



# MESSIAH

lutheran church

*Sharing the love of Jesus*

1706 Lee Boulevard

North Mankato, MN

507-387-5537

messiahnorthmankato.com

**March 2025**

# ASH

WEDNESDAY

Join us March 5th for Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 pm. Please note there are no evening meal or youth activities.

# LENT

A SEASON OF PREPARATION

On Lenten Wednesdays, March 12th through April 9th, meals will be served from 5:30 pm—6:15 pm. We will remain in the Gathering Place for Worship from 6:30—7:00 pm. Then from 7:00—7:30 pm we will have MSM & Adult Group Study on the topic of “Living Our Faith in Daily Life” led by Pastor LaDonna.

## Take a Bite Out of Hunger

Messiah is supporting **Minnesota Food Share** with your dollars and food. Monetary and Food Donations will be given to “Crossroads Campus Pantry” and “ECHO” from Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> through the month of March.

Cash/Check Donations are preferred due to the amount of food that can be purchased by the food shelves through Second Harvest.

Please make your checks to Messiah with Food Drive written in the Memo.



Bring donations of non-perishable food to Messiah and add them to the display or food baskets. Some needed items are; Rice, Flour, Cereal, All Canned Meat, Peanut Butter, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Condiments & Seasonings, Pasta, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Beans & Lentils, Coffee.

## Asylum Family Celebration and Fundraiser

On April 3rd, the WELCOME Team is celebrating the achievements of the family we have been accompanying since their arrival in MN 2 years ago. The evening will include a dinner, music, a short program and Silent Auction. Funds raised will support their family’s quest for asylum which is a complicated and expensive process. Look for an invitation coming soon.

Messiah has been asked to provide 5 themed baskets to support this fundraiser. We are seeking either new items or money to purchase items. We would love to have creative people join in this effort. Let us know if anyone has a connection to businesses willing to donate money or items (cash, gift cards, tickets, items, etc). We will collect items through March 9th, then gather to assemble packages. Let us know if you'd like ideas for themes. Contact Janet Jones (507-340-7093) or Phyllis Skadahil (507-469-8357) with questions. Please bring donations to Messiah now through March 2nd. Make checks out to Messiah with Welcome Team Auction Fundraiser in the memo section or put in an envelope that says Welcome Team Auction Fundraiser on the outside.

## - A Message from LaDonna Thomas -

Dear Beloved People of Messiah,

When we prepare to plant a garden, we begin by turning the soil over and over and over, breaking up the clumps of dirt that have hardened over winter. We make room and prepare soft beds for seeds to lay in. Then we give them water or the heavens shower them. The sun warms the earth. And we wait. We wait for a shoot of life to burst forth from the ground.



Participating in the season of Lent is like that time of garden preparation. Ash Wednesday, with its confession and imposition of ashes, is the beginning of the work of turning over the soil of our hearts and minds and actions. Confession to God breaks up the hardened places of our lives. It sorts out the rich soil from the menacing stones, and prepares a place for God to plant something new in us and through us. Spiritual disciplines of giving up or taking on something for a season nurtures our life with Christ.

Our observance of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th with worship at 6:30 p.m. The six-week season of Lent will then offer several opportunities for seeds of spiritual renewal and new life to be planted in the rich soil of our hearts and souls. On the five Wednesdays in the season of Lent (March 12 - April 9), there will be an opportunity to gather for "Dinner Church", with a meal, worship, and a brief cross-generational study of what it means to live our faith in daily life.

The invitation of the rich, reflective season of Lent is to bring ourselves to God with a prayer that the Holy Spirit will sift the soil of our hearts and lives and ready us for the new life that God desires to give us. I look forward to being in God's "garden" with you as we gather this Lent on Sundays and Wednesdays.

With gratitude for each of you,  
Pastor LaDonna

## Quilting 2025

The Messiah Quilting group is busy cutting, pinning, stitching and tying. Quilting is on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month through the end of April. We start at 9:00, have our coffee break (a very Lutheran must have!), quilt, enjoy lunch together and quilt some more, and, of course, socialize! We are typically done around 2:00.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP??



We are desperately in need of gently used bed sheets. We use these for the backs of our quilts. *Any size is welcome. They can be one color or prints.*

Join us! NO SEWING SKILL IS REQUIRED! We have plenty of jobs for the non-sewer: pinning, cutting and arranging blocks, matching backs and tops, tying the finished quilts.

Questions? Please call Lynn Klaber at 507-380-5465 or email at [lynnklaber@gmail.com](mailto:lynnklaber@gmail.com)

## Messiah Senior Lunch — Tuesday, March 18th

The monthly lunchers are moving their date from the 2nd Tuesday, to the 3rd Tuesday over the next couple months to allow our quilters to participate in both activities. The next lunch will be at Swiss & Madison on Tuesday, March 18th at 11:30 am. This is a senior gathering event for Messiah members and friends. We hope you will join us for good food, fun conversation, and a chance to get 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) if you have any questions.

## **MESSIAH KIDS on Sundays & CLUB MESSIAH on Wednesdays**

Messiah Kids continues in March during late worship; with children being dismissed to class after Children's Time.

Club Messiah continues on Wednesdays, with some changes in time and the exceptions noted below. During Lent, March 12th-April 9th, family dinner is from 5:30-6:15 pm, family worship will be 6:30-7:00 pm, and student class-time from approximately 6:50-7:30 pm. Parents can participate in the MSM & Adult Group Study led by Pastor LaDonna that continues in the Gathering Place from 7:00-7:30 pm.

**NOTE: Wednesday, March 5th** is Ash Wednesday. We will have worship at 6:30 pm only. There will be no dinner or Club Messiah on this night. We would love for your entire family to join in Ash Wednesday worship.

**NOTE: Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> AND Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** : there will be NO PreK-5th education classes as elementary students in ISD77 are on break from March 26-31st.

**Attention 4th Grade Families\***: The First Communion Retreat will be on March 15th from 8:30 am—1:00 pm. Please also mark your calendars for Palm Sunday, April 13th, for your child to celebrate their First Communion.

## **Wednesday Worship in March**

Please see Lenten Dinner and Worship information on the front page of this newsletter.



## **Middle School Ministries**

All are invited to join us in March as we start Lenten worship with Pastor LaDonna. Things will look a little different, so please note the following:

**On Ash Wednesday, March 5th**, there will be no MSM or dinner. Worship will be from 6:30-7:30 pm.

During Lent, March 12th-April 9th, dinner will be from 5:30-6:15 pm. Worship will be in the Gathering Place from 6:30-7:00 pm. Other members of the congregation will join the MSM students for a Group Study on the topic of "Living Our Faith in Daily Life" led by Pastor LaDonna.

**Attention 8th Grade Families:** Information about Affirmation of Baptism will be coming out in the near future. For those students who have not previously made a First Communion cup, please plan to come and paint your cup on Saturday, March 15th from 11:15 am to 12:00 pm. These cups will be used during the Affirmation service.



The February “Generous Together” worship was a fun hands-on experience. Special thanks to Pastor Emily Carson from the SE MN Synod who assisted in leading. This program fosters the concept of generosity throughout the generations. The next “Generous Together” worship will be on Sunday, May 18th at 8:30 and 10:30 am.

*Participants named generous people in their lives and plates showing gifts they can share with others.*



## Cultivate Kindness

The comic strip “Pickles” by Brian Crane says it all . . .

Earl (Grandpa) is talking to his grandson, Nelson. “Nelson, in this world we all have to help each other. If we each do one small act of kindness each day, the world will be a better place.”



During this Lenten season, your Social Outreach Ministry Team will provide weekly prompts for each of us to practice and acknowledge the kindness we give to one another.

Small actions can translate into more kindness than we even intend. Being kind stretches us. It takes thought, effort and sometimes sacrifice. It seeks what’s best for the other person, not ourselves. And it is always worth it, because kindness ignites kindness, and the warmth spreads.

Look for the butterflies in the Narthex to anonymously acknowledge the kindness you share and receive!

Cultivate Kindness!

## Messiah Congregational Book Read

You’re invited to participate in a Congregational Book Read with small group book study options. The book is A Bigger Table by John Pavlovitz. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage or re-engage with members of our congregation and build relationships with our fellow servants in Christ.

If you joined a book study group - here are the facilitators and their upcoming March meeting dates:

Steven's Group (Steven Jones): Sunday, March 2nd & 16th 9:30 am at church

Joanna's Group (Joanna Petersen): Tuesday, March 4th & 18th 1:15 pm at Kimberly’s home

Kim's Group (Kim Henrickson): Tuesday, March 4th at Kim’s home & the 18th at church both at 6:30 pm

Janet's Group (Janet Jones): Monday, March 3rd & 17th 1:00 pm at church



Feel free to pick up a book and read along on your own as well. Here’s some questions to think about while reading:

1. What is striking to you about Jesus’ fellowship habits?
2. How can your church show newcomers they are free to be their authentic selves in your community?
3. What’s the most diverse group you have been a part of? What made it diverse? How did it affect the group?

Session	Name	Chapters	Pages (# pages)	Date to Meet
3	Invitation to the table	6,7,8	57-82 (25)	Mar 2 - 8
4	Real Community	9,10	83-102 (19)	Mar 16 - 29

Changed your mind and want to join in a group session? Call Janet Jones at 507-340-7093.

# COUNCIL UPDATES

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

Remember, you are able to use the following methods of giving:

1. Online banking
2. Simply Giving (credit card or checking account accepted)
4. In the Sunday worship plate

*Church Council met on February 16th and the following was discussed:*

- A Fundraiser/Celebration is planned for April 3 at Christ the King Church and we are looking for donations.
- Property update: The Skylights have been caulked, next precipitation will show if there are still leaks. We will still need a long-term solution. Crack/sag in beam leading to sanctuary will be investigated.
- Directory – we will move forward with making a directory through Shepards Staff. This will be led by Kim Hendrickson.
- Council will be installed on Sunday, March 2. Pastor LaDonna and several members are attending the MN River Assembly on February 16. Janet Jones is attending a workshop (Councils as Leaders) March 8, and other council members are invited to attend.
- Clarification on Scholarship donations – general donations to the fund are split evenly ½ to Scholarship and ½ to Page Fund – unless otherwise designated.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 9th at 11:30 am.

## Ways to Give Online

1. Scan this QR code: *or*

2. 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.



Thanks to all who donated their time, money, and cooking skill this winter for Connections and Crossroads. Many people were served because of the generosity of Messiah members.

## Attention Thrivent Members

Did you know that you can direct Thrivent Choice dollars to Messiah? All you need to do is call (or go online) 1-800-847-4836 and ask them to direct your choice dollars to Messiah. It’s a simple, easy and quick way to donate dollars to help fund Messiah ministries.

## March/April 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!

<b>3/2</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Kyle Vogt & Steve Lenz <b>Reader:</b> Carla Butcher <b>Comm:</b> Jane & Paul Zwiieg	Karla Elmore & Tim Hatlestad Kimberly Moore Judy Spencer & Marlene Buker
<b>3/9</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Kyle Vogt & Steve Lenz <b>Reader:</b> Diane Halvorson <b>Comm:</b> Linda Wenkel & Marilyn Hanson	Karla Elmore & Karen Walrath Dee Nolan Lynn Klaber & Sheryl Gulden
<b>3/16</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Scott Madigan & Greg Ous <b>Reader:</b> Mike Hanson <b>Comm:</b> Elaine Fossen & Marilyn Hanson	Mark Himmer & Paul Henkelman Shirley Rosenau Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
<b>3/23</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Les Scott Madigan & Greg Ous <b>Reader:</b> Renee Guyer <b>Comm:</b> Diane Halvorson & Mary Borth	Mark Himmer & Paul Henkelman Julie Olsen Marlene & Jim Jilek
<b>3/30</b>	<b>Worship United at 10:00 am</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Jerry Crest & Dave Dahl <b>Reader:</b> Jeff Pribyl <b>Comm:</b> Phyllis & Peter Skadahl
<b>4/6</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Kim Henrickson & Steve Jones <b>Reader:</b> Victoria Hanson <b>Comm:</b> Amy & Jeremy Soost	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Eva Borneke Deb & Frank Steichen
<b>4/13</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> <b>Ushers:</b> Kim Henrickson & Steve Jones <b>Reader:</b> Janet Jones <b>Comm:</b> Elaine Fossen & Deb Leiferman	Jeran Karau & Jon Karau Lynn Klaber Cindy & Bob Rothenbuehler
<b>4/20</b>	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <b>Ushers:</b> Jeremy Soost & Rande Bowman <b>Reader:</b> Amy Soost <b>Comm:</b> Renee & Greg Guyer	Steve Carlberg & <b>TBD</b> <b>TBD</b> Judy Spencer & Kara Pipes
<b>4/27</b>	<b>Ushers:</b> Jeremy Soost & Rande Bowman <b>Reader:</b> Steve Lenz <b>Comm:</b> Janet & Steve Jones	Steve Carlberg & Tim Hatlestad Shirley Rosenau Jodi & Mark Himmer

### Worship Participants and Communion Assistants NEEDED

We are in need of additional ushers, readers, and communion assistants. If you've never done it before, it's EASY and QUICK to learn. This is something TEENS and ADULTS can volunteer for. Would you be willing to help out ONE Sunday a month or quarterly? A small commitment makes an amazing difference during worship each Sunday. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please call the church office (387-5537) or Linda Wenkel (345-6180). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

### Worship Volunteers for Screens and Facebook Live NEEDED

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex at the Usher's Stand, for volunteers willing to assist with 8:30 screens and 10:30 screens and/or Facebook livestream. Anyone who knows how, can sign up on a week-by-week basis. If you're interested, but don't know how, it's easy and we can train you whenever it works best for you—it only takes 30 minutes to get the hang of it. This is a great opportunity for students who are looking for volunteer hours.

**Please Note:** We will stream 8:30 am worship each week and will add 10:30 livestream when we have volunteers.

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <i>2025 Council Installation</i> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:30 am Steve's Book Group @ Messiah 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship</b> & <i>NO Messiah Kids</i>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 12:30 pm Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Janet's Book Group @ Messiah 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	<b>4</b> 1:15 pm Joanna's Book Group @ Kimberly's 5:45 pm Serve @ Connections 6:30 pm Kim's Book Group @ Kim's Home 6:30 pm Scout Group	<b>5</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 6:30 pm Worship*  * No Dinner, MSM, or Club Messiah tonight	<b>6</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship</b> & <i>Messiah Kids</i> 11:30 am Council Meeting 4:30 pm 4H Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 9:30 am Worship Team Meeting 10:30 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Private Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:30 Quilting	<b>12</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30-6:15 pm Soup Supper 6:30-7:00 pm Lenten Worship 7-7:30 pm MSM/Adult Study 7-7:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	<b>13</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8:30 am—1:00 pm 1st Communion Retreat
<b>16</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 9:30 am Steve's Book Group @ Messiah 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship</b> & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i>	<b>17</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group 1:00 pm Janet's Book Group @ Messiah 6:00 pm Scout Meeting	<b>18</b> 11:30 Monthly Lunchers 1:15 pm Joanna's Book Group @ Kimberly's 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Kim's Book Group @ Messiah	<b>19</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30-6:15 pm Soup Supper 6:30-7:00 pm Lenten Worship 7-7:30 pm MSM/Adult Study 7-7:30 pm Club Messiah Class time (4th/5th)	<b>20</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30 am <b>Traditional Worship (FB Live)</b> 10:30 am <b>Contemporary Worship</b> & <i>Messiah Kids (PreK-3rd)</i>	<b>24</b> 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>25</b> 9:30 Quilting	<b>26</b> 9:00 am SEE Bible Study 5:30-6:15 pm Soup Supper 6:30-7:00 pm Lenten Worship 7-7:30 pm MSM/Adult Study 7-7:30 pm NO Club Messiah	<b>27</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am SAIL Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10:00 am <b>Worship United (FB Live)</b> & <i>NO Messiah Kids</i>						



Messiah Lutheran Church  
 1706 Lee Boulevard  
 North Mankato, Minnesota 56003

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PHONE: 507-387-5537**

Rev. LaDonna Thomas, Pastor: [Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:Pastor@MessiahNorthMankato.com)

Amy Malvin, Office Manager: [Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com](mailto:Messiah@MessiahNorthMankato.com)

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[www.messiahnorthmankato.com](http://www.messiahnorthmankato.com)




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“Sharing the Love of Jesus...”



**Thoughts & Prayers:** Brooke, Cheryl, Lyndsey, Bonnie, Brian, Bob, Lisa, Dave, Stanley, Swede

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

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

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

### Directory Update

It's coming!!! The MESSIAH LUTHERAN DIRECTORY. Members of Messiah, a new effort has begun to create a directory using our church membership software, Shepherd's Staff. This directory will be available for you to use to see photos, find emails, addresses, and phone numbers. The first step is to gather information from those who wish to participate. A fillable form will soon be emailed to you. Click and fill in the blanks. Save it and send it back. We will also have paper copies at the church for those who wish to complete the form that way. Photos? Yes, there will be photos. Details on how to provide photos or have yours taken will be coming in the near future. Remember this is a totally voluntary project. Oh and yes, once we've gathered the information and photos we will have a print version available. Questions, comments, suggestions, contact Kim Henrickson at [kimba55h@gmail.com](mailto:kimba55h@gmail.com).