



MESSIAH
lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

Sharing the love of Jesus

October 2025

- A Message from LaDonna Thomas -

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,



How is it with your soul?

We are being asked to hold an awful lot in these days. One of the ways to cope in the midst of things we cannot change or control is to stay grounded in our identity as beloved children of God and to allow our connection to God to be an anchor to hold us in chaotic times. I have a number of spiritual practices that help me stay grounded. They are called “practices” for a reason – no one ever perfects them. We’re all practicing. I don’t practice them all in a given day, but my “spiritual tool box” has enough practices in it that if one or two don’t resonate on given day, I have others I can try.

I share a few of mine here, with the encouragement that if you don’t have a spiritual practice or two, you might try a few of these:

1. Centering Prayer for at least 15 minutes (this is akin to a meditation practice, but it’s goal is not enlightenment as much as it is awareness of the presence of God).
2. Lectio Divina – a way of reading passages of Scripture listening for a word or phrase that resonates and then seeing what gifts it offers.
3. Worship – in community with others
4. Listening to music (for me – mostly choral or instrumental)
5. A yoga practice (helps regulate my breathing and grounding my body)
6. Walking or riding a bike outside
7. Take breaks during the day to just breathe and be in the present moment.

None of these practices will solve the troubles of the world, but they take care of me and my soul. They ground me and when I am spiritually grounded, I am more grounded emotionally and cognitively. When I am spiritually grounded, when it is well with my soul, I can more faithfully wrestle with the question “What is mine to do?”

How is it with your soul? What’s keeping you connected to the God of the universe, who loves you deeply, and who desires that love not only fill your life, but overflow into a world that is in desperate need of it?

God’s peace in all things,

Pastor LaDonna

COMMUNITY PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

Wednesday, October 15th at 6:00 pm

Christ the King Lutheran Church

222 Pfau Street, Mankato

A contemplative service of prayer, music and scripture.

Hosted by Bethlehem, Christ the King and Messiah Lutheran Churches

Adopt-a-Hwy—October 5th

Please consider walking road ditches with your Messiah family and consider bringing along a friend or two! This is a great way to show our stewardship efforts toward improving our land and water.

We will gather in the church's east parking lot at noon for instructions. Vests and bags will be provided. We'll go out to our section of Highway 14 on **Sunday, October 5th** for about 2 hours. It works great if we get about 20 walkers. A meal will be provided to each worker from Big Dog after we walk. The Fellowship and Recreation Team will cover the cost of your meal.

Please email Lynell at lynellsenden@hotmail.com OR text her at 507.380.1483 with your interest and how many will be participating. Families are invited! NOTE: walkers MUST be ages 12 and up.

WHAT TO WEAR/BRING: long pants and sleeves, gloves, closed-toe shoes, hat/sunglasses, water bottle, sunscreen



Vaccination Time—October 5th

Cub Foods professionals will administer flu and COVID vaccines between worships on October 5th from 9:00 am-12:00 pm so come early or stay late to get your "shot". Vaccines are available for anyone ages 6 or older. For both vaccines, please bring your insurance card or Medicare card including Part D.

Messiah Senior Lunch—October 14th

Tav on the Ave is our choice for the October lunch. We invite you to join us on October 14th at 11:30 am at the restaurant, located at 1120 Madison Avenue. Check their online menu to see the wide variety of foods you can select. 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

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. Opportunities exist to make a meal and serve at the site. Please see sign-up sheets for the coming month in the narthex 2-3 weeks prior to the serving dates **October 20th & 21st**. If you're not available this month, the additional dates are: November 16 & 17, 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.



Continuing the tradition of Cindy Rupp and Noah Wilson performing on the "88", we've added some more of Messiah's talents for an afternoon delight.

We will serve treats after the concert for social time.

Tickets available in the church office: Adults—\$20, 13-18 year olds—\$10, Children 12 and under— Free

All proceeds will go towards future Capital Improvements.

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.

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 October, we will not meet on October 15th, going into MEA weekend.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/MdTugwDq37>

Middle School Ministries (MSM)

Middle School Ministries for 6th, 7th and 8th graders meet each Wednesday evening. Please note for the month of October, we will not meet on October 15th, going into MEA.

5:30 pm—meal

6:00 pm—worship

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

Register here: <https://forms.gle/TyeJerTi7yRGqANF9>

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.

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.

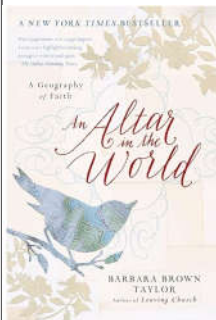
Thursday Men's Bible Study

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 for coffee and a free will offering lunch. If you need a ride, contact the church office.

Congregational Book Read



Join our congregational book read featuring An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor. In this NYT bestseller, Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls; embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life and shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go.

Join our Congregational Book Read featuring **An Altar in the World** by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books are available in the narthex, courtesy of Endowment funding. Please sign out a copy on the provided form. This is a great chance to connect with members of our congregation and strengthen relationships. Small group study options will be organized at a meeting on **Sunday, October 19th at 9:30 am** between services—come join us as we launch this new book. Joining a small group is optional—you're welcome to read along with us on your own.

A special thank you to the Endowment fund for sponsoring this endeavor by purchasing the books.

COUNCIL UPDATES

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

Our August tithes and offerings were \$27,386 (5 weeks) vs expenses of \$29,858. This left us short by \$2,472 for the month. Income YTD 2025 is \$236,695 with expenses at \$239,201 or a minor shortfall of \$2507. Income YTD 2024 was \$218,176 vs. expenses of \$229,744 which left us at a \$11,568 deficit. Therefore, our giving is \$18,000 above last year while expenses are \$10,000 higher. We look forward to celebrating our successful capital campaign on the 28th!

Church Council met on July 23rd and the following was discussed:

- We continue to need musical support on Wednesday nights. Contact Pastor LaDonna if you know of someone who might be interested.
 - Funding for permanent name tags is still being sought.
 - Pictorial directories can soon be requested as a PDF or paper copy.
 - A constitutional update is in progress. Watch for more information on this.
 - Messiah's monthly benevolences will go to the following: October – Crossroads; November – MACV (MN Assistance Council for Veterans); December – A Fresh Start.
 - An Honorarium will be given to Jade Hengel Photography for her work on Messiah's Welcome video.
 - The council reviewed papers written by scholarship recipients. They included good insights about faith formation.
 - The Annual meeting date will be Sunday, February 1, 2026, and we will have a Worships United Service that day.
 - Watch for our upcoming fall stewardship drive.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19th at 6:30 pm. -

Endowment Committee Update

The endowment committee has approved the following requests to help the Messiah community this year:

Worship Materials—\$99, MSM Curriculum—\$399, “An Altar in the World” Books—\$400, Messiah Kids/Club Messiah Curriculum—\$854, and MSM “Winter Warm-Up” - \$100

~ Thank You ~

October 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

10/5 **Ushers:** Kim Henrickson & Kyle Vogt
 Reader: Linda Wenkel
 Comm: Renee Guyer & Breah Hendrickson

10/12 **Ushers:** Kim Henrickson & Kyle Vogt
 Reader: Georgia Holmes
 Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Al Narveson

10/19 **Ushers:** Jeremy Soost & Steve Jones
 Reader: Amy Soost
 Comm: Sylvia & Scott Norman

10/26 **Ushers:** Jeremy Soost & Steve Jones
 Reader: Janet Jones
 Comm: Kathy & Carl Fitzloff

10:30 Worship

Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath
Jeff Pribyl
Deb & Frank Steichen

Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath
Kay Lund
Jodi & Mark Himmer

Bob Rothenbuehler & Tim Hatlestad
Sandy Hatlestad
Karna & Doug Stock

Bob Rothenbuehler & Tim Hatlestad
Eva Borneke
Betty & Chuck Rafferty

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 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	2 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	3	4
5 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9 am—12:00 pm Flu Clinic 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 12:00 pm Adopt-a-Hwy	6 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	7	8 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	9 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	10	11
<i>Pastor LaDonna on vacation</i>						
12 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 4:00 pm 4H Meeting	13 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	14 11:30 am Monthly Lunchers	15 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm No Evening Activities 6:00 pm Community Prayer Service @ Christ the King	16 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	17	18
<i>Pastor LaDonna at Theological Conference</i>						
19 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 9:30 am Book Club Orientation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:30 pm Council Meeting	20 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:45 pm Connections Serving 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	21 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Connections Serving	22 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	23 7:30 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 2:00 pm Piano Passion & More	27 9:00 am SAIL Group	28	29 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	30 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	31	



Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”



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

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

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Carley, Alex, 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>

