



MESSIAH
lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

Sharing the love of Jesus

August 2025

Share the Warmth—August 1st-31st

The cooler temperatures will be here before we know it. As the season changes, this is a great time to clean out those closets. We are looking for donations for **all ages** of new or clean, gently used items. Messiah partners with several locations in the area to distribute as needed. Items needed: coats, scarves, hats, boots, mittens, warm socks, sweaters.

Messiah Senior Lunch—August 12th

We are happy to offer **Benedict's** as our choice for the August 2025 lunch. We invite you to join us on Tuesday, August 12th at 11:30 am at this **new restaurant** located at 1107 Range St. in lower North Mankato. Benedicts offers an extensive menu of breakfast, brunch, and lunch items. The choices include varieties of Eggs Benedict, omelets, pancakes and other breakfast and brunch foods. Many items are on the menu for lunch foods such as sandwiches, burgers, salads, and soups. Check their online menu to see the wide variety of foods that are available.

This is a senior gathering for Messiah members and friends. Please join us for good food, fun, and lively conversation as we try this new restaurant. We have a reservation. We hope more men will also join our lunch group.

Prayer Shawl Ministry—August 16th

The Prayer Shawl Ministry team will meet Saturday, August 16th at 10:00 am in the Gathering Place. If you cannot attend this meeting and have completed a prayer shawl, please leave it in the Quilting Room with your name on it. If you are interested in joining, please come and learn more about it. You may join this ongoing ministry at any time. If you do not knit or crochet, someone will be happy to teach you. Call Alice K. at 387-4755 if you have questions.

Outdoor Worship—August 17th

Join us at **10:00 am on Sunday, August 17th** as we worship outdoors. Please bring your lawn chairs and find a great spot on the lawn to enjoy worship. **Rain Date:** Sunday August 24th at 10:00 am

Blessing of Learners and Educational Personnel —August 24th

Students from preschool to grad school and any who work in the field of education at any level (teachers, assistants, administrators, bus drivers, maintenance workers, etc) are invited to be present at either the 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, August 24th, for a blessing as a new school year begins.



Wonder-Full Wednesdays

Thru-August 13th | 6:00—7:30 pm

Gathings to stir a sense of awe, wonder and beauty

Wednesday Intergenerational Nature Walk

Locations announced on our Facebook page



For adults of all ages seeking more social interaction

Join us weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 for coffee

Stay for a free will offering lunch

If you need a ride, contact the church office.

Please sign up weekly in the Narthex or call the church office, so we can plan for lunch.

- A Message from LaDonna Thomas -

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

It takes at least a full year for a new pastor to settle in and really get to know a congregation. Each season of the church year has its traditions, practices and activities. In the first seven months of my time with you I've learned about Messiah's practices around the holidays of Christmas and Holy Week and Easter; the traditions around youth confirmation, recognition of graduates, the blessing of prayer shawls and quilts; recognizing faith formation across the age groups takes place; and, and the importance of "Fun Days"!

One of the questions new pastors seek to answer in the first year or so with a congregation is, "what is this congregation capable of?" You are answering that question in a ginormous way by your response to our "Paving the Way" capital campaign. In just three weeks, 93% of our \$192,000 goal has been met with direct cash donations and pledged amounts over the coming year (as of July 21). That is an amazing show of generosity, sacrifice, and commitment to maintaining the property from which we live out our mission to "share the love of Jesus." Well done members and friends of Messiah!

The successful direction in which this campaign is heading tells me we are capable of great things! If we can be that generous and sacrificial with our monetary resources, what might happen in mission and ministry if we are likewise generous and sacrificial in our generosity and sacrifice time, gifts and acts of service?

I can imagine the schedules of ushers, readers, communion assistants, Facebook and screen helpers filling with new names. I can imagine ordinary people stepping forward with offers to help with our young people and their classes on Wednesday evenings. I can imagine the committed, generous people cooking and serving the shelter meals, taking up knitting prayer shawls or helping to assemble quilts, participating with GATHER, or attending a Bible study when the fall schedule begins.

Perhaps, as this capital campaign draws to a close and we celebrate what great things we can do together, you can take this opportunity to consider if there are generous, committed, sacrificial acts of service you can offer as together we "Share the Love of Jesus." We are capable of so much, to the glory of God!

Gratefully,
Pastor LaDonna

"Pave the Way" Capital Campaign Update

We are pleased how the checks and pledges have come in for the Capital Campaign! We've not reached our goal yet but are optimistic we will reach it. You can check our progress on the thermometer in the Narthex. We committed to the down payment for the windows and may start on the other projects soon. Thank you for your sacrificial donations above and beyond your budgeted giving.



Blood Drive
Messiah Lutheran Church
Tuesday, August 26, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.



Fun Days 2025: It's a Wrap!

What amazing weather and great fellowship we had for North Mankato Fun Days 2025, held down at Wheeler Park in Lower North Mankato. Thank you to ALL who helped with planning, setting up, grilling, serving, scooping, greeting, cleaning, tearing down and financially supporting the Pie and Brat Stand.

Here are some FUN FACTS from Messiah's Pie and Brat Stand this year:

- In total, 81 pies were ordered for the 5 day event; Strawberry Rhubarb was the crowd favorite
- More than 8 gallons of giant pickles were purchased by our customers at \$1 per pickle
- Over 370 individuals were served on Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for the Special Needs Carnival - Thanks to Jody and Bernie Latulippe, Jean Zandstra and Naomi Zandstra-Langsjoen for working this shift!
- A Thrivent Action Team Kit was requested and granted for the Special Needs Carnival. Thank you THRIVENT!

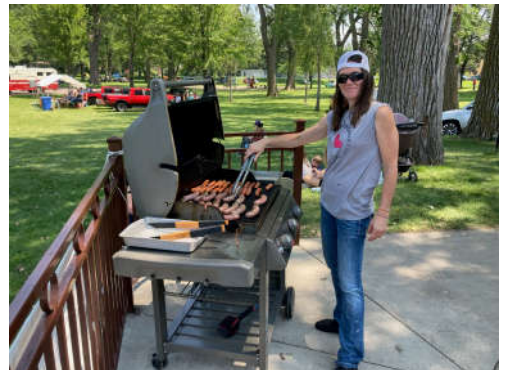
The gross income for the five days was over \$10,000. A full breakdown of costs and net income will be provided in the Annual Report.

SPECIAL NOTES: This fundraising event would not go nearly as smoothly if it were not for Amy in the church office. She was ALWAYS at the ready to assist with whatever was needed during the weeks leading up to AND during the week of Fun Days. Also, thanks to Dustin Runkle and crew (moving IN and OUT the large equipment), Greg Ous, Jim Jilek, Kim Henrickson, Janet Jones and Crystal Halstead. This year there were additional roles added called "Stand Managers". The following took on this role during Fun Days: Tricia Tobin, Naomi Zandstra-Langsjoen, Lauren Senden and Jan Waller. This event could not have been possible without your work and support!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for 2026

Fun Days is scheduled for July 8 - 12, 2026...SEE YOU THERE!!

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynell Senden



Special Thanks

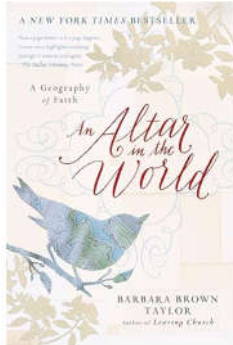
Our new property chair is Dustin Runkle. We welcome him and appreciate his willingness to take on this role. We also want to give a special thanks to Archie Kendall who has held this position for the last bunch of years. Your knowledge and helpful nature has been a blessing to this congregation.

A special shout-out to Jean Zandstra for going above and beyond this summer to get a Venmo/PayPal payment option made available for the Pie & Brat Stand. Now this feature can be made available for future activities.

FALL

Congregational Book Read—Coming Fall 2025

Our next congregational book: *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.



We will start this book reading/study in the Fall of 2025. The cost of the book is \$10.00. Reserve your copy today! Call or text Janet Jones 507-340-7093. We will set up small groups, decide on group facilitators and set our first meetings this fall. Please consider joining us in a study group and/or just reading the book.

In this New York Times bestseller, author Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey by building upon where she left off in *Leaving Church*. With the honesty of Elizabeth Gilbert (*Eat, Pray, Love*) and the spiritual depth of Anne Lamott (*Grace, Eventually*), Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life. In *An Altar in the World*, Taylor shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere

Choir Opportunities

The choir will rehearse on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 pm and will sing at Messiah Worships United on Sunday, August 31st at 10:00 am.

The choir will rehearse again at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 17th and 24th. We will share this music at the 10:00 am Messiah Worships United on Sunday, September 28th, as well as Sunday, October 26th at 2:00 pm at the “Piano Passion & More” event at Messiah.



God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday—September 28th

On September 28th the congregation will be celebrating “God’s Work. Our Hands” by gathering school supplies for teachers in North Mankato (Bridges, Hoover, Monroe, Dakota Meadows, and Futures). Teachers often run out of these necessities during the school year and end up purchasing more out of their own personal funds. Let’s come together to support them for the 2025-26 school year. Drop off supplies in the big wicker baskets in the sanctuary until September 28th. We will bless the supplies and assemble them into packages after worship as a congregational project.

Collect the following: Sticky back Velcro tape, laminating film, Sharpies (fine point & regular), white board markers, Ticonderoga pencils, pocket folders, stickers for kids.



Fall Faith Formation for Children and Youth

Parents of preschoolers—5th Grade, check your email or scan this QR code for a short survey being conducted to help determine the shape of our faith formation for the Fall. Your responses are important to our planning process! <https://forms.gle/1JYiJ76EDYGMzRVL6>.

Middle School Ministries (MSM)

Middle School Ministries for 6th, 7th and 8th graders will begin with an orientation for parents and students on Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm. The full Wednesday evening schedule begins on September 17th:

5:30 pm—meal

6:00 pm—worship

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

Families—watch for a mailing for registration details coming soon.

Everyone is welcome for the meal and worship, regardless of whether you have youth participating in MSM.

COUNCIL UPDATES

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

We were blessed with an awesome month of giving in June. Through June 2025 our tithes and offerings equal \$188,713 compared to \$169,789 this time last year. Expenses are at \$181,760 vs. \$173,919 in 2024. Therefore, our giving is \$18,924 above last year while expenses are \$7,840 higher. Through all of you, God continues to bless Messiah.

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

- Capital campaign has raised \$182,269 so far, moving forward with all three projects, skylights, HVAC, and parking lot.
 - We are trying to find a portable sound system for the gathering place.
 - A routine internal audit is in progress.
 - The new computer will be used for Facebook services this coming week.
 - PayPal account worked well for Fun Days, getting card readers to try to allow online payments for things at church.
 - We need musical support for Wednesday night worships this fall – contact Pastor LaDonna at the church office if you know someone who has keyboard/guitar/vocal experience.
 - Messiah will be providing hotdogs at Messiah to support North Mankato's "Picnic with First Responders" on Saturday, August 23rd, 4-7 pm. Contact Janet Jones 507-340-7093 or Greg Suskovic to help with grilling and serving food.
 - Upcoming: Sunday, September 28: Worship United: God's Work. Our Hands; October 26: Piano Passion & More.
 - A Fund has been set up to use for Capital improvements/maintenance.
 - If you have students in PreK-5th grade, please fill out a survey to help plan the best path forward.
 - Messiah has been invited to participate in the Mankato Pride Festival Parade on September 6 as a unified group with other area churches.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th at 6:30 pm. -

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.



Piano Passion & More

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 will be available in the coming weeks: Adults—\$20, 13-18 year olds—\$10, Children 12 and under—Free
All proceeds will go towards the Capital Campaign.

Change in Messiah Communication



Scan the QR code or click link to stay informed of Messiah news and events. If you previously received our weekly "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>

New Garden Additions

You may have noticed some new additions to Messiah's gardens this summer, located near the education wing door. These additions were completed by Malia Karau as her Eagle Project for Boy Scouts. The garden includes a red maple tree, several flowers to help attract pollinators, and an herb garden. The herbs are available for the congregation to pick and take home if they'd like. Pamphlets with more information on this project are at the front entrance.

August—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

- 8/3** **Ushers:** Rande Bowman & Greg Ous
Reader: Steve Lenz
Comm: Sylvia & Scott Norman
- 8/10** **Ushers:** Rande Bowman & Greg Ous
Reader: Greg Suskovic
Comm: Janet & Steve Jones
- 8/17** **Ushers:** Barb Pingel & Brad Heilman
Reader: Carla Butcher
Comm: Deb Leiferman & Diane Halvorson
- 8/24** **Ushers:** Barb Pingel & Brad Heilman
Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker
Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic
- 8/31** **Worship United**
at 10:00 am

8:30 Worship

- 9/7** **Ushers:** Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman
Reader: Sarah Suskovic
Comm: Mary Borth & Elaine Fossen
- 9/14** **Ushers:** Greg Guyer & Ron Leiferman
Reader: Renee Guyer
Comm: Breah Hendrickson & Linda Wenkel
- 9/21** **Ushers:** Les Altenburg & Scott Madigan
Reader: Kim Henrickson
Comm: Amy & Jeremy Soost
- 9/28** **Worship United**
at 10:00 am

8:30 Worship

- 10/5** **Ushers:** Kim Henrickson & Kyle Vogt
Reader: Linda Wenkel
Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer
- 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: Kathy & Carl Fitzloff
- 10/26** **Ushers:** Jeremy Soost & Steve Jones
Reader: Janet Jones
Comm: Sylvia & Scott Norman

10:00 Worship

- Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad
Jan Waller
Betty & Chuck Rafferty
- Bill Halstead & Mark Gulden
Lisa Benson
Sheryl Gulden & Judy Spencer
- Mark Himmer & Peter Skadah
Marlene Buker
Kara Pipes & Lauren Pipes
- Mark Himmer & Peter Skadah
Lucette Hurley
Marlene & Jim Jilek
- Ushers:** Dayle Moore & Paul Henkelman
Reader: Kimberly Moore
Comm: Lynn Klaber & Swede Mundell

10:30 Worship

- Chuck Rafferty & Frank Steichen
Kay Lund
Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
- Chuck Rafferty & Frank Steichen
Joan Klanderud
Lisa Benson & Marlene Buker
- Dave Dahl & Jim Jilek
Dee Nolan
Phyllis & Peter Skadah
- Ushers:** Dave Dahl & Jim Jilek
Reader: Diane Halvorson

10:30 Worship

- Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath
Jeff Pribyl
Deb & Frank Steichen
- Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath
Shirley Rosenau
Jodi & Mark Himmer
- Bob Rothenbuehler & Tim Hatlestad
Sandy Hatlestad
Karna & Doug Stock
- Bob Rothenbuehler & Tim Hatlestad
Eva Borneke
Betty & Chuck Rafferty

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon	2
3 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	4 9:00 am SAIL Group	5 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	6 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 6:00 pm Wonder-full Wednesday	7 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	8 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon	9 Private Event
10 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	11 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	12 11:30 am Monthly Lunchers 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting	13 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 6:00 pm Wonder-full Wednesday	14 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Meeting <i>Pastor LaDonna gone</i>
17 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship (OUTSTRE) <i>Pastor LaDonna on vacation</i>	18 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 am SAIL Group	19 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	20 10:30 GATHER & Lunch	21 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	22 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon	23 4-7:00 pm North Mankato Police "Picnic with a Cop"
24 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	25 9:00 am SAIL Group	26 1-6:00 pm Blood Drive 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	27 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 6:30 pm Choir Practice	28 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	29 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon	30
31 10:00 am Worship United (FB Live)						



Messiah Lutheran Church
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North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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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 & Prayers: Brooke, Lyndsey, Bonnie, Lisa, Greg, Dave, Milo, Clara, Maddie & Baby, Briana

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

Prayers of sympathy for Kim and Sherry Henrickson on the death of Kim's brother, Kirk, and Sherry's aunt, Helen.



Fall Worship Times and Office Hours

End of summer worship times will be 8:30 am and 10:00 am on Sunday, August 24th. Messiah will worship united on Sunday, August 31st at 10:00 am.

The office will be closed on Labor Day Monday, September 1st.

Fall hours start on Tuesday, September 2nd and will be Monday—Friday, 8:30 am—4:30 pm.

Fall worship schedule begins Sunday, September 14th with traditional at 8:30 am and contemporary at 10:30 am.

Sunday, September 28th is “God’s Work. Our Hands” day and we will worship united at 10:00 am with a service project afterwards. (see article within to learn more about this project)