



MESSIAH  
lutheran church

*Sharing the love of Jesus*

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

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

The last Sunday of this month ushers us into one of the most holy and sacred times of the year, Holy Week. It begins with our celebration of Palm Sunday on March 29. On that day we recall how Jesus entered Jerusalem, hailed as Messiah and King with shouts of praise and streets laden with palm branches on his path.

Many Biblical scholars agree, Jesus was not the only one making a grand entrance that day. On the other side of town, coming from the direction of Rome, was a military procession, led by Pontius Pilate and his army. Riding on warhorses, in metal armor for protection, wielding weapons of war, their presence intended to remind the locals of Rome's domineering power and to quell any ideas about rebellion. The military procession was meant to insure the abusive status quo of Rome.

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, from the other side of town, meant to draw a contrast between the Empire of Rome and the Kingdom of God. Jesus entered into Jerusalem in humility, riding on a small donkey, not a warhorse. Jesus came as a suffering servant, not a self-centered, corrupt, abusive power. Jesus secured peace through love, not by the power of the sword. Jesus' kingdom lived out the values that fed the hungry, clothed the naked, healed the sick, visited prisoners, and welcomed the stranger. That was in opposition to the empire of Rome that let the hungry starve, the sick die, the prisoners forgotten, and the stranger cast out.

That day in Jerusalem, Jesus and those who believed in him went "public." The celebration was not confined to a temple or some other religious space. It was in the streets. The crowds gave a public witness about who Jesus was and what his kingdom was about as they praised him and waved their palm branches.

This Palm Sunday in Mankato and in cities across the United States, many Christians will once again go "public". In public we will give witness to Jesus as the humble suffering servant who lived out the values of love, compassion, healing and welcome and that those who follow him are called to the same life of humble serving with love, compassion, healing and welcome for all.

It's called the Palm Sunday Path and will take place the afternoon of March 29th in the afternoon. It is being organized by local clergy from several denominations. Details of what this ecumenical event will look like in Mankato are still being formed, but an information session for those who may be interested in participating will take place on Sunday, March 15th, following worship. Please watch our weekly announcements for the specifics, as they become available. For now, mark the date on your calendar and plan to join your Christian neighbors as we, like those first followers of Jesus, go public with our palms, our praises and our commitments to follow in the humble, loving ways of Jesus.

God's peace,

*Pastor LaDonna*

NEWSLETTER

MARCH  
2026

## Messiah Senior Lunch Group

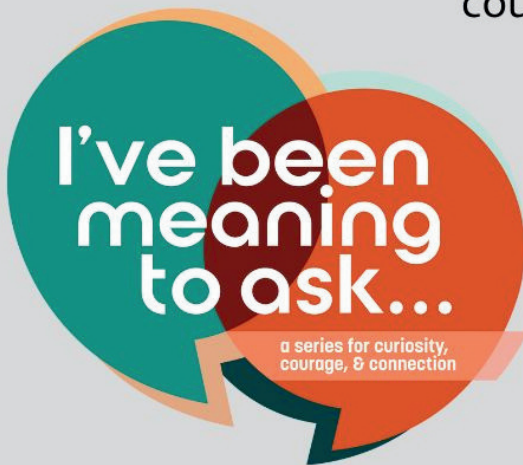
Happy Chef is our choice for the Messiah March Lunch. You are invited you to join us on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 11:30 am. The restaurant is located on Hwy 169, North Mankato, and on the West of the road as you are heading towards the Twin Cities. Check their online menu to see the nice selection of foods that you can select. Happy Chef offers a wide variety of foods for breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinners. They also have "Daily Specials" and "Senior meal prices. We hope you can join us for lunch in March.

This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. Join us for good food, fun, and wonderful conversation.

## Wednesdays in Lent

### WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Join us for an evening of  
delicious **soup**,  
creative **worship** and  
courageous **conversations**



**Soup supper** 5:15-6:00 p.m.

**Worship** 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Led by PastorLaDonna and  
pastors from area Lutheran churches

Children dismissed from worship to  
classes at 6:30 p.m.

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

## Sundays in Lent

For the Lenten season, we have moved to one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. We'll return to a two-service format at the start of the Easter Season.

## Special Congregational Meeting

Join the church council for a special congregational meeting on **Sunday, March 22nd** after the 9:30 am worship service. The congregation will review the updates to Messiah's Constitution and vote. Copies of the constitution are available in the narthex.

## Lenten Collections for LSS Youth Resource Center of Mankato

Collecting the following items from  
March 1st through Palm Sunday, March 29th.

City Bus Passes, Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Lotion,  
and Specialized "Texture" Hair Products for people of color  
There is also an Amazon Wish List if interested: [click here](#).



**Lutheran  
Social Service**  
of Minnesota

## Messiah Kids / Club Messiah Updates

**Through March 25<sup>th</sup>** there will be a Lenten Soup Supper from 5:15 - 6:00 pm. Lenten worship led by Pastor LaDonna and other local ELCA pastors from 6:15 - 7:00 pm. Messiah Kids and Club Messiah students will be dismissed from worship at 6:30 so they can have their class-time from 6:30 - 7:00 pm.

### **Attention 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Families:**

Mark your calendars for First Communion on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30 am worship united service.

## MSM Updates

**Through March 25<sup>th</sup>** there will be a Lenten Soup Supper from 5:15 - 6:00 pm. Lenten worship led by Pastor LaDonna and other local ELCA pastors from 6:15 - 7:00 pm. MSM students will have their class-time from 7:00 - 7:30 pm.

**Attention 8th Grade Families:** important Affirmation dates coming up

- April 4th from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm - Retreat with Pastor LaDonna and Design Stoles for Affirmation
- May 3rd @ 10:30 am - Affirmation of Baptism

## Connections Volunteers Needed

The 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. Please see sign-up sheets for the coming month in the narthex 2-3 weeks prior to the serving dates: **March 19th and 21st**. There is one additional date for the winter season: April 20 & 21. Contact Barb Meier with questions.

## Gather

For adults of all ages seeking more social interaction, join us weekly on **Wednesdays at 10:30 am** for coffee and a free will offering lunch. If you need a ride, contact Barb Meier.

## God's work. Our hands.

This is a series highlighting some of Messiah's members who are generous with their time, skills, energy, leadership, and creativity. Each person answers the same two questions: What gifts have God given you, and how have you been able to make use of these gifts at Messiah and in the community.

This month Steve Lenz answers these questions.

I think the gifts God has given me are fairly simple ones: a willingness to show up, to listen, and to care about whether people feel welcomed and at ease. At Messiah, I've tried to use those gifts in quiet, practical ways—counting offerings, ushering, reading scripture, singing in the choir, and helping lead our worship through the liturgy and hymns. Over the years, using my voice in worship has also helped me grow more comfortable speaking before others, which has been a gift in itself. I've also been grateful to support the church financially, knowing that stewardship is part of sustaining a faith community.

Beyond the church, I served for many years on the Blue Earth County Community Corrections Advisory Board, including time as chair, as one way to give back to the wider community. What matters most to me is helping Messiah be a place where people feel noticed, welcomed, and able to breathe--a place where we can unburden ourselves, worship together, and be reminded that we belong.

What are Your gifts, and how do you share the love of Jesus at Messiah and in the community?

## Congregational Book Read

Groups have been formed to start the next Congregational Book Read featuring \*An Altar in the World\* by Barbara Brown Taylor. If you are interested in participating, please contact Janet Jones.

Leader	Location	Date and Time
Steve Jones	Steve's	3/17 @ 7 pm
	Steve's	3/24 @ 7 pm
Renee Guyer	Messiah	3/8 @ 10:30 am
	Messiah	3/22 @ 10:30 am
Greg Suskovic	Messiah	3/18 @ 2 pm
Lynn Klaber	Messiah	3/2 @ 1 pm
	Kimberly's	3/16 @ 1 pm



## Quilting Update

Quilting days are the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month** through April 2026. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US! Sewing skills are not required; there is a job for everyone. We will begin between 9:00 - 9:30 and end by 3:00. We provide lunch (we take turns bringing lunch for the group). Call Lynn Klaber at 507-380-5465 with questions.

## Council Updates

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

**January 2026** offerings were \$25,226 vs expenses of \$32,053 resulting in a deficit of \$6,827 for the month. (The offering total includes 1/12 of donations given in 2025 for 2026.) Income for January 2025 was \$35,025 vs. expenses of \$28,593 which left us with a surplus of \$6,432. (The offering total included 1/12 of donations given in 2024 for 2025) Therefore, our giving is \$9,799 less than last year while expenses are \$3,460 higher.

### Church Council met on February 9th and the following was discussed:

- Fun days is July 8-12th 2026 Lynell is asking for people to add this date to their calendar.
- Special congregational meeting for the approval of the new constitution is March 22nd pending approval of the constitution from the synod.
- The following 5 weeks of Lent will offer mid-week services with Pastor LaDonna collaborating with 4 area Lutheran churches and their pastors visiting each week.
- Installation of the 2026 council members is Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the 9:30 am service.

- The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 16th at 6:30 pm. -

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code:
  2. or 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.



## Songs and Healing with John McAndrew

John McAndrew, Nashville-based singer-songwriter and recording artist, will visit the Mankato area in March.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, McAndrew will present a program of Songs and Healing, focusing on positive growth and life transformation at Hosanna Lutheran Church as part of their weekly Journeys program, a series where healing and hope begin. The program will begin at 5:45 pm and is free and open to the public.

McAndrew's performances deliver an evening of heartfelt, original music that resonates with audiences on both emotional and spiritual levels, blending storytelling with themes of healing, transformation, and recovery. McAndrew serves as the Music Services Coordinator at Cumberland Heights in Nashville, and is a licensed counselor, using music therapy to support individuals in substance abuse and addiction recovery. To learn more, go to [johnmcandrew.com](http://johnmcandrew.com).

## Transition Time

It is time to transfer my responsibilities for scheduling worship participants to someone else. While the change is needed and comes with mixed feelings, the years that I have had the honor for this ministry position have filled my heart with joy. Thank you to all who have faithfully participated as an usher, reader, and/or communion assistant. I trust you will welcome the opportunity to serve in these important ministry roles with Dee Nolan in the months and years ahead as you have with me. Dee will assume the role as Worship Participant Coordinator beginning with the March 1st worship services. May each of you experience the love of Jesus in all that you do for Messiah and in your lives wherever you go. Linda Wenkel

## March Worship Participants

As the congregation supported having one Sunday service/week during Lent, the calendar of Worship Participants has been amended as follows for a 9:30 AM worship time.

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!

<b>March</b>		<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>3/1</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> <b>Reader:</b> <b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel Linda Wenkel Sarah & Greg Suskovic
<b>3/8</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> <b>Reader:</b> <b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Brad Heilman & Barb Pingel Kim Henrickson Breah Hendrickson & Deb Leiferman
<b>3/15</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> <b>Reader:</b> <b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Mark Himmer & Dayle Moore Kimberly Moore Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
<b>3/22</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> <b>Reader:</b> <b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Mark Himmer & Dayle Moore Kay Lund Darci Karau & Swede Mundell
<b>3/29</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>Ushers:</b> <b>Reader:</b> <b>Communion Assistants:</b>	Rande Bowman & Steve Lenz Amy Soost Renee & Greg Guyer

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am <b>Worship</b> 4-9:00 pm Private Event	2 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Lynn's Book Club @ Messiah 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	3 11:30 am Monthly Lunch @ Happy Chef 1:30 pm Centering Prayer	4 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 5:15-6 pm Soup Supper 6:15-7 pm Lenten Worship 6:30-7 pm Class-time PreK-5th 7-7:30 pm MSM Class-time	5 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	6 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	7 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Private Event
8 9:30 am <b>Worship</b> 10:30 am Renee's Book Club 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	9 9:00 am SAIL Group	10 9:00 am Quilting Group	11 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 1:30 pm Life-Long Learners 5:15-6 pm Soup Supper 6:15-7 pm Lenten Worship 6:30-7 pm Class-time PreK-5th 7-7:30 pm MSM Class-time	12 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	13	14 11:30 am Scouting Pinewood Derby
15 9:30 am <b>Worship</b> 10:30 am Palm Sunday Path Informational Mtg 10:30-3:00 pm Private Event	16 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:00 am Worship Team 1:00 pm Lynn's Book Club @ Kimberly's 6:00 pm Scout Meeting 6:30 pm Council Meeting	17 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Steve's Book Club @ Steve's	18 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 5:15-6 pm Soup Supper 6:15-7 pm Lenten Worship	19 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:45 pm Connections Serving	20	21 5:45 pm Connections Serving
22 9:30 am <b>Worship</b> & Council Installation 10:30 am Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Renee's Book Club	23 9:00 am SAIL Group	24 9:00 am Quilting Group 7:00 pm Steve's Book Club @ Steve's	25 9:00 am Bible Study 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 5:15-6 pm Soup Supper 6:15-7 pm Lenten Worship 6:30-7 pm Class-time PreK-5th 7-7:30 pm MSM Class-time	26 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	27	28 10:00 am Private Meeting
29 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30 am <b>Worship</b> & First Communion	30 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Lynn's Book Club @ Kimberly's	31				



Messiah Lutheran Church  
1706 Lee Boulevard  
North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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**PHONE: 507-387-5537**

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

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

L a b e l

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



*Sharing the Love of Jesus*

# Prayer List

**Thoughts & Prayers:** Greg, Mollie, Clara, Maddie & baby, Briana, Sandy, Nancy, Jackie, Jeff, Sandie, Wayne, Brian, Ron, Nancy, Joe, Swede

**Continued Thoughts & Prayers:** Craig, Earl, Patty, Neal, Emma, Heather, Carolyn, Elle, Steve, Carl, Dave, Jacob, Marya

**Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country:** Tyler, Cole, Kyra

**Prayers for the asylum-seeking family** the Mankato Area ELCA churches are supporting.

**Prayers of sympathy** for Jan Waller on the death of her mother-in-law, Meredith Medler.



### Change in Messiah Communication

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