



MESSIAH

lutheran church

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

Sharing the love of Jesus

July 2025

Messiah Senior Lunch

The next senior lunch will be at Applebee's on **Tuesday, July 8th at 11:30 am**. This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. Join us for good food, fun and conversation. Come and go as you please. Call the church office (387-5537) or email Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com if you have any questions.



Pie & Brat Stand

Our Pie and Brat Stand is an annual fundraiser to support Messiah missions, needs & various activities throughout the year. This year, Fun Days is scheduled to run Wednesday, July 9 - Sunday, July 13th.

Individuals ages 13+ may work the stand but ALL ages are able to support it by purchasing some or all of the delicious menu items: grilled dogs, brats or chicken, chips, whole dill pickles, root beer floats, and most importantly...pie and ice cream. Check your summer calendars and consider signing up for a shift or two. Bring a friend to join in the fun. Sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/KnGTBQk> or scan the QR code.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the behind the scenes of this fun project, contact Lynell Senden @ 507-380-1483. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Outdoor Worship—July 20th

Join us at **10:00 am on Sunday, July 20th** as we worship outdoors.

Please bring your lawn chairs and find a great spot on the lawn to enjoy worship.

Rain Date: Sunday July 27th at 10:00 am



Wonder-Full Wednesdays

July 16th-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

Messiah Lutheran Church
1706 Lee Blvd.
North Mankato, MN 56003



GATHER

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,

In my young adult life I lived fairly close to the Pacific Ocean and often camped there with friends. I can still remember one of those trips when the night sky was extraordinarily clear. After the campfire had been extinguished and the lights went out in the houses on the distant skyline, the number and expanse of stars visible to the naked eye was incredible! From horizon to horizon there were glistening dots and glowing planets. And there was me, a small speck on the sandy beach. In that moment, I recalled that the elements in my own body are the same elements of the stars that burst forth at creation eons ago. I was speechless and caught up in a moment of incredible awe at the creative power of the God of the universe!

God has made us and knit us together with a capacity to be awed. For me, it's that feeling or sense I have when I recognize that I am a small part of something that is bigger than just myself. That something bigger is God.

That experience often happens for me in nature. But it has also happened in an art gallery, at an airport, and in the midst of a choral concert, to name a few. Just a couple of weeks ago I was at the Minnesota Museum of American Art where I saw this piece of art. The artist, Maggie Thompson (fond du lac Ojibwe) in her piece, Quantum Entanglement reflects on the intimate vulnerability and deep bonds that come from the "spiritual physics of heart-soul connections." Despite their intangibility and fragility, the connection between two hearts is real.



I have experienced that "heart-soul connections" with those I love, and maybe you have, too. To then see it depicted in art was also an experience of awe for me.

Now, add to this God-given capacity of awe the recent discoveries of neuroscientists. They have discovered that when people experience a sense of awe, it calms anxious minds. Experiences of awe bring a sense of wholeness and healing, they can instill hope, love, compassion, and empathy.

We and the world we live in could certainly use a good dose of those benefits! Like many of you, I am weary of the hatred, violence, and divisions that are all around us. A brief reading of the morning news often stirs up a mixture of sadness, anger, disbelief, and despair. Which makes experiences of awe, all the more important as antidotes and safe-guards against getting stuck in those life-sapping feelings.

During the months of July and August our worship services will follow the theme "Purveyors of Awe." Purveyor is not a word we use much these days, but it has a sense of being one who has a storehouse of something unique of valuable that is made available to others. Each week we'll hear the invitations of scripture to experience awe through a sense of beauty, wonder, meaning, curiosity, delight, connection or self-giving. We'll suggest practices that you might try out during the week to receive your own "storehouse of awesome experiences." Beginning July 16th, you can join a group of us who will take an evening walk/hike to receive some awesome experiences of God's creation.

I think you'll find these weekly themes to be a fresh experience of spiritual life that fits well with summer times and it's more relaxed and leisurely life-style. Many of us will already be in settings that lend themselves to becoming "Purveyors of Awe."

See you in worship!

Pastor LaDonna

COUNCIL UPDATES

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

Through May 2025 our tithes and offerings equal \$151,243 compared to \$145,133 this time last year. We have approximately 2 months left of our 2024-year end pre-giving. Expenses are at \$148,784 vs. \$140,831 in 2024. Therefore, our giving is \$6,110 above last year while expenses are \$7,953 higher. We continue to glorify God for what he has provided us and Messiah's response to his graciousness.

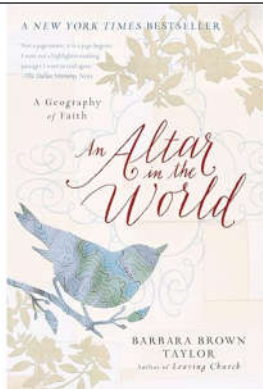
Church Council met on June 11th and the following was discussed:

- The Council has decided to launch a Capital Campaign. A congregational meeting will be on June 29th after 10 am worship to obtain support and approval from the congregation.
- A family in our community requires a car for transportation. If you have a car to donate or sell for a modest price, please contact the church office.
- Messiah's third quarter benevolences will be allocated to CADA, Theresa House, and My Place.
- A computer has been purchased & will be set up soon. This will enhance our church service streaming on Facebook.
- Messiah will install an automatic water meter reader.
- A dolly will be acquired for the safe transportation of the grand piano.
- Our worship band represented Messiah at the SEMN Synod Assembly, and Rev. Regina Hassanally was re-elected as Synod Bishop.
- The new program Gather is starting successfully. Join us on Wednesday mornings for fellowship and activities.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23rd 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.



Congregational Book Read—Coming Fall 2025

Hey Messiah, it's time to think about 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!

We will set up some small groups, decide on group facilitators and set our first meetings this fall. Please give prayerful consideration to joining us in a study group and/or just reading the book.



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

Label

www.messiahnorthmankato.com



“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”



Thoughts & Prayers: Brooke, Cheryl, Lyndsey, Bonnie, Bob, Lisa, Swede, Jens, Greg, Kirk, Dave, Milo, Clara

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 comfort and peace for the family and friends of Bob Grey. Father-in-law of Abby Grey; Bob & Cindy Rothenbuehler's daughter.

Prayers of sympathy for Amy Malvin and family on the death of her mother, Jane.

Change in Messiah Communication



We have transitioned to a more engaging and reliable delivery system for Messiah emails, using Constant Contact software. It requires you to “opt” in, even if you previously received our weekly “What’s Up” email. Guests are invited to sign-up as well, to stay informed of Messiah news and events. Opt-in anytime by clicking the link below or scanning the QR code. <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/mb3YWRp/messiah>

July/August 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

- 7/6** **Ushers:** Kim Hendrickson & Steve Lenz
Reader: Linda Wenkel
Comm: Renee & Greg Guyer
- 7/13** **Ushers:** Kim Hendrickson & Steve Lenz
Reader: Janet Jones
Comm: Jane & Paul Zwieg
- 7/20** **Ushers:** Steve Jones & Jeremy Soost
Reader: Amy Soost
Comm: Kathy & Carl Fitzloff
- 7/27** **Ushers:** Steve Lenz & Jeremy Soost
Reader: Georgia Holmes
Comm: Marilyn Hanson & Al Narveson

10:00 Worship

- Bill Halstead & Jon Karau
Jeff Pribyl
Dee Nolan & Marlene Buker
- Jon Karau & TBD
Shirley Rosenau
Phyllis & Peter Skadah
- Steve Carlberg & Tim Hatlestad
Sandy Hatlestad
Karna & Doug Stock
- Steve Carlberg & Tim Hatlestad
Eva Borneke
Phyllis & Peter Skadah

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

10:00 Worship

- Bill Halstead & Mark Gulden
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

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	2 10:30 GATHER & Lunch	3 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	7 9:00 am SAIL Group	8 11:30 am Monthly Lunchers 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	9 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	10 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	11 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon	12
North Mankato Fun Days—Pie & Brat Stand						
13 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship Fun Days—Pie & Brat	14 9:00 am SAIL Group 10:30 am Worship Team 10:30 am Social Outreach Mtg	15 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	16 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 6:00 pm Wonder-full Wednesday	17 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	18 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon 2:00 pm Life Long Learners	19
20 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship (OUTSIDE)	21 9:00 am SAIL Group	22 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	23 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 6:00 pm Wonder-full Wednesday 6:30 pm Council Meeting	24 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	25 OFFICE CLOSED @ Noon	26
27 8:30 am Traditional Worship (FB Live) 10:00 am Contemporary Worship	28 9:00 am SAIL Group	29 1:30 pm Staff Meeting	30 10:30 GATHER & Lunch 6:00 pm Wonder-full Wednesday	31 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group		