



MESSIAH
lutheran church
Sharing the love of Jesus

August 2024

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

Outdoor Worship

Weather permitting, we have 2 more outdoor summer worships planned for Sunday, August 4th and September 1st, both at 10:00 am. In order to have outside worship, the band is looking for 2 set-up volunteers on September 1st from 7:30-8:00 am to help bring equipment outside. It is extremely helpful to be able to lift some heavier items. Please contact the office or Cindy Rupp if you are able to assist.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry team will meet on Saturday, August 10th 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 to this meeting and learn more about it. You may join at any time since this is an ongoing ministry. If you do not knit or crochet, someone will be happy to teach you. Call Alice K. at 387-4755 if you have questions.



Sacred Sites Tour Opportunity—Friday, August 16, 2024

Messiah has an opportunity to go on a Sacred Sites Tour led by the Minnesota Council of Churches. This is something the Anti-Racism Team has been looking into as it fits perfectly into their theme of racial justice and native history.

Healing Minnesota Stories is an effort to create understanding and healing between Native American and non-Native people, particularly those in various faith communities. Native people have suffered deep trauma over many years, losing their land, language, and culture, and all who call Minnesota home are the lesser for it. While many people and institutions contributed to that trauma, it happened with the full participation of Christian churches. We all still need healing; healing is doable, and churches have a role to play in healing.

Tours are about 4 hours in length (10:00 am – 2:00 pm) and are led by Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs (Mohican) and Kelly Sherman Conroy (Oglala Lakota). The tours offer an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence / meditation / reflection. They visit sites located around the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, what the Dakota refer to as Bdote, or “meeting place of rivers,” including: Fort Snelling State Park, Dakota Internment Camp following the The Dakota-U.S. War, and Pilot Knob Hill, a traditional burial ground.

Anyone interested, contact Briana Parr-Baker (brianalbaker@gmail.com). The cost is between \$30-50 per person depending on how many people sign up and we plan to carpool for this activity.

Sign-up here: <https://forms.gle/QYtJiV2BZj2NoWc47>

**BLOOD
DRIVE**

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 from 1:00 - 6:00 pm

Messiah is hosting a blood drive on Tuesday, August 27th from 1:00—6:00 pm. There are appointment openings for both regular and Power Red donations.

Sign up at: www.redcrossblood.org Code: MESSIAHKATOMN

- A Message from Interim Pastor Tim McDermott -

Dear Partners,

A monk from Big Sur, California, was asked recently, “Do you think there is a future for your way of life?” Imagine receiving such a question. Is there a future for a nearly 2000-year-old tradition and practice in 2024 and beyond? The questioner might well have asked, “Does not your insistence on the practice of poverty, chastity, and obedience (monastic vows) all while living in a remote, communal setting make you irrelevant to modern life and needs?”

“Do you think there is a future for *your* way of life?”

I think that the monk’s answer is instructive. He said, “The Camaldolese (the group of monks to which he belongs) are ready to evolve and grow with the living Church.”

Two points deserve emphasis.

First, he said that in his monastic community (the New Camaldoli Hermitage of Big Sur, California) “we are ready to evolve and grow.”

Whatever difficulties the church in North America was facing before March 2020, the stakes and challenges are greater now (since Covid 19). As endangered as the church (in its local, national, and global expressions) was before the Pandemic, the stakes are much higher now. I submit that if the church in all its expressions is unwilling to evolve and grow, it may just find itself irrelevant in a post-Covid society. Now is the time, the time to evolve and grow.

The second point to notice in the monk’s response is that we must be ready “to evolve and grow with the living church.” Notice, he did not say evolve and grow with changes in society. There have been wonderful societal changes in recent decades that mirror closely the commitments of the church. We celebrate those changes. But the church does not take its cues from society or from its legislative bodies. The church has a calling. It answers to the Lord of the church—Jesus Christ. The local congregation trying to evolve and grow takes its cues from Jesus. Which begs the question: Where is Jesus leading this church? How does Jesus need us to change so that the body of Christ (the church) will continue to be the voice of Jesus addressing questions of salvation, forgiveness, spiritual growth, welcoming, inclusion, equality, justice, peacemaking, and harmony in the society in which it finds itself?

Transformation is not easy. Adhering to the tried and true is easier. Holding on to the familiar because it is less disruptive is always a temptation. But this is not the future of North American Christianity. It is not the future of Messiah Lutheran Church. Like the monks of Big Sur, we can, we must, we will continue “to evolve and grow with the living Church.”

What can you do in this time of major transition for congregations in America and for Messiah? Please pray for your leaders. Please speak your truth about how this congregation can and must continue “Sharing the Love of Jesus.” And if asked to volunteer in any servant or leadership capacity within our congregation, say “Yes.” Yes, to Messiah and Yes, to Jesus Christ. Like so many of you, I am optimistic about the future of this church. Thanks for all you do to make Messiah strong.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Tim

Call Committee Update

In August, the Call Committee will move into doing 2nd interviews with possible candidates. Keep this group in your prayers as they work through determining the best fit for Messiah.

Crossroads Campus Ministry Update

After many years of leading and coordinating Messiah’s social ministry with Crossroads Campus Ministry, Barb Meier has decided to step down. We are all thankful for the many years of service she has provided for this Ministry and are appreciative that she will continue with her other Social Ministry activities. Unfortunately, if Messiah is to continue with our Crossroads Ministry it will require a new leader/coordinator. This could be one person or several. If anyone is interested, please contact the office or Greg Suskovic. Thank you.

Fun Days 2024: It's a Wrap!

What wonderfully HOT weather and great fellowship we had for North Mankato Fun Days 2024, 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:

- Many MORE members designated their hours worked this year to selected Ministries (more details to come). The rest of the funds support the Fellowship and Recreation Team Projects.
- In total, 81 pies were ordered for the 5 day event; Strawberry Rhubarb was the crowd favorite.
- More than 7 gallons of giant pickles were purchased by our customers at \$1 per pickle.
- Over 275 individuals were served on Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. for the Special Needs Event - Thanks to the Tobin family for working this shift!
- A Thrivent Action Team Kit was requested and granted for the Special Needs Event. 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 Jan and Amy in the church office. They were 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, Greg Ous, Shawna Merrill, Jim Jilek, Kim Henrickson, Lauren and Jim Senden for all of the help!! This event could not have been possible without your work and support!!

REQUEST: As we look toward next year's FUN DAYS, we are in need of an individual to Co-Lead with Lynell as well as a Lead Person overseeing each day. Lynell will continue to organize all details, but, needs assistance during the actual days of the stand.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
for the 2025 Fun Days
scheduled for July 9 - 13, 2025
SEE YOU THERE!!**

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynell Senden



Strategic Planning Committee

This committee was formed by the church council a few weeks ago. We have been blessed with leadership provided by Pastor Emily Carson of the SE MN Synod. The committee is using the SOAR acronym (**S**trengths, **O**pportunities, **A**spirations, **R**esults) to organize our thought process; using the guidance from the Holy Spirit to ensure we are focused on Messiah's missions.

Our early discussions have focused on Strengths and Opportunities, in part, including strengths such as our strong community presence, solid foundation and traditions, and deeply committed members of our congregation. We have great opportunities such as significant interest among the congregation in resurrecting historically strong youth programming, a belief the congregation will join us in committing to the development of programming that is exciting to our members and future growth. In addition, SE MN Synod has invited Messiah to serve as a pilot congregation in a new Synod initiative "Generous Together". Finally, we are excited about the call process we are currently engaged in which will provide us with a new pastor.

Our next steps will be to work on our Aspirations and Results. This process will lead us in development of Goals and Objectives to round out our plan for an exciting future for Messiah Lutheran Church. Please share with any member of the Strategic Planning Committee, any thoughts you may have regarding the outlines above. We have used input from the congregational Ministry Site Profile which gave us great insight to your thoughts regarding our future. Your involvement going forward is very important. Members of the Strategic Planning Committee include: Alissa Brekke, Amy Soost, Bob Rothenbuehler, Doug Stock, Greg Suskovic, Jerry Crest, Linda Wenkel, Mike Hanson, Peter Skadah, Shawna Merrill, and Pastor Tim.

Sunday School Updates for Fall 2024

The Education Team has created a fresh new plan for Sunday School starting in September. These changes are being implemented through discussions from parents and the congregation, in hopes to make the Sunday School program stronger and allow more children and adults to participate in Sharing the Love of Jesus at Messiah.

MESSIAH'S KIDS

Religious Education for Pre-K (3 years old) to Third Grade—on Sundays

1. Families will come to 10:30 worship together
2. Children will be dismissed with education leaders after Children's Talk (about 15 minutes after church begins)
3. Parents can continue to worship until end of service at approximately 11:30
4. Parents pick up children from classrooms after worship.

CLUB MESSIAH

Religious Education for Fourth and Fifth Grade—on Wednesdays

1. Families are invited to come to dinner from 5:30-6:00 pm
2. Families will worship together from 6:00—6:30 pm
3. Children will have their lesson from 6:30—7:00 pm

The team is thankful for those who've reached out to volunteer so far. We currently still do not have enough adult leaders to run a successful program. Ideally we would like enough adult leaders willing to commit to a schedule on a regular basis—this could mean weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, etc. Having more adult volunteers allows everyone the flexibility to alternate days they volunteer to lessen the overall commitment. We need your help on both Sundays and Wednesdays. Here are the positions we are needing to fill.

- **Adult Teachers:** You will build relationships to last a lifetime with your students as you learn & grow in faith together. You can team with another teacher for flexibility of schedules. All materials are provided, and you will be supported by coordinators. Reviewing the pre-provided lesson plans only takes about 15 minutes and can be done at home or directly before class begins.
- **Adult Teacher Substitutes:** This is your opportunity to experience the "a-ha!" moments when our children experience the joy of finding God in their lives and the world around them. All materials are provided, and you will be supported by coordinators. Reviewing the pre-provided lesson plans only takes about 15 minutes and can be done at home or directly before class begins.
- **Youth Volunteers:** You'll see the growth of faith through the eyes of a child as you support students and teachers. No preparation is needed and schedule can be flexible.
- **Education Office Helper:** You will help gather supplies for future class sessions and other miscellaneous tasks.

The Education Team is also planning a Teachers/Leaders/Volunteers meeting before Sunday School begins to get to know each other, to go over how the year ahead looks and the new curriculum. Look for more info coming soon.

If interested in volunteering to help these programs this fall, please reach out to Sunday School Coordinator, Heather Von Bank (heather.vonbank@gmail.com) or Amy Malvin (amy@messiahnorthmankato.com) in the office. Feel free to call with any questions.

Thank you to all the past and present Sunday School adult leaders and youth volunteers who've shown such dedication to this program. We ask everyone to keep children, current leaders, and future leaders in your prayers.

Middle School Ministries (MSM) - Important Dates

Watch your mailbox for Middle School Ministries Fall Registration forms. Forms will also be available online and in the narthex.

- MSM orientation for students and families will be on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 pm.
- First night of class will be September 18th. The schedule for each week includes a 5:30 pm meal, worship at 6:00 pm, and class time that goes from 6:30-7:30 pm.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Church Council met on July 14th and the following was discussed:

- Treasurer's report unfortunately showed that expenses over income for the month of June was \$8,411.15 and for Year to Date, \$4,129.26. We will need to improve on this for the 2nd half of the year.
- Pastor Tim reported the congregation will need to look forward and members will need to decide on our leadership roles. The concern is that many of our past leaders will step down from their leadership role. When that happens others will need to step up if Messiah is to continue to thrive.
- Updates from our committee liaisons were made. Barb Meier joined us and announced that she is stepping down from her leadership role coordinating our ministry at Campus Crossroads. If this ministry is to continue we will need to search for a new leader or two.
- Old Business—our parking lot, HVAC system and leaking roof need to be attended to. Greg Suskovic discussed this with the Council and will go forward investigating some funding ideas with Stewardship and Finance.
- New Business—Greg and Pastor Tim introduced the Synod's new stewardship program called "Generous Together: Messiah has been invited to join this pilot program and the council liked the idea. Greg will present it to Stewardship and Finance and if approved by them, will take it back to the Synod.

The next council meeting will be held August 11th at 11:00 am.

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.



August 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 below—spots that say **TBD** are still needing to be filled, if you are able help, please call.

8/4	Ushers: Randy Bowman & Kyle Vogt Reader: Carla Butcher Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer	Frank Steichen & Paul Henkelman Julie Olsen Kara Pipes & Marlene Buker
8/11	Ushers: Randy Bowman & Kyle Vogt Reader: Sonja Parr-Baker Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Janet Jones	Frank Steichen & Paul Henkelman Lisa Benson Dee Nolan & Sheryl Gulden
8/18	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Scott Madigan Reader: Sarah Suskovic Comm: Al Narveson & Linda Wenkel	TBD & TBD TBD Karna & Doug Stock
8/25	Ushers: Kim Henrickson & Scott Madigan Reader: Steve Lenz Comm: Sylvia & Scott Norman	TBD & Tim Hatlestad Shirley Rosenau TBD & TBD

Messiah Lunch Group

The Messiah monthly lunches will begin again in September. We meet at various restaurants on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:30 am. The September lunch will be Tuesday, September 10th. More info to come on location. This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. We hope you will join us for good food, lively conversation, fun, and a chance to know other Messiah members. Come and go as you please. Call the church office (387-5537) or email [Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto: Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com) to let us know if you are coming.

Gods work. Our hands.—September 8, 2024

Service Project: Birthday Bags for Foster Care Children

Messiah is joining with Lutheran Social Services to create birthday bags for foster care. For children experiencing foster care, enjoying a festive birthday is something that can make them feel valued while also giving them an opportunity to celebrate! Assembling Birthday Bags, which make celebrating fun and easy, is a wonderful way to contribute to the festivities. We will be collecting the following items and assembling them after worship on September 8, 2024. Look for the white collection box in the narthex. We are collecting now through September 8th.

Medium sized birthday gift bag

Cake mix

Frosting

Candles

Paper plates

Plastic silverware

Birthday card

Other small festive items

Share the Warmth (August 11th-September 29th)

The cooler temperatures will be here before we know it. As the season changes, this is a great time to clean out those closets. So as winter approaches, 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 these items to those in need.

Things that are needed: coats, scarves, hats, boots, mittens, warm socks, sweaters, etc.

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Musical Events



NintenTones

One of Messiah's band members, Ryan Rader, is involved in a video game jazz orchestra group called "NintenTones". They have another concert this summer at the Minnesota Square Park in St. Peter on Friday, August 16th at 7:00 pm. For more information, talk with Ryan or go to their Facebook Page "[NintenTones](#)".



Cypress Fyre

will be performing a concert at Messiah on Saturday, September 21st at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available in the church office for \$30. Cypress Fyre's connection to Messiah is through Cindy Rupp—her son, Chris Rupp, is a member of this new a cappella group. To learn more about this group, visit cypressfyreband.com.



Fall Piano Concert Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for the Fall Piano Concert fundraiser with special performances by Cindy Rupp and Noah Wilson, on Sunday, October 27th. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	2 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON	3
4 <i>10:00 am OUTDOOR</i> 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/ band OUTSIDE	5 9:00 am SAIL Group 5:30 pm Strategic Planning Meeting	6 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	7 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 12:30 pm Worship Team Meeting	8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	9 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON	10 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Meeting
11 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/ band 11:15 am Council Meeting	12 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Private Meeting	13 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	14 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	15 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	16 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON 8:00 am Carpool Meet @ Messiah for Sacred Sites Tour	17
18 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/ band	19 9:00 am SAIL Group	20 1:00 pm Staff Meeting	21 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group 6:30 pm Scout Meeting	23 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON	24
25 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Worship w/ band	26 9:00 am SAIL Group	27 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Blood Drive	28 9:00 am SEE Bible Study	29 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	30 OFFICE CLOSED @ NOON 3:00 pm Picnic with a Cop (North Mankato Police)	31



Messiah Lutheran Church
 1706 Lee Boulevard
 North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”

PRAYER list

Thoughts and Prayers: Elle, Brooke, Cheryl, Diana, Micah, Arthur, Lyndsey, Trudy, Milo, Greg, Swede, Doug

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

Prayers for Those Who Serve Our Country: Carley, Alex, Tyler, Cole

Prayers for the Cruz family: Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil

Prayers of sympathy for Deb Jerrow and family on the death of her husband, Bob Jerrow.



Fall Worship Times and Office Hours

The final summer worship times will be 8:30 am (indoor) and 10:00 am (outdoor) on Sunday, September 1st.

The office will be closed on Labor Day Monday, September 2nd.

Fall hours start on Tuesday, September 3rd and will be Monday—Friday, 8:30 am—4:30 pm.

Sunday, September 8th is Rally Day and we will worship united at 10:00 am with a “God’s work. Our hands.” service project afterwards. (see article within to learn more about this project)

Fall worship schedule begins Sunday, September 15th with traditional at 8:30 am and contemporary at 10:30 am.