

July 2023

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

- Summer at Messiah -



North Mankato Fun Days—Pie & Brat Stand

North Mankato Fun Days is July 6-9, 2023. Sign-up sheets to work the Pie and Brat Stand are available in the narthex or online <https://signup.com/go/tRhCgMW>. This opportunity is available for anyone ages 13+ and a great way to get scholarship service hours. For questions, contact the church office or text Lynell Senden @ 507-380-1483.

Worship in July

On July 2, 9 and 16 we will continue with the lectionary that we began in June, with readings from Genesis as well as a psalm and the gospel reading. The Genesis stories we will hear in July include the “binding” of Isaac and Abraham’s response, followed by the story of Isaac and Rebekah. We will finish with Jacob and Esau, their sons. These are the first four generations of the community of people that God called to be a particular community and witness to God’s creation and work. Each of the stories offer a sense of both humanity’s limits and fallibilities as well as God’s unfailing love and faithfulness.

On July 23, please welcome Pastor Carl Bruhler while Pastor Trish is away for continuing education and a few days of vacation. Pastor Carl is a retired pastor whose last call was at First Lutheran in LeSueur, and this will be his first visit to Messiah. Please give him a warm Messiah welcome!

Finally, mark your calendars for a very special day on Sunday, July 30th. It’s a 5th Sunday, and we will have a Messiah Worships United service at 10:00 am in the GATHERING PLACE (note the change of location!). On this day, Katelyn Soost, a soon-to-be junior at Nicollet High School will be joining Pastor Trish for some conversations and stories as part of our worship service (and yes, there will be time for interaction and fellowship as well!) Watch for a few treats, too! But you will NOT want to miss hearing Katelyn’s story and witness – we look forward to seeing you!

Worship Time and Location

In July we will continue our practice and tradition of having our 8:30 am traditional worship inside and our 10:00 am contemporary worship outside in the yard – weather permitting. Please note that due to staffing issues, BOTH services will be INDOORS on Sunday, July 2nd. The 10:00 am service will also include the baptisms of Dev and Kavi Skadah, grandchildren of Peter and Phyllis Skadah. The Sweet Adelines will also grace us with song at the 8:30 service on July 9th. Then, on Sunday, July 30th we will have a Messiah Worships United Service INDOORS at 10:00 am. It will be a UNIQUE service: look for more details elsewhere in the newsletter!

For our musicians in July, we will be welcoming Holly Havemeier to our 8:30 services on July 16 and 23 while Barb is on vacation, and welcoming Noah Wilson back for our 10:00 service on July 23 while Cindy is away. In addition, Barb will be providing the music for our Messiah Worships United service on July 30.

- A Message from Pastor Trish -

As Christians, we recognize that we live as both baptized children of God as well as citizens of a particular nation. In our case of course, we are citizens of the United States, and on July 4th we always celebrate our foremost national holiday, Independence Day. Often, on the Sunday closest to this holiday many like to see and hear expressions of our national pride as part of our worship service – symbols, prayers, music – but many pastors, myself included, struggle with the appropriateness of these actions. Why?

Let's start with the ways we DO recognize our dual identity as children of God and citizens of this country. Most obvious is the fact that we pray for our country and our world every week in the Prayers of the Church. Often those prayers lift up the work of our elected leaders or include places and areas of conflict. Many times, the prayers are for us, as citizens of a country, to care for our fellow citizens, especially for those who exist on the margins of our society. You might also hear and pray prayers for upcoming elections or political decisions that are being made, but you won't hear prayers for specific candidates running for election or for elected leaders to vote a certain way. In this manner we recognize our existence, identity and participation in a particular country and government, but do it in ways that allow for the diverse opinions and ideas of its many citizens.

We also have a national flag in the sanctuary, along with the Christian flag. Some churches have such flags on display because the church is identified with a particular state or nation (Church of England is Anglican, Church of Norway is Lutheran, etc.) We do not have a state church of course. However, the American flag is a powerful symbol carrying enormous emotional meaning, especially for veterans and families that have sacrificed loved ones in wars and conflicts. It can also carry great political significance as a symbol of what citizens consider amiss with our nation. In our country, the history of displaying a national flag often dates back to a time when immigrants felt the need to show unwavering loyalty to their new country, especially when they were still worshipping in their native languages. How do you think the display of a flag continues to make sense and provide meaning in the 21st century? Is a national symbol such as the flag the same as a Christian symbol such as bread and wine or the cross? Does it matter that a Christian symbol is "transcultural" (recognized around the globe) while a national symbol is not?

And then there's music. Singing is an integral part of every worship service, offering us opportunity to praise God in a communal activity and contributing to our spiritual formation. The words we sing are important, as music serves the Word of God, our sacraments, and shapes and carries our prayers. Should we sing patriotic songs in church? The ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship - our church hymnal) has a section of "national songs" that includes "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" and "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory". Often these songs have historical significance, and have historically been sung or even created specifically for worship services. Just like the flag – does that still make sense in 2023? What is our intent in singing a patriotic song, and what should our intent be? Do the songs offer adoration of country or adoration of God? Are they sung in prayer, and if so, what is our prayer? What is the relevance of the songs to the Word of God that has been heard that day, or should we just sing them because it's a national holiday?

You've probably noticed I'm asking many more questions than providing answers. Hopefully, these questions offer an opportunity to better understand why these discussions are often a struggle for churches and church leaders. In any case, I do expect that on July 2nd and any other Sunday close to a patriotic holiday some will be happy with what is and isn't seen and heard and said in worship that day and others will be unhappy. After all, living as both members of the Church and citizens of a country has its challenges. But as we remember that Martin Luther wrote in regards to the first commandment that "We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things", we will work to focus first on the eternal presence of Christ that extends beyond all nations.

For more information, check the ELCA web site for much more information such as https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Principles_for_Worship.pdf or <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/FAQ>

Continuing Education

Like most professions, Pastor Trish is required to do continuing education training every year, and this year, she will be at the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Phoenix AZ July 17-20. This is a gathering of rostered leaders from across the country, and just the second time such a gathering has occurred. The week will include morning worship along with Bible study and keynote speakers. Afternoons are set aside for workshops and caucuses. Want to know more about how your pastor and others will be spending their time? Check it out at <https://www.elca.org/rmg>

Feeding the Homeless this Summer

Messiah will be helping feed the homeless this summer on Sunday evenings at 4:30 at Grace Lutheran Church. We will be serving July 2nd, August 6th and September 3rd. Let Barb Meier or the church office know if you are interested in making sandwiches or serving. Also let us know if you are interested in donating food or money to this ministry.

Youth Summer Activities

SERVICE & SUN

DETAILS: We will begin each day at 8:00 am at Messiah. Pick-up time is 5:00 pm for Monday and Tuesday (watch for more info for Wednesday). Bring a water bottle and lunch. For those still needing to pay (\$50) bring a check payable to *Christ the King* on Monday, July 10th.

Valleyfair

August 9th from 9:00 am—5:00 pm.

Open to all students grades 6-12. Cost is \$45 (ticket & transportation) Additional money needed for snacks. Registration deadline is July 26, 2023. (One or more chaperones will be needed as Pastor Trish is on vacation.) This event is collaborative with the other ELCA churches in Mankato and Eagle Lake. Friends are welcome!

Vacation Bible School

Messiah joined other area ELCA churches at Christ the King for VBS in June. Counselors from Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp lead the kids in worship and fun. We had a great group of Messiah volunteers helping throughout the week as well.



Attention Singers

Choir practice will resume later this summer. We will be singing on Rally Sunday, September 10th, during our music festival at 10:00 am. We will also be singing for the Christmas Eve worships. More details about dates and times will be coming soon.

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, August 29, 2023 from 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Messiah is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, August 29th from 1-6 pm. Sign up at: www.redcrossblood.org Code: MESSIAHKATOMN

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.

From the Church Council ...

—June Highlights—

Stewardship & Finance: As of May 31st, contributions are at 42% of budget compared to 40% of the average of the past 2 years. Our YTD income is -\$13,576 behind expenses compared to -\$15,529 last year and an average of -\$5,450 for the last 2 years. Year-to-date, we have spent \$19,660 on snow removal compared to an average of \$7,192 for the last 2 years.

Council approved to replace a boiler and some AC units. New discussion and approval for updated Sunday School materials to be purchased for 5th grade.

Next council meeting will be Sunday, August 6th after 10:00 am worship.

Generous Donation to Messiah Scholarship Fund

The Messiah community has been blessed with an extremely generous donation of \$20,000 to the Messiah Scholarship Fund. This anonymous donor is not a Messiah member, but heard about the scholarship program through a member. This large gift will help keep the scholarship fund strong and allow us to continue helping our youth in furthering their education for years to come. Thank you to all who've contributed to this worthy mission.

Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*
2. Visit our website at messiahnorthmankato.com
 - > Click on "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.



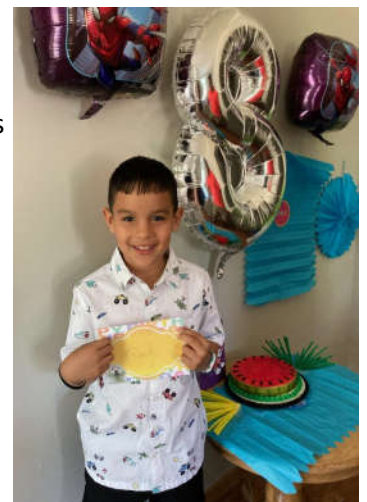
Office Changes

Starting in August, we will begin a yearlong transition in the church office in preparation for Jan's retirement next year. Jan will reduce her hours from 40 to 30 and Amy will increase her hours from 25 to 35. The next year will be spent training and transitioning duties to Amy. Both Amy and Jan are excited about the change! Watch for a new schedule for both in the August newsletter.

Refugee Support Fundraiser—Moon Dogs July 20th



Join us for an evening with the Moon Dogs on July 20th. Gates open at 5:35 pm and First Pitch is at 6:35 pm. Purchase your tickets by scanning the QR code to the left and use Promo Code: WELCOME or come into the office. Tickets are \$16 which includes game and a meal (hot dog, chips and soda). Half of the ticket price will go to our refugee support fund for the Cruz family!



Your Memoir; Their Cherished Memory

Would you like to share “your story” with those whose lives you have touched? Would you like your children, family, or loved ones to remember special things about you? Would you like this story in a paper copy that you can touch, feel and read. A memoir of your life can be a cherished document for those that love you.

I am a newcomer to Messiah and am volunteering to help you with just this! I am retired from counseling, education, and coaching and have a passion for writing stories such as yours! I will talk with you and guide you to the information you want known about of your life. I will then write your story and you will decide how it is shared!

Please contact Pastor Trish if interested and she will put us in touch with each other!

- Kate Simonson

HOPening Weekend Photos

Thanks to everyone who joined in the activities and volunteered their time and talents to make this weekend a success.



Fall Activities—Mark Your Calendars

- ⇒ **Wednesday, September 6th**—Middle School Ministries (MSM) Orientation
- ⇒ **Sunday, September 10th**—Rally Sunday and Music Festival
- ⇒ **Wednesday, September 13th**—Dinner, Worship, MSM Class time begins
- ⇒ **Sunday, September 18th**—First day of Sunday School
- ⇒ **Sunday, October 22nd**—Messiah’s fall concert and dinner fundraiser, featuring Cindy Rupp and Noah Wilson

Worship Participants and Communion Assistants

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

**Please note 10:00 am worship for the summer is outdoors (weather permitting), except July 2nd & 30th will be indoors.*

	8:30 am	10:00 am (Outdoors Weather Permitting)*
7/2*	Ushers: Scott Madigan & Les Altenburg Reader: Georgia Holmes Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: Steve Jones	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Shirley Rosenau Darci Karau & Peter Skadah TBD (call office if interested) TBD (call office if interested)
7/9	Ushers: Scott Madigan & Less Altenburg Reader: Linda Wenkel Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Mike Hanson FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Jon Karau & Jeran Karau Marlene Buker Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler TBD (call office if interested)
7/16	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Kyle Vogt Reader: Chuck Dulas Comm: Judy Funk & Elaine Fossen FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: Greg Ous	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Sandy Hatlestad Jodi Himmer & Shawna Merrill TBD (call office if interested)
7/23	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Kyle Vogt Reader: Kim Henrickson Comm: Sarah & Greg Suskovic FB Live: TBD (call office if interested) Screens: Greg Guyer	Bill Halstead & Tim Hatlestad Eva Borneke Deb & Frank Steichen TBD (call office if interested)
7/30*	Messiah Worships United INDOORS TODAY at 10:00 am	Ushers: Steve Lenz & Bill Halstead Reader: Lynn Klaber Comm: Marlene Buker & Jan Waller
	8:30 am	10:00 am (Outdoors Weather Permitting)
8/6	Ushers: Rande Bowman & Jeremy Soost Reader: Amy Soost Comm: Steve Lenz & Diane Halvorson FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Peter Skadah Shirley Rosenau Lisa Benson & Peggy Mowery TBD (call office if interested)
8/13	Ushers: Rande Bowman & Jeremy Soost Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker Comm: Cheryl Christofferson & Linda Wenkel FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Peter Skadah Shawna Merrill Dee Nolan & Jodi Himmer TBD (call office if interested)
8/20	Ushers: Steve Jones & Chuck Dulas Reader: Diane Halvorson Comm: Jane & Paul Zweig FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Dayle Mooer & Bob Rothenbuehler Lisa Benson Phyllis & Peter Skadah TBD (call office if interested)
8/27	Ushers: Steve Jones & Chuck Dulas Reader: Linda Wenkel Comm: Janet Jones & Elaine Fossen FB Live: Steve Reedstrom Screens: TBD (call office if interested)	Dayle Mooer & Bob Rothenbuehler Jeff Pribyl Kara Pipes & Judy Spencer TBD (call office if interested)

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30 am Traditional Worship Indoor (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/ band INDOOR today	3 9:00 am SAIL Group	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	6 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Monarch Meadows <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> North Mankato Fun Days—Pie & Brat Stand </div>	7 Office Closed @ noon	8
9 8:30 am Traditional Worship Indoor (FB Live) w/ Sweet Adelines 10:00 am Worship w/ band Outdoor <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Fun Days </div>	10 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Meeting	11 1:30 pm NO Staff Meeting	12 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	13 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:15 am STOMP	14 Office Closed @ noon	15
16 8:30 am Traditional Worship Indoor (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/ band Outdoor <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Service & Sun 8:00 am—5:00 pm </div>	17 9:00 am SAIL Group	18 1:30 pm NO Staff Meeting	19 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	20 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	21 Office Closed @ noon	22 10 am-4 pm Private Event
23 8:30 am Traditional Worship Indoor (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/ band Outdoor <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor Trish Off July 17-25 </div>	24 9:00 am SAIL Group	25 1:30 pm NO Staff Meeting	26 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 2:30 pm Oak Terrace	27 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:15 am STOMP	28 Office Closed @ noon	29
30 10:00 am Worship UNITED INDOOR (FB Live)	31 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:00 am Pathstone					



Messiah Lutheran Church
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Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

Please Pray For...

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Craig V, Earl W, Judy F, Arthur H, Sally M, Mike F, Heather S, Trudy N, Mike T, Linda R, Bonnie O, Patty A, Neal L, Lowell R, Tom T, Emma M, Bill, Barb A

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Carley, Alex

Prayers for the refugee family we are assisting: Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil

Prayers of Sympathy for Sandy Dahms on the death of her brother-in-law, Rodney Dahms.

Prayers of Sympathy for Kara Pipes, Tricia Tobin and their families on the death of their father, Bob Anderson.

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction – July 21st and 22nd

For more information on the 39th annual Green Lake Quilt Auction, click here: <https://www.gllm.org/quilt-auction.html>

Free TV Available

If you or someone you know is in need of a 27" flat screen TV and can't afford one, please contact the office. A member of Messiah has one available.

Summer Office Hours

Monday-Thursday > 8:30 am-4:30 pm
 Friday > 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Summer Worship Times

8:30 am—Traditional Indoors
 10:00 am—Contemporary Outdoors

Note: July 2nd will be INDOORS at 10:00 am

Messiah Worships United—INDOORS—July 30th at 10:00 am