler, Cole

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

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.

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>

