



July 2022

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

50 Years! It's time to celebrate Messiah's 50th anniversary, and we will do so on July 31st. Look for all the details elsewhere in the newsletter, and make plans to join us.

Like any organization, Messiah has lots of stories from the last 50 years. Some are celebratory, some heartwarming, some painful or difficult. (Sounds like life in general, doesn't it?) It's been a privilege to hear many of these stories in the time that I've been your called pastor, and a privilege to be a part of the stories we've made from the last few years. Stories help us learn from and remember our past, and they are also a part of shaping the stories of our future. Let me explain.

In his book "Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory", Todd Bolsinger tells the story of Lewis and Clark. As we know, they set out to explore the Missouri River, hoping to find a water route that would connect the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. What they found was not what they expected. The assumptions that had been made were not only wrong; it also meant that a brand new plan needed to be put into place.

Bolsinger uses this illustration to encourage leaders to practice *adaptive leadership*, the kind of leadership that's needed when the old, or technical ways, are no longer effective. (An easy example of adaptive leadership would be all the things we had to start doing differently when the pandemic happened.) While there are many steps to and aspects of adaptive leadership, the piece that I want to focus on today is what Bolsinger calls a "recommitment to your core identity." That's where our stories become important.

To carry forward into the future an organization needs to be clear about the things that are essential to its identity. Who are we, why do we exist? As a church, we might ask what are we called to do, what purposes and principles are central to our identity, or even, what must we let go of to continue our mission? Stories help us answer those questions. For example, our geographical location is important – charter members helped start a community with our unique Lutheran identity in North Mankato because of the way the community was growing, and many of our members still call North Mankato home. Another example – I've always thought that the design of this building says a lot about who we are – it's functional and flexible, having been used in a variety of ways over the years. Nothing ornate or pretentious here! A lot like the people of Messiah, a lot like how we functioned through the pandemic, a lot like how we might want to continue to function into the future. See what I mean? One more example: I've heard a lot about the connections that this place had with a Native American reservation for many years. Although we no longer travel to South Dakota, there remains a strong sense of helping others, and it shows up in everything from serving meals and volunteering at the shelter to starting a scholarship fund, quilting, winter clothing donations, anonymous financial assistance....you get the idea! Stories from the past tell us that helping others is important to us, and knowing that helps us think about our future priorities and actions.

As we celebrate our past and share our stories in the next few weeks, listen carefully to them. Ask yourself, what do they tell us about this place and who we are, and what do they tell us about our future? What kinds of stories do we hope the people of Messiah will be telling in 2072? Happy 50th!

Summer 2022 Worship Themes

Yesterday's People, Today's Concerns: Lessons from People of the Bible

We know (most of) their names and stories, but instead of relegating them to the bookshelf, let's pull their stories out to revisit them and discover the lessons their experiences can offer us for our lives today.

July 3	"Zacchaeus Comes Down"	Luke 19:1-10	
July 10	"Miriam Dances"	Exodus 15:1-11, 20-21	with special sermon guest, Katelyn Soost
July 17	"Mary and Martha Serve"	Luke 10:38-42	pulpit supply, Ben Geer
July 24	"Deborah Leads"	Judges 4:1-7	
July 31	Messiah's 50 th Anniversary Celebration!		



50th Anniversary Celebration

We will celebrate Messiah's 50th Anniversary on Sunday, July 31st at 10:00 am. On this day, we will gather for Messiah Worships United, enjoy great music, a meal, a bounce house, and look back on 50 years of spiritual growth and fellowship; Bishop's Assistant, Matt Larson, from the SE MN Synod will also join us. We've invited all of Messiah's former pastors and if you know of other people who have been a part of Messiah's history, be sure to let them know when the celebration is. The Music Festival will feature the band, keyboard, bell choir, and Messiah Choir. Picnic includes brats, beef hot dogs, veggie burgers, fruit, chips and dessert.

Choir Practice

50th Anniversary Celebration



Please join us for choir practice on Wednesday, July 27th at 6:30 pm as we prepare for the 50th Anniversary Celebration / Messiah Worships United service that will be held on Sunday, July 31st at 10:00 am. We would love to have a large group gathered to celebrate with songs from throughout Messiah's 50 years. Bring your friend, partner, spouse, child and/or parent. Everyone is welcome!

North Mankato Fun Days



The 2022 Fun Days is just days away— July 6-10. Lynell and Jim Senden are heading up the stand this year. We still need volunteers for the Pie & Brat Stand. Check out the volunteer sign-up link <https://signup.com/go/etfjqpU> to plan for the dates and times that work best for you. There are also sign-up sheets in the Narthex if you'd like to sign-up that way. Bring a friend to volunteer with you.

We decided for this year, we will not be handing out candy or having walkers.

Watch for the Messiah float— we don't know our unit # yet, but we'll be there!

2020 Roadmap Meeting Update

Council and congregational leaders met in June to formulate a “roadmap” of goals and action steps for the Messiah community to undertake over the next several months. The work is not yet finalized, with one more meeting scheduled. A complete summary of this work will be available later in July but in the meantime, we wanted to bring to everyone an overview of the work that has been done.

First, the values of the community, originally identified in early 2020, were updated and are now:

1. Deepen people’s relationships with God and learn to share the love of Jesus.
2. Build strong relationships with one another.
3. Be a positive force in the community.

We also updated Messiah’s strengths and aspirations, found reason to celebrate happenings from the pandemic years and identified the things that have changed since the first roadmap from 2020 was created. We will be interested in your feedback when the full report is published!

Perhaps most importantly, we identified and are working on finalizing four goals (actions) that we will be focused on in the coming months. These actions include:

- 1) a once a month “come to church early and bring our own coffee” time, complete with name tags so that we get to know each other better or get reacquainted;
- 2) holding a “Rally Sunday” in September to share the needs of the community and opportunities for involvement, including encouraging members to complete a “Gifts and Opportunities” inventory;
- 3) exploring ways to better connect with our on-line worshipping community and
- 4) developing a variety of opportunities that are focused on discovering and keeping “hope” in this new world we now inhabit.

Watch for the details to be finalized and shared soon, and be ready to help us achieve those goals.

FOCP—STOMP Volunteers



Messiah has signed up to help with FOCP – STOMP (the SummerTime Outreach Meal Program). Thank you to all the volunteers—the summer is off to a great start!

Even though the STOMP volunteer needs have been filled, there are always opportunities available to participate in. https://www.feedingourcommunitiespartners.org/volunteer_focp.html



Anti-Racism Team Meeting

The Anti-Racism Team will meet again on Thursday, July 14th at 6:30 pm to continue the study of the ELCA Declaration for People of African Descent—“Now Is The Time”. We will recap session 2 and begin session 3. Each session has short stories to read and discuss together. Instead of reading the stories aloud together during the meeting, we thought we could all read them on our own and discuss them together. If possible, please read 14-16 of the document before our next meeting. The study guide can be [found online here](#) or call the office to send to you.

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries—Quilt Auction

The 38th annual Green Lake Quilt Auction will be held on July 22 and 23, 2022. For more specific information, visit <https://www.gllm.org/quilt-auction.html>.

Youth Activities

Service and Sun—July 5-8, 2022

Service & Sun will be a combination of the past's Wacky Doodle & Mission Mankato. There are plans of volunteering for Kiwanis Lights, Lutheran World Relief, and Fun Days as well as fun trips to Gaylord Water Park, Air Insanity, and the SPAM Museum, and Valleyfair.

High School Youth Trip

The high school youth trip is from July 24-29th at Camp Amnicon in Wisconsin. They will have a canoe and camping adventure on the Flambeau River Ramble. ****We do still have 2 spots available if anyone is interested in coming on this trip.**** Please contact Pastor Trish with any questions.

On Sunday, July 24th at the 10:00 am worship, we will have a send-off blessing. Please keep this group in your prayers: Kara Pipes (chaperone), Autumn & Ashley Pipes, Jillian & Steven Olsen, AJ Tobin, Emma Tokheim, and Katelyn Soost.

Vacation Bible School 2022

This year's VBS was fun for all at Messiah and Christ the King. We had a great group of camp counselors from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries leading activities. Thanks to all the volunteers during the week!



Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Opportunities

Weekend retreats by teens, for teens ... with Christ!

Open to students grades 9-12. Go to www.southern tec.org for more information and to register or see Pastor Trish.

July 14-17 Evangel UMC in Rochester

October 20-23 Bethlehem Lutheran in Mankato

Sunday School Teachers this Fall

Messiah is committed to sharing the love of Jesus with people of all ages. Last year Messiah welcomed 5 children into the Lord's family by baptism, 9 children received their First communion and 3 third graders received their bibles. In December the Sunday School children told the Christmas story "Who's Birthday is it Anyway?" Families participated in 2 interactive lessons with Pastor Trish. We meet weekly, September through May, for 1 hour. The children learn songs, focus on a new bible verse each week, play with their friends and make crafts.

In order to continue the good works, we are asking the congregation for members to serve as teachers, co-teachers, and volunteers to provide hands-on lessons. Curriculum, supplies and support from Heather and Amy are provided.

The last couple years our middle school and high school volunteers have been invaluable and have stepped up to serve as teachers. We are looking for volunteers of all ages to work with our student volunteers and serve as teachers. We understand that your time is valuable—the more volunteers we have, the more flexible we can be with you.

Members of the Sunday School team will visit with the congregation in the weeks to come. Prayerfully consider volunteering your time to help the children of Messiah. Contact the church office with questions.

*"There are always some incredible life lessons that we as adults can learn from children to lead a more enriching and fulfilling life."
- unknown -*

Prayer Pillows for Sunday School



Our youngest Sunday School children have always been excited to receive a Prayer Pillow at church for many years. Due to COVID, we took a break, and a few years worth of kids haven't been able to receive one. We would like to continue with this faith formation yearly event with the coming school year. With that, we are looking for some volunteers willing to share their time and sewing talents to help make pillows. If this is something that would interest you, please contact the office.



Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary

Jacque and Roger Menk will be celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on July 14th.

Congratulations!

BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, August 25, 2022 - 12:30-5:30 pm at Messiah

Sign up by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter MESSIAHKATOMN as the location to schedule your appointment.

Maximize your blood donation & help more patients. If you're an eligible type O, B-, or A- donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

CHURCH COUNCIL

June Meeting Highlights

- The council approved the May financials—our total income was \$21,189 and expenses were \$27,580 resulting in expenses over income of \$6,390. Year-to-date expenses are over income by \$15,529. The Messiah Council encourages members to note the current financial picture for the church, with TYD expenses outpacing income. We have had some increased expenses that are part of “returning to normal” and everyone is aware of inflationary issues. Members of the council want to thank you for your ongoing giving to this ministry, and to encourage your ongoing or additional gifts.
- Property Committee—Outdoor lights have been updated to LED with free lift up from the City of NM. Gazebo tarps have been put in place to reduce wind during outdoor worship. Residential dishwasher will be purchased with generous donations.
- Fellowship and Rec Committee—Fun Days planning is going well. Due to some supply chain issues, food has been ordered in advance.
- Church directory sign-up is up and running with hopes to get as many members signed up to get portraits.
- Decision to have Rally Sunday on September 11th—more specifics to come
- July Council meeting will be Sunday, July 10th after 10:00 am worship. There will be no meeting in August.

Pastor Trish Vacation

Pastor Trish will be on vacation July 11-20. Victor Dave Reedstrom will cover any emergencies while she is gone. Contact the office for any questions.

Ways to Give Online

How to give online:

1. Scan this QR code:



2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com

- > Click on “OFFERING” on the homepage, 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 account

Know your gift is appreciated and helps support the ministry of Messiah.

COVID-19 Update

There are no recommendations for masking or social distancing being implemented at this time.

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Office Closed @ Noon	2
3 Communion 8:30 am Indoor Worship (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band)	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	6 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	7 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows	8 Office Closed @ Noon	9 11:00 am Fun Days Parade
<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> MIDDLE SCHOOL—SERVICE & SUN </div> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> NORTH MANKATO FUN DAYS 7/6—7/10 </div>						
10 Communion 8:30 am Indoor Worship & Sweet Adeline's Sing (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band) 11:00 am Council Meeting	11 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	12	13 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	14 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners 6:30 pm Anti-Racism Team	15 Office Closed @ Noon	16
<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> PASTOR TRISH VACATION 7/11—7/20 </div>						
17 Communion 8:30 am Indoor Worship (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band)	18 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 pm 4H Meeting	19	20 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	21 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 11:00 am N. Mankato Police Dept. Community Outreach Meeting	22 Office Closed @ Noon	23
24 Communion 8:30 am Indoor Worship (FB also) 10:00 am Outdoor Worship Youth Group Blessing (band)	25 9:00 am SAIL Group	26 10:30 am Staff Meeting	27 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace Worship 6:30 pm Choir Practice for 50th Anniversary	28 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	29 Office Closed @ Noon 4:00 pm Private Event	30
<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> WILDERNESS ADVENTURE TRIP </div>						
31 Communion 10:00 am Outdoor Worship (band) 50th Anniversary Celebration						<div style="border: 2px solid orange; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> You are welcome to join a bible study anytime! </div>



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www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

Please Pray For...

In our thoughts and prayers: Ben K, Craig V, Dave C, Earl W, Judy F, Milt H, Sharen O, Dan and family, Millie, Arthur, Tom, Pam, Jerry, Bob G, Lois S, Sally M, Gary K, Axel, Harriet, Calvin, Steve

Those who serve our country: Dan P, Derek M, Carley, Alex

Prayers of Sympathy for Earl and Margaret Westphal on the death of Earl’s sister.

Prayers of Sympathy for Swede Mundell on the death of his uncle, Glen Bandel of Iowa.

July Worship Participants

If you are unable to serve as scheduled please call the church office or Linda Wenkel (345-6180) to identify a substitute or get help finding a substitute. Thank you!

July	8:30 AM	10:00 AM
7/3	Usher: Kyle Vogt & Greg Ous Reader: Linda Wenkel	Dave Dahl & Bill Halstead April Rosendale
7/10	Usher: Kyle Vogt & Greg Guyer Reader: Renee Guyer	Bob Rothenbuehler Kay Lund
7/17	Usher: Steve Jones & Scott Madigan Reader: Sarah Suskovic	Jim Jilek, Jon & Jeran Karau Jan Waller
7/24	Usher: Steve Jones & Scott Madigan Reader: TBD	Jim Jilek, Jon & Jeran Karau Joan Klanderud
7/31	Messiah Worship United at 10 am	Dayle/Kimberly Moore & Karla Elmore Lynn Klaber



Worship Schedule

Sundays

8:30 am—Indoor Worship

10:00 am—Outdoor Worship