



**MESSIAH**  
lutheran church  
*Sharing the love of Jesus*

**November 2024**

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

## **Sunday, November 3rd**

### ***All Saints Worship***

Please join us for All Saints Sunday Worship on November 3rd 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.

Sharen Olsen   Mike Como   Phyllis Ronnei   Bob Jerrow  
Les Perkins   Greg Cook   Bob Maschke   Sally Maschke

### ***Farewell Pastor Tim***

On Sunday, November 3rd we will also say goodbye to Pastor Tim as he moves on to his next interim position. We thank him for this past year as he guided us through the transition time between pastors. We will have coffee and snacks between worship as we wish him well.

***Daylight Savings Time Ends—Turn Your Clocks Back***

## **Messiah Lunch Group—Tuesday, November 12th**

You are invited to join us for the November lunch group on Tuesday, November 12th at 11:30 am. Lunch will be at Swiss & Madison, 920 Madison Avenue, Mankato. 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](mailto:Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com) if you have any questions.

## **Welcome Pastor LaDonna Thomas**

Join us as we welcome Pastor LaDonna Thomas to Messiah on **Sunday, November 24th at 8:30 am and 10:30 am**. We will have coffee between worship, giving everyone an opportunity to say hello and introduce themselves.

We will Worship United on **Sunday, December 8th at 10:00 am** as the SEMN Synod will be at Messiah to install Pastor LaDonna. Stay after worship to join in a meal welcoming our new pastor.



## **Decorating Outside of Church—Tuesday, November 12th**

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 12th at 11:00 am**, we will reschedule and post an update on Facebook.



## Volunteers Needed

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: November 2 & 3, December 9 & 10, January 1 & 2, 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 were provided.



## Volunteer Opportunity

Messiah hopes to host the Crossroads Lunch-4-a-Buck in January and February and so we are looking for a lead person for each of those months. Sarah Suskovic will be happy to give you details on what that will entail. Email Sarah at [suskovicsls@gmail.com](mailto:suskovicsls@gmail.com) or call 612-214-0116 if you are interested.

## Gardening Update from Karna

As the 2024 garden season rolls to a close, I wish to thank all of the dedicated garden helpers who have taken care of the church gardens this past year. We have over 25 people in our garden helper group. You have all done a terrific job, despite the extreme draught conditions we have experienced since the end of June. People have told me Messiah has the nicest church green space in Mankato, and it's a group effort that makes it happen! Please consider helping next year if you have an interest. The more helpers we have, the lighter the load! Please contact Karna Swenson-Stock (507-317-0510) if you have any questions."

## 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 November 27th. 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 24th until December 17th. All proceeds will go to the Capital Campaign.

## Christmas Worship

Messiah will have Christmas Eve worships at 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Christmas morning worship will be at 9:00 am.

## 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 11th, 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](mailto:messiah@messiahnorthmankato.com) or 507-387-5537 to be added to the list of recipients.



## **- A Farewell Message from Interim Pastor Tim McDermott -**

Dear Partners,

I've always known that I would have to say goodbye. I told you on my first Sunday with you (11/19/23) that I would be with you for about one year—give or take a month or two. Throughout the year I have prayed that we would find a great candidate to serve as your new, Settled Pastor, and the selection of that person would be the signal for me to move on. I've always known this, but I didn't realize how difficult it would be to say goodbye.

From the beginning I have had such great respect for our elected and volunteer leaders. I have so enjoyed and appreciated our dedicated Church Staff. I am so thankful for the excellent work of the Messiah Transition Team and the Messiah Call Committee.

From the beginning, I have sensed the strength of this congregation. I have come to know the commitment you have to Sharing the Love of Jesus. You are a strong, faithful community which serves those within and those beyond the congregation and its building.

Leaving you will not be easy for me. I remember how you accepted and supported me as an interim pastor of the SEMN Synod. You have forgiven me when I failed in my leadership. You have encouraged me when I followed my training and led our transition process. You have accepted me and have given to me the greatest gift of all: you have let me be your pastor.

So, what can I say now that my ministry among you is coming to an end? I say, Thank you, Messiah Lutheran Church. You will forever have a special place in my heart. I am so confident about your future as a center for mission and outreach. And I will follow your progress under your new pastor with excitement and joy.

You are great people. A great congregation. A great Christian community. I am so grateful to you for letting me be a cheerleader for all the great work you have done in the past, are doing, and certainly will do for Christ and his people in the years to come. May God richly bless you, Messiah. I have been so blessed to be with you this past year.

Your Partner in the Gospel,  
*Pastor Tim*

## **- A Welcome Message from Pastor LaDonna Thomas -**

Dear Beloved People of Messiah Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the invitation to partner with you in mission and ministry with your call to serve as your next pastor. With joy, gratitude and anticipation I accept your call, effective November 15, 2024, with November 24th as my first Sunday with you. I look forward to getting to know each of you, as together we share the love of Jesus!

I invite your prayers as I bring my ministry with the people of St. Paul, Gloucester to a close, as I seek housing in the Mankato area, and make the journey across the country in early November.

Peace and all good,

Pastor LaDonna Thomas

## **Calling all Singers!**

The Messiah Choir will be singing in worship on December 8th at 10:00 am as well as at both Christmas Eve worships on December 24th at 3:00 and 5:00 pm.

You are invited to join us (and bring a friend if you like) in preparing.

**Choir Rehearsals will be:**

**Wednesday, November 6th at 6:30 pm**

**Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 pm**

Any questions, please contact Cindy Rupp at 507-327-9306.



## **MESSIAH KIDS on Sundays & CLUB MESSIAH on Wednesdays**

Sundays and Wednesdays with our Pre-K through 5th graders is going well and we are continuing to hear positive feedback with the changes that have taken place.

### **Christmas Program Information—**

The Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 15th during the 10:30 am worship.

Music practice for the Christmas program will be immediately following Messiah Kids and Club Messiah, with Cindy Rupp, for 15 minutes on the dates listed below. Kiddos are welcome to join in this practice on their usual day (Sunday or Wednesday) or join in all the dates below.

Sundays: November 3rd, November 10th and December 8th

Wednesdays: November 6th\* and December 11th (\*on 11/6 practice will be at the beginning of class-time@ 6:00 pm)

### **Club Messiah on Wednesdays in November—**

As we say farewell to Pastor Tim and wait to welcome Pastor LaDonna, there will not be dinner and worship before education time in November. Club Messiah will meet directly in their classrooms for ONE full hour from 6:00-7:00 pm on November 6th, 13th, and 20th. There is no class on Wednesday, November 27th leading in to Thanksgiving.

Dinner, worship, and class time will be at the usual times starting again on December 4th.

## **Middle School Ministries in November**

There will be **NO MSM on Wednesday, November 6th or 13th** as we say farewell to Pastor Tim and await the arrival of Pastor LaDonna. This means we will not have dinner, worship, or class time.

On **Wednesday, November 20th**, come for dinner a little earlier than usual—at 5:15 pm. We will be leaving Messiah at 5:45 pm to head over to Bethlehem Lutheran Church to participate in the yearly **“Winter Warm-Up”**, featuring Rachel Kurtz this year. It’s always a fun night for the kids. The event goes until 7:45, so parents need to be at Messiah to pick up their students at 8:00 pm.

There is **no class on Wednesday, November 27th** leading in to Thanksgiving. Dinner, worship, and class time will be at the usual times starting again on December 4th.

## **Wednesday Worship in November**

We’ll take a break from Worship on Wednesdays in November as we say farewell to our interim Pastor Tim and await the arrival of our new settled Pastor LaDonna.

All are invited to join us again in December as we worship with Pastor LaDonna. Worship is most 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. We do communion 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.

## **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 10th, 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 387-6172.

## **Directory Update**

We’ve been in contact with the company regarding the church directory and were informed that they do not have the files we originally sent them. We sent this information to them again and hope to have an update soon.

# 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:* We are at 65.7% of budget compared to 68% last year.

September was a little lighter than August, but we continue to be about \$2,000 behind last year, and our expenses are nearly \$13,000 less mainly due to the difference in snow removal.

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 October 13th and the following was discussed:*

*Treasurer—Though there are no surprise expenses, income over expenses continue to be down.*

*Property Team—is still waiting to hear back on an update on the roof issues.*

*Lifelong Learning—the new church school program (PreK-5th Grade) seems to be working out very well.*

*Worship & Music—Plans have been made for the remainder of the year. Pulpit supply is needed November 10 & 17.*

*Old Business—The council approved paying for Pastor LaDonna's moving expenses. More discussion was had regarding replacing the air conditioner in the conference room.*

The next council meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 21st at 6:30 pm.

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*

2. Visit our website at [messiahnorthmankato.com](http://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.



## Anti-Racism Meeting—Tuesday, November 12th

In May 2020 our state and nation were shaken when George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer. The aftermath saw riots, violence and a lot of soul searching by people who wondered how such a thing could happen. The People of Messiah Lutheran Church were part of this soul searching and a group formed to talk about racism, what it looked like, inherent bias, how can we reach out, try to make amends, and move forward in our changed world. We started with prayer and the hope we could keep our hearts and minds open to new knowledge and understandings. We still hold that prayer; learning is never done. We studied a curriculum from the ECLA designed to challenge our current knowledge and beliefs about racism. Our focus this year has been to learn and deepen our knowledge about the people who were here before us in this place we call home; the Indigenous People.

Join us as we continue our look into the lives of the Indigenous People on Tuesday, November 12th at 5:30 pm.

## From Jan Waller

*thank you!*

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for the wonderful retirement sendoff on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone for your kind words and hugs and cards and gifts. I was truly overwhelmed by it all. I look forward to the next phase of life and to continuing to Share the Love of Jesus with my Messiah Family.

## 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!

<b>11/3</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Rande Bowman & Steve Lenz <b>Reader:</b> Janet Jones <b>Comm:</b> Diane Halvorson & Mary Borth	Dave Dahl & Peter Skadah Lucette Hurley Swede Mundell & Judy Spencer
<b>11/10</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Rande Bowman & Steve Lenz <b>Reader:</b> Carla Butcher <b>Comm:</b> Victoria & Mike Hanson	Dave Dahl & Peter Skadah Julie Olsen Darci Karau & Jan Waller
<b>11/17</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Scott Madigan & Jeremy Soost <b>Reader:</b> Amy Soost <b>Comm:</b> Sylvia & Scott Norman	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Eva Borneke Dee Nolan & Jodi Himmer
<b>11/24</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Scott Madigan & Jeremy Soost <b>Reader:</b> Greg Suskovic <b>Comm:</b> Renee & Greg Guyer	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Lisa Benson Marlene & Jim Jilek
<b>12/1</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Kim Henrickson & Greg Ous <b>Reader:</b> Sonja Parr-Baker <b>Comm:</b> Elaine Fossen & Linda Wenkel	Dayle Moore & Chuck Rafferty Shirley Rosenau Marlene Buker & Gina Henkelman
<b>12/8</b>	<b>Worship United at 10:00 am</b> <b>Pastor LaDonna's Installation</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Dayle Moore & Chuck Rafferty <b>Reader:</b> Joan Klanderud <b>Comm:</b> Phyllis & Peter Skadah
<b>12/15</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Steve Jones & Kyle Vogt <b>Reader:</b> Mike Hanson <b>Comm:</b> Janet Jones & Marilyn Hanson	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Dee Nolan Karna & Doug Stock
<b>12/22</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Steve Jones & Kyle Vogt <b>Reader:</b> Diane Halvorson <b>Comm:</b> Sarah & Greg Suskovic	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Lynn Klaber Betty & Chuck Rafferty
<b>12/29</b>	<b>Worship United</b> <b>at 10:00 am</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Ron Leiferman & Bob Rothenbuehler <b>Reader:</b> Kimberly Moore <b>Comm:</b> Kara Pipes & Deb Leiferman

### Worship Volunteers

Do you enjoy following along with worship on the screens during worship? Would more people enjoy viewing late worship on Facebook? We are in need of more volunteers to help with screens and Facebook Live.

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 continue to stream the 8:30 am worship each week. We will add 10:30 Facebook livestream when we have volunteers.

# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1 OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections
<b>3 Pastor Tim's Last Day</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> Treats & Coffee between Worshipers 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship &amp; Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd Grade)</b> 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections	<b>4</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm NO Dinner, Worship or MSM 6:00-7:00 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th Grade) 6:30 pm Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1:00 pm Private Event
<b>10</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship &amp; Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd Grade)</b> 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>12</b> 11:00 am Outside Xmas Decorating 11:30 am Monthly Lunchers @ Swiss & Madison 5:30 pm Anti-Racism Team	<b>13</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm NO Dinner, Worship or MSM 6:00-7:00 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th Grade)	<b>14</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship &amp; Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd Grade)</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	<b>19</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:15 pm MSM Only Dinner 5:45 pm MSM Leaves—Winter Warm-up at Bethlehem 6:00 pm NO Worship 6:00-7:00 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th Grade) 7:45 pm MSM Parents Pick-up Students	<b>21</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Pastor LaDonna's 1st Sunday</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> Coffee between Worshipers 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship &amp; Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd Grade)</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>26</b> 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	<b>27</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30 pm NO Dinner, Worship, MSM or Club Messiah	<b>28 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>29 OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>30</b>



Messiah Lutheran Church  
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 North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PHONE: 507-387-5537**

LaDonna Thomas, Pastor: *Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com (starting 11/15/24)*

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: *Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com*

Label

[www.messiahnorthmankato.com](http://www.messiahnorthmankato.com)



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

# PRAYER list

**Thoughts and Prayers:** Brooke, Cheryl, Micah, Arthur, Lyndsey, Swede, Jackie, Brian, Bronwyn, Crystal

**Continued Thoughts & Prayers:** Craig, Earl, Linda, Patty, Neal, Lowell, Emma, Margaret, 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

**Prayers of Sympathy** for family and friends on the deaths of Bob Maschke (10/22) and Sally Maschke (10/25). A joint funeral will be held on Friday, November 15th at 11:00 am, with a visitation at 10:00 am.

## Fall Worship Times and Office Hours

Office Hours are Monday—Friday, 8:30 am—4:30 pm.

Sunday Worships in November are all 8:30 am (traditional) and 10:30 am (contemporary).

- November 3rd is All Saint’s Sunday and Pastor Tim’s last day at Messiah. Treats & coffee between worships.
- November 24th we will welcome our new pastor, LaDonna Thomas. Coffee Meet & Greet between worships.

Messiah’s next Worship United will be on December 8th at 10:00 am. This will be Pastor LaDonna’s Installation and we are having a meal immediately following worship.