

MESSIAH lutheran church

Sharing the love of Jesus

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

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

I remember the first time I drove through the fertile growing regions in central California. There I saw fruits hanging on trees that I had previously only seen piled on grocery store produce shelves: oranges, lemons, limes, olives, walnuts, almonds, and persimmons. The climate there was ideal for such fruits, in a way that the Midwest and east coast were not.

For the locals in California, those fruits were nothing less than what was expected; for me they were an unexpected and joyful surprise. As I saw grove after grove of those trees that had never been part of my experience, there was an incredible experience of the collective. It was not just individual trees bearing the luscious fruits, it was grove after grove and trees all together yielding fruit. It's just what they did. It was just what they were and are.

There is a similar sense of the "collective" when the Scriptures describe the fruits of God's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). None of us exhibits every one of those fruits, but collectively we do.

When people in our congregation and community look at Messiah Lutheran Church, they see and experience groves of trees bearing the fruit of God's Spirit. Just like those groves of fruit trees in California, could not help but bear their collective, juicy, nourishing fruits, so it is with us. It is who we are in Christ.

We see the fruits of God's Spirit flowing through our outreach ministries, our new youth ministry, and GATHER (for those seeking relational connection with others). The fruits of God's Spirit fuel the work of our congregation council and those who lead and teach our Messiah Kids and Middle School ministry on Wednesdays. The fruit of God's Spirit gather together to make beautiful, excellent, meaningful music for our worship life. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control are who we are in Christ.

Our congregation is in the midst of our fall stewardship emphasis under the theme of "Who are we in Christ?" It's congregational call for each household to prayerfully recommit to support and help grow our ministries in 2027. How will your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness or self-control move you to give of your time, your gifts and skills, and your resources to not just maintain our ministry, but invest in our growth?

Please take time over the next couple of weeks to pray and discern what your commitment in 2027 will be and indicate that on an estimate of giving card (mailed to members or available in the narthex) and return it to the box in the narthex by November 22nd. Our combined estimate of giving helps us prepare a ministry plan for 2027, including a budget. Without the participation of "every tree in the grove," such planning is very difficult to do and new visions for ministry are held back.

Thank you for being a vital part of our life together in God's grove and for the ways you bear the fruits of God's Spirit in your life and in your participation with the people of Messiah. It's who we are in Christ.

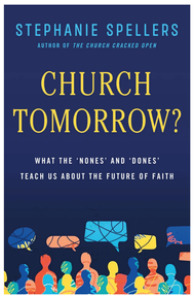
In gratitude for each of you, Pastor LaDonna

All Saints Worship—Sunday, November 1st

Please join us for All Saints Sunday Worship on November 1st 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.

Mary Hlavac
Brian Stockland
Barb Anderson
Gina Dahl
Flora Anderson
Jane Perkins
Marlene Nelson

Fall Congregational Book Read



The fall book read is off to a great start and the groups are diving in to **Church Tomorrow?** by Stephanie Spellers. The following are the discussion groups and their meeting dates for November:

- Margaret Yackel-Juleen, Tuesday, November 10th at 9:00am
- Lynn Klaber, Tuesday, November 10th & 17th at 1:00pm
- Greg Suskovic, Wednesday, November 4th & 18th at 1:30pm
- Myra Kluck, Thursday, November 5th & 12th at 6:30pm
- Myra Kluck, Sundays Between Services at 9:30am (November dates TBD)

Thanksgiving Eve Community Worship

Messiah will be participating in the Thanksgiving Eve ecumenical worship with other North Mankato churches. Join the community on Wednesday, November 25th at Holy Rosary Catholic Church at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday Evening Activities

All are welcome to join in dinner at 5:30 pm followed by worship from 6:00-6:30 pm each Wednesday evening.

Please note the following dates around Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years there will be no Wednesday evening activities (dinner, worship, faith formation):

- November 25th
- December 23rd
- December 30th

Generous Giving for 2027

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 22nd to help plan the 2027 budget. There is a box in the narthex for pledge cards.



"Thank You" Wilson Auto

Kindness is all around us! Recently the church lawnmower had a broken part and Dustin Runkle (Property Team) wasn't able to source a replacement. He reached out to Rich, the owner of Wilson Auto in North Mankato, to see if he could help. Rich welded the broken part back together and even painted it to look nice. As an added gesture of kindness, he did all this work free of charge.

Outside Decorating at Church



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! **Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 12th at 3:00 pm.**

Sharing Tree



For some, the holidays are an exciiting 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 9th, 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 confidendial. 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 25th. The cost is $15.00 and checks can be made out to Sertoma. Forms are available in the Narthex.

Holiday Potluck Seniors Lunch - December 8th

Mark your calendars for the 4th annual Holiday Christmas Potluck!

WHEN: Tuesday, December 8th at 11:30 am

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church - Gathering Place

This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends, men and women. Join us for good food, fun, and wonderful conversation. We have a long table reserved so we can dine together.

Christmas Luminaries



To order a luminary for your loved one, complete a form and include a $5.00 donation. Forms will be available in the Narthex from December 6th until December 17th.

Choir Practice for Christmas Eve



Mark your calendars to practice some new music on Thursday, December 17th at 6:30.
We will sing at both Christmas Eve worships (3:00 pm and 5:00 pm)
Please invite anyone you know that would enjoy singing and praising our Lord! … open to anyone age 13-100!!
Questions: call or text Cindy Rupp at 507-327-9306

Christmas Eve Worship



Messiah will have Christmas Eve candlelight worships at 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm.
We will not be having Christmas morning worship this year.

Social Outreach Volunteers

Shelter Church is a ministry based in Mankato, MN. We believe that true community starts with a shared table. We provide free, delicious meals to all who need to eat, while offering a space to connect with a caring community and hear some good news in the midst of whatever life brings. We are dedicated to ensuring that no one goes hungry while we journey together in faith. Messiah's social outreach group has agreed to serve the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Upcoming Serving Dates:

- **Sunday, November 8th**

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.

Upcoming Serving Dates:

- **Monday, November 9th**
- **Tuesday, November 24th**
- **Thursday, December 31st**

Sign-ups for donations and volunteers for the Shelter Church & Connections Homeless Shelter will be available in the narthex through November 1st.

Council Updates

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

Total monthly income for September was $29,252 and expenses were $32,702 resulting in expenses over income by $4,450. Year to date income is $263,339 and expenses were $273,839 -- resulting in expenses over income by $10,500. When the last three months of prepaid contributions are considered the expenses are over income by $15,582. No unusual expenses were noted.

- Wednesday activities are going well with the Band, Meals and Participation. Attendance is around 60 or so.
- Stewardship is ready to roll and will be mailed out by the end of the week.
- The annual meeting is set for January 24th with one service at 10am.

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9th at 5:30 pm. -

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code:
2. or Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com

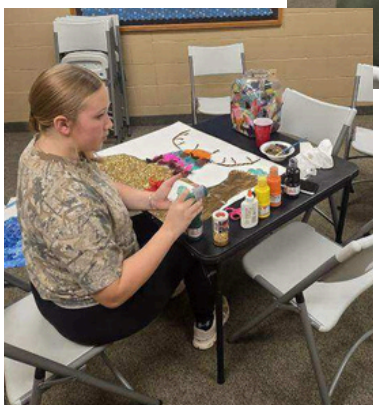
> Click "OFFERING" on the home-page, or go to the "GIVING" tab

> 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.

high school happenings







Join in the fun each Wednesday to hang out with other high school friends. Bring your friends to add to the fun! Come at whatever time you can make it.

Pizza is served at 5:30 pm
Worship is at 6:00 pm
Games start at 6:30 pm until 8 pm

Please note we will not be meeting on November 25th.

High School Middle School Outing

KATO ESCAPE ROOM

Can you escape in time? At Kato Escape, the clock is ticking, and the thrill is real! Step into a world of mystery and excitement as you challenge your mind with clever puzzles, uncover hidden clues, and race against time in a heart-pounding escape room experience. Gather your team, test your wits, and see if you can crack the code before time runs out.

Bring your friends.

WHEN: Saturday, November 14th
WHERE: Kato Escape; 619 S. Front Street, Mankato
TIME: 3:15-4:30ish
RSVP REQUIRED by November 7th to: Kristy Tokheim 507-382-5672 or youthdir@messiahnorthmankato.com

'tis the season

FOR A CHRISTMAS PARTY

Stay tuned for more information on a Christmas Party being planned here at Messiah in December.
All middle and high school students are invited to join in the fun and bring a friend.
Get out your jingle bells and santa hats, this party is sure to be a jolly time.

November-December 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!

November		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
11/1	Ushers	Rande Bowman, Greg Guyer	Jon Karau, Jeran Karau
	Reader:	Renee Guyer	Kay Lund
	Communion Assts:	Carl & Kathy Fitzloff	Darci Karau, Swede Mundell
11/8	Ushers:	Rande Bowman, Greg Guyer	Frank Steichen, Peter Skadahl
	Reader:	Sarah Suskovic	Julie Olsen
	Communion Assts:	Breah Hendrickson, Deb Leiferman	Jim and Marlene Jilek
11/15	Ushers:	Steve Jones, Steve Lenz	Mark Gulden, Jim Jilek
	Reader:	Diane Halverson	Lucette Hurley
	Communion Assts:	Linda Wenkel, Elaine Fossen	Sheryl Gulden, Lisa Benson
11/22	Ushers:	Steve Jones, Steve Lenz	Mark Gulden, Steve Carlberg
	Reader:	Janet Jones	Jan Waller
	Communion Assts:	Diane Halvorson, Marilyn Hanson	Frank & Deb Steichen
11/29	Ushers:	Ron Leiferman, Jeremy Soost	Tim Hattelstad, Mark Himmer
	Reader:	Amy Soost	Marlene Buker
	Communion Assts:	Paul & Jane Zwieg	Jane Unzeitig, Dee Nolan

December		8:30 AM	10:30 AM
12/6	Ushers	Scott Madigan, Greg Ous	Paul Henkelman, Bob Rothenbuehler
	Reader:	Linda Wenkel	Karen Wright
	Communion Assts:	Greg & Renee Guyer	Gina Henkelman, Jan Waller
12/13	Ushers:	Scott Madigan, Greg Ous	Paul Henkelman, Bob Rothenbuehler
	Reader:	Myra Kluck	Lynn Klaber
	Communion Assts:	Jeremy & Amy Soost	Doug & Karna Stock
12/20	Ushers:	Brad Heilman, Barb Pingel	Chuck Rafferty, Dayle Moore
	Reader:	Chuck Dulas	Jeff Pribyl
	Communion Assts:	Steve & Janet Jones	Mark & Jodi Himmer

12/27	Ushers:	Chuck Rafferty, Dayle Moore
Worship United	Reader:	Diane Halvorson
10:00 am	Communion Assts:	Mary Borth, Linda Wenkel

There are volunteer opportunities to assist with screens at both worships each Sunday. Anyone, adults and youth, comfortable on a computer can easily learn. The sign-up clipboard is in the narthex. Contact the office with any questions.

NOTE to Youth: If you are looking for ways to earn hours towards the Messiah scholarship program, any of the above roles could be counted. Any questions, please check with the office.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship**	**2** 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	**3** 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	4 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 1:30 pm Greg's Book @ Messiah 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm **Worship** 6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes 6:30-8 pm High School Youth	**5** 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 pm Myra's Book @ Messiah	**6** 9:00 am – 5:00 pm A Fresh Start Fundraiser 6:00 pm Private Event	**7** 9:00 am – 1:00 pm A Fresh Start Fundraiser
8 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship** 4:15 pm Shelter Church	**9** 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Meeting 5:30 pm Council Meeting 5:45 pm Connections	**10** 9:00 am Margaret's Book @ Messiah 1:00 pm Lynn's Book @ Kimberly's	**11** 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm **Worship** 6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes 6:30-8 pm High School Youth	**12** 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 3:00 pm Outside Decorating 6:30 pm Myra's Book @ Messiah	**13**	**14** 3:15 pm – Youth Group @ Kato Escape Room
15 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship** Fair Trade Bazaar	**16** 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	**17** 1:00 pm Lynn's Book @ Kimberly's	**18** 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch 1:30 pm Greg's Book @ Messiah 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm **Worship** 6:30 pm PreK-8th Ed Classes 6:30-8 pm High School Youth	**19 OFFICE CLOSE** 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	**20 OFFICE CLOSE**	**21**
22 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship**	**23 OFFICE CLOSE** 9:00 am SAIL Group	**24** 5:45 pm Connections	**25** 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am GATHER & Lunch NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	**26 OFFICE CLOSED** **THANKSGIVING**	**27 OFFICE CLOSED**	**28**
29 8:30 am **Worship** 10:30 am **Worship**	**30** 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:30 am Social Outreach					

Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Kristy Tokheim, Youth Ministry: YouthDir@MessiahNorthMankato.com

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com

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Prayer List

Health & Healing Requests: Clara, Nancy, Brian, Ron, Joe, Swede, Jesse, Brian, Loren, Brooks, Jessica, Theresa, Mitchell
On-going Prayer Needs: Mollie, Carolyn, Craig, Earl, Neal, Heather, Greg, Carl, Dave, Jacob, Marya, Sandie, Kyla, Roz, Steve
Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Tyler, Cole, Kyra, Patrick, Addison
Prayers for the asylum-seeking family the Mankato Area ELCA churches are supporting.

Messiah Communication

Scan the QR code or click link to stay informed of Messiah news and events.
Click Here

Wednesday Worship - Live Band Leads Music -

Our multigenerational, brief Wednesday worship, will welcome a small group of musicians to lead some of our music! The group features Myra Kluck on keyboard, Charlie Landgraff on drums, and Gretta Gorman as our vocalist. Myra is a member of Messiah and has a life-time of musical experience. Charlie and Gretta are high school youth. We appreciate Cindy Rupp's leadership in forming the band and coaching them into their role as worship leaders.

Everyone is welcome at Wednesday worship, which begins at 6 p.m.
(Please note there will be no worship or evening activities on November 25th)